

THE BIOMEDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES



UPDATES

Laura's passion

Tami's distinction

Sweet Kim-oline!

Craig's Tenure!

And much more...

Spring is in the air!

I know, there is still snow on the ground, but you can tell Spring is putting up a fight to get here on time! This is the season of convocation and graduate student awards. I wish everyone the best in being recognized for your achievements.

This is also the season of recruiting summer students (URA, USRAs, etc) and volunteers into our labs. Exciting time with many new faces in the hallways!

Dr. Laura Favetta's passion...



A clear vision, as well as a passion for teaching and research brought **Laura Favetta** to the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College (OVC). She joined OVC's Biomedical Sciences department last fall as Assistant Professor.

Originally from Milan, Italy, Favetta completed her undergraduate degree in pharmacology in Milan, followed by a two-year residency in experimental endocrinology.

Favetta eventually returned to the U of G to complete her PhD with King in reproductive biology, followed by post-doctoral work.

"Allan is a great mentor who allowed me to develop my own research," says Favetta. "I developed a research base on my first interest, the effect of the environment on embryo development."

"Whatever we are exposed to affects early embryo development," she notes.

She continued to gain experience with undergraduate teaching and graduate supervision, becoming an adjunct professor in Biomedical Sciences a few years ago.

"I found out one of my passions is teaching – I really do enjoy teaching at the undergrad and the graduate level," she says.

Favetta values her work both in animal and human reproduction, appreciating the opportunities available at OVC to work with animal models, as well as maintaining a close relationship with human in vitro fertilization (IVF) clinics.

Tami is now a woman of "distinction"!

The Guelph YMCA-YWCA has released the recipients of this years "2018 Women of Distinction Award", and our own **Dr. Tami Martino** has received this honor. <https://www.guelphy.org/en/community-events-and-programs/women-of-distinction.aspx>.

Women of Distinction is an annual fundraiser held by the YMCA - YWCA of Guelph to recognize and celebrate the achievements of women in City of Guelph and Wellington County. The fundraiser supports programs run by the YMCA - YWCA of Guelph for women, teens, and their families.

The 2018 Women of Distinction™ season will focus on the theme of *It Takes a Village*. The goal is to make the event more inclusive, accessible, and impactful than ever before. The Guelph Y strongly believes that, in addition to celebrating the honourees, it is important to recognize and include the individuals in that woman's life who have helped her achieve such extraordinary accomplishments.

Congrats to Tami and her "village"!

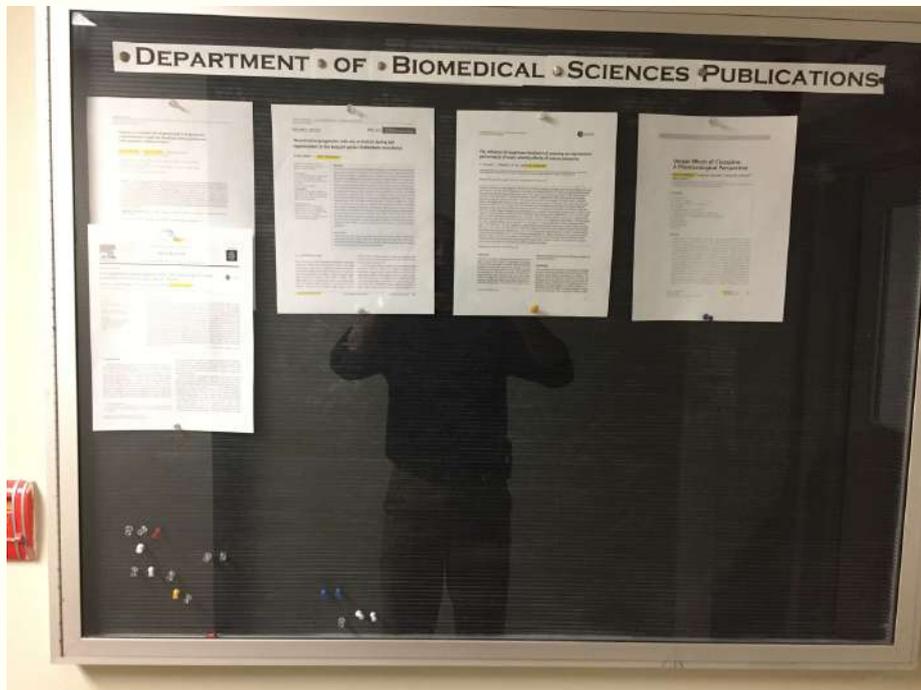


Tami was also invited to present her research on application of circadian biology to clinical medicine - for Clinical Cardiology Grand Rounds at the University of Western Health Sciences Centre, Feb. 2018

Peer-reviewed Papers on Display

Hopefully everyone is aware that we are displaying accepted peer-reviewed publications in the display case outside the department Administrative office (2663). We have decided to display publications for a duration of 1 year from the date of publication (as opposed to only displaying those published in the current year). Both faculty, staff and graduate student names will be highlighted going forward.

Happy publishing and keep up the great work!



MBS Repro/Biotech students at work...

For those of you who are not aware, our course-based MBS students in the Reproductive Biotechnology "stream" supervised by Dr. Laura Favetta, Jon LaMarre and Pavneesh Madan, spend time in the RBL learning IVF techniques "in house", and then go out into the real world and experience work-simulated environments. Dr. Tobi Oluwole helps in coordinating these placements. **Check out our new webpage in the Biomed website!** (<https://ovc.uoguelph.ca/biomedical-sciences/applied-reproductive-biotechnologies>).



MBS students in the reproductive biotechnology program visited Semex and ONE fertility as part of their practicum placement experiences.



Sweet Kim-oline!

Dr. Ken Fisher (retired Biomed faculty) surprised **Kim** with a serenade on Valentine's Day! Ken and his barbershop quartet put on quite the show!



Craig Bailey is officially "Tenured"!

On behalf of the department, I would like to congratulate **Craig Bailey** on his awarding of Tenure effective immediately! Craig was also promoted to *Associate Professor* effective July 1st. Congratulations Craig on achieving this huge career milestone! **Keep up the great work!**



Ari win prestigious Travel Award

Ari Mendell's (PhD candidate with Neil MacLusky) application for a travel award to attend the upcoming *Canadian Association for Neuroscience Annual Meeting* has been selected for funding. The meeting will be held from May 13-16 this year in Vancouver, BC. His travel award for \$750 will help defray the costs of travel to the meeting. **Congrats Ari!**

Upcoming events/deadlines

1. Start updating your **eCV!** Due **August 29th**.
2. The *Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association (SONA)* will be held on the UofG campus (**May 4th**)
3. The *Southern Ontario Reproductive Biology (SORB)* meeting will take place at the Arboretum (**May 18th**)
4. The 2018 ICCI **Cancer Research Symposium** will take place on **May 30th** (The Keynote Speaker will be *Daniel L. Gustafson, Ph.D.*)
5. New office location of OVC Graduate Program Services: **Stewart Building #45, OVC, Room 2509**
Christina Voll, Graduate Program Assistant
Biomedical Sciences / Masters of Public Health
Ext. 54780 / bmsgrad@uoguelph.ca

Stay tuned for their open house...I hear Christina is baking muffins!

Thomas Koch featured by OIRM



Growing up in Denmark, **Dr. Thomas Koch** of the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College loved horses. His passion for equestrian sports, in particular show jumping, inspired him to study veterinary medicine. "That led me to Canada and the Ontario Veterinary College to try and become the best equine veterinarian I could be," he explains.

While studying at the school, Dr. Koch learned of the work of Mark Hurtig on cartilage repair in horses, which intrigued him. He went on to do a PhD with OIRM researcher Dr. Dean Betts exploring whether stem cells are present in the umbilical cord blood of newborn foals or whether they could make equine embryonic cells. They quickly succeed in isolating mesenchymal stem cells from the cord blood, which show great promise for making cartilage in the lab.

Dr. Koch will discuss this research at the OIRM Think & Link Rounds taking place on March 7 at the University of Toronto's Donnelly Centre. He will join Dr. Mohit Kapoor of the Krembil Institute for a discussion on their work and the impact it is having on the development of potential treatments for osteoarthritis.

Read the full article at: <https://oirm.ca/oirm-news-events/research-profile-dr-thomas-koch>

Alastair receives his UPE!



Dr. Alastair Summerlee received his distinction of University Professor Emeritus at the convocation ceremony in February. Congrats Alastair!

Basic Science, eh?

Funding fundamental research in Canada



FUNDAMENTAL

RESEARCH:



APPLIED

RESEARCH:

BASIC

DISCOVERY

is the endeavor to understand humanity and the natural world, and it is conducted without specific consideration of an end product.

seeks to develop practical solutions to specific challenges.

INNOVATION

APPLICATION

LOSS OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH SUPPORT

Decline in expenditures on fundamental research between 2005 and 2015, taking into account growth in number of researchers



-36%

LOSS IN NATURAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING



-31%

LOSS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

INCREASING NUMBERS OF CANADIAN RESEARCHERS NOW RECEIVE NO FEDERAL RESEARCH FUNDING



IMPACTS ON THE CANADIAN RESEARCH COMMUNITY

The proportion of researchers who reported that they only conducted fundamental research plummeted from

24% for 2006-2010 to **1.6%** for 2011-2015

We asked researchers who previously performed ONLY fundamental research (>10 years ago) why their research is now partly applied:



80%

INDICATED THE CHANGE WAS FUNDING RELATED

FEWER CANADIANS WILL PURSUE CAREERS IN RESEARCH



56%

of surveyed Canadian researchers believe that changes to research funding reduce the likelihood that young Canadians will pursue research careers.

“If we don't take the lead on answering the big questions, then we will be the ones buying technology, not selling it.”

Cathleen Crudden, president of the Canadian Society for Chemistry Chemistry World May 14 2013

THE FUNDING GAP

Restoring fundamental research funding availability for Canadian researchers to 2005 levels would require investments to NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR totalling:

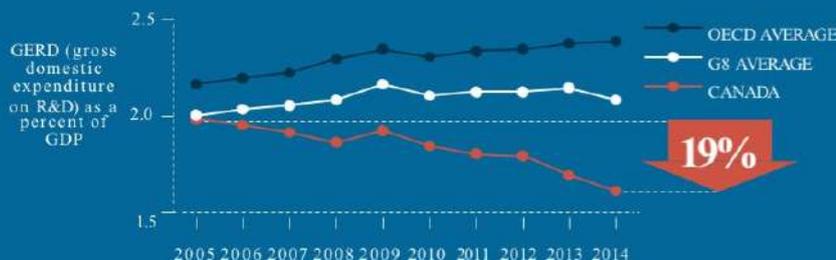
\$459 MILLION IN UNREALIZED RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



SOLUTIONS

1. Link fundamental research funding to number of active Canadian researchers
2. Reinvest in fundamental research to close the accumulated funding gap

CANADA IS LOSING THE R&D RACE



RESTORING CANADA'S COMPETITIVENESS IN FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH:

The View from the Bench

Authors: Baum, J.K., Dodd, M., Tietjen, K., and Kerr, J.

ISBN: 978-3-8047-3760-0

Available from:

<https://globalyoungacademy.net/gyafun1>



GLOBAL YOUNG ACADEMY

DESIGN BY: KATE CAMPBELL, CA

For nearly a decade, Canada under-invested in fundamental science. We failed to keep pace with other countries in supporting our research community. Now, the Liberal government has a unique opportunity to reinvest in scientific research. With increased funding, researchers will be able to ask bold questions and seek the knowledge we need to enhance the quality of life for all Canadians.

Let's get science right. Join the petition: <http://science.caut.ca/>