Welcome Back!

Happy New Year Biomed!! I hope you all enjoyed your holiday season with friends and family and managed to get some much-deserved down time.

Thank you again for your generosity during our auction at the departmental holiday lunch. Together, we raised a remarkable $1450 for the United Way campaign!!

Last year was one of our most successful years in terms of research productivity, graduate student numbers and funding success. I can’t wait to see what we will accomplish together in 2020!

Keep up the great work Biomed!!!
On Nov 30, Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology (GJUST), Hisar and University of Guelph, will work together in the area of research and academia. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between both the institutions. The MoU was signed by Prof Tankeshwar Kumar, Vice-Chancellor on behalf of GJUS&T, Hisar and Dr Malcolm Campbell, Vice-President, Research signed on behalf of University of Guelph. Dr Pavneesh Madan, Professor, Biomedical Sciences, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, and Prof Vinod Chhokar, Dean International Affairs of GJUST, Hisar also signed the MoU as witness.

Prof Neeraj Dilbaghi, Director, UGC-Human Resource Development Centre of the University played a key role for the MoU. Dr Anil Kumar Pundir, Registrar, Prof Usha Arora, Dean Academic Affairs, Dr Devender Kumar, Dr Sandeep and Prof Narsi Ram Bishnoi were also present on the occasion. Prof Tankeshwar Kumar, Vice-Chancellor said both the Universities have agreed to explore cooperation in research in the area of Bio and Nano Technology, Environmental Science and Engineering, Food Science & Technology, Engineering and Technology and Humanities and Social Sciences. Both the institutes can share laboratory, infrastructure facilities and cross institutional faculty/researcher instructions for academic and research. By this MoU both the institutions agreed to mutual co-operations in the research projects, seminars and workshops.

Well done Pavneesh!
Biomed's Festive Holiday Celebration!

Another successful Holiday luncheon and United Way fund raising event was held, with over 90 Biomeder's were in attendance!

Santa Saleh was on fire, and together, the department raised over $1200 for United Way at our auction. Way to go Biomed!!

Josh Antunes won the TA Excellence Award

Jyoti Sharma won the Best PhD Seminar Award

Laura Austin won the Best MSc Seminar Award

Dr. Laura Favetta won the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award
Biomed Luncheon Cont...
Biomed Luncheon Cont...
My, how our Biomed family has grown!
BPA’s counterpart replacement BPS can hinder heart function within minutes of a single exposure, according to a new University of Guelph study. The study is the first to show the instant effects bisphenol S (BPS) can have on the heart.

“We expected to find similar effects from BPS as we have with BPA, but not at the speed that it worked,” said biomedical sciences professor **Glen Pyle**, who conducted the study with former master’s student **Melissa Ferguson**. “This replacement chemical seems to be more potent.”

Bisphenol A (BPA), a chemical used in plastic products, was banned from baby bottles in Canada in 2010 over concerns that it may leach into foods and cause hormone-related side effects. More manufacturers are now using BPS as a replacement in their products and labelling them as BPA-free.

These findings are concerning, as endocrine receptors and metabolic pathways are similar in mice and humans, said Pyle. “This study raises concerns about the safety of BPS as a replacement for BPA.”

It’s particularly worrisome for people with coronary heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or obesity, because the effects of BPS could increase the chance of a heart attack or make a heart attack more severe, he added.

“If the heart is in a precarious position, when you add a stressor you can make it worse.”

Published recently in the journal **Nature Scientific Reports**, the study entailed treating mouse hearts with BPA and BPS at levels typically seen in people. Each chemical on its own was found to depress heart function by dampening heart contractions causing slower blood flow. However, BPS had a quicker impact – within five minutes of exposure.
Graduate Student Corner

Also...

Watch this space for some exciting graduate student wellness events coming up, including "Bell Let's Talk" Day! (Bell Let's Talk Day is January 29-30: National awareness campaign begins with Canadians from around the country sharing their stories about mental illness)

Big thanks to Morla Phan, Simran Bhullar, Shahnaza Hamidullah, Nariko Kuwahara, Laura Austin, Yifan Liu, Chloe Graham for contributing their artistic talent and helping prepare ornaments for the United Way Fundraiser!

Upcoming events for biomed graduate students:

Thursday, January 23rd

**New Semester; New Habits**

Free Wellness Seminar Series brought to you by the OVC Graduate Peer Helpers

**Seminar 1**

*Snacking for Success* with Linda O'Reilly
Monday, January 13th 11:30am - 12:30pm
PAHL 1910

**Seminar 2**

*Every Semester Needs a Plan* with Dr. Amy Greer
Thursday, January 16th 11:30am - 12:30pm
PAHL 1912

Light refreshments and snacks provided

**COFFEE HOUSE HANGOUT**

Details:
Biomed Common Room
3-4pm

Coffee, tea, and treats will be provided!

Also...
Volunteers Needed!

"The Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI) for international candidates applying to the DVM program will be held on February 1 & 2, 2020 on the third floor of the MacKinnon Building. Please help us by signing up for interviews during that weekend.

Each shift is two hours long, starting at 8AM, 10AM, 2PM or 4PM (the 4PM shift is only on Saturday). You will be at a 'station' with a partner, usually a DVM student, and will be interviewing 9 candidates per shift. Any time you can contribute is very much appreciated!

If you would like to participate please email lowenger@uoguelph.ca with your choice of shifts.

Before the interviews there will be confidential training on January 22nd at 6PM. There will also be a very short review of the MMI before each MMI shift, but the training is recommended to acquaint you with the rationale of the MMIs and how they work.

We also require two DVMs per shift to assess the station where candidates’ Background Information Forms (BIFs) are reviewed. This would involve reviewing the 9 candidates’ BIFs beforehand and communicating with your fellow assessor for that shift to decide what part of the BIFs you will ask the preset standardized questions about. If you would be willing to do one shift at the ‘BIF station' please mention this in your email.

Thank you so much!"
As usual, my door is always open...

so pop in for a chat anytime!!

Tarek Saleh
Dept. Chair