Winter is finally OVER!

The temperature outside is finally cooperating, so it actually feels like the Winter semester is officially over, and Summer classes have begun. Congratulations to all of our outstanding faculty and TAs who have taught in undergraduate and/or graduate courses this past year. I continue to receive accolades lauding our faculty/students for their outstanding contributions to teaching. I also receive regular updates on former students who have been successful in their admission to professional school or a graduate program of choice. Proud to be a Biomeder! Keep up the great work!

Department updates

Welcome back Leanne!
Giannina nabs NARSAD!
Gord’s 25 years!
Anita Luu’s ceremony
Neuroscience Research Day
OICR comes to Guelph

Glen now a “Distinguished Professor”
& Kim is "Excellent"!
Khokhar@CAN & Martino@Montreal...
...and much more!
Drs. Leanne Stalker (former postdoc with Jon LaMarre) and Tarek Saleh are co-applicants on a CIHR (institute of Infection & Immunity)-funded strategic initiative named the "Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Program (CDTRP)". Tarek and Leanne were awarded a subgrant under a contract with the University of Alberta, titled "Maximizing benefits through national infrastructure and sustainability planning".

Total amount of the award is $249,404 over 3 yrs. These funds will support Leanne's position within the research institute. Leanne's primary role will be to develop methods to manage, coordinate and report on research activities supported within the CDTRP research themes.

Please read the full position announcement here: https://www.cntrp.ca/single-post/2019/05/10/Introducing-our-two-new-CDTRP-Theme-Managers?
fbclid=IwAR2_xAdrf3FbkGRa7S4gk67Lv1ehxJhGwilGWqN_P7GruGiD-3Wrb7ncBNI

Leanne will be located on the 3rd floor RHBL in Biomed, so please stop by and wish her a heartfelt "Welcome back"!
Dr. Giannina Descalzi receives NARSAD funding

Dr. Giannina Descalzi, the department’s latest hire in Comparative and Translational Biomedical research starting August 1st, has received the Brain & Behaviour Research Foundation's top award, a Young Investigator grant (NARSAD) worth $70,000 (USD) which she will be able to bring with her to UofG! Her proposal is titled: "Lactate from astrocytes: a critical energy source for learning-induced translation in memory".

A NARSAD Grant is one of the highest distinctions in the field of mental health research. Many investigators go on to receive larger federal and private grants based on their NARSAD Grant projects.

All Grant application submissions are reviewed by the Scientific Council which reviews and selects the most promising research ideas with the greatest potential to lead to advancements and breakthroughs.

NARSAD Grants support a broad range of the best ideas in brain research. Funding is focused on four priority areas to better understand and treat mental illness, aiming toward prevention and ultimately cures.

NARSAD Grant recipients have gone on to receive $3.8 billion in additional research funding in next stage NIMH and NIH grants.

CONGRATS GIANNINA!!
Dr. Gordon Kirby celebrates 25 years of service

Dr. Gord Kirby was formerly inducted into the "Quarter Century" club at the UofG celebration for those faculty and staff who have served for 25 years.

Congrats Gord!!
Anita Luu receives her Y's Women of Distinction Recognition

Women of Distinction™ is a celebration of women who are role models, pioneers and outstanding achievers – they improve the quality of life in our community. The 2019 Women of Distinction™ fundraising event at the River Run Centre celebrated and empowered 20 remarkable role models, pioneers, and outstanding achievers from the Guelph community. Among the recipients honored was Anita Luu (PhD candidate with Alicia Vitoria-Petit).

Congrats Anita, such a well-deserved recognition!
The 12th Annual Neuroscience Day (chaired by Dr. Craig Bailey), was held at the Arboretum on May 1st. The organizing committee composed of Biomed rep Jibran Khokhar, Mellissa Periault (MCB), Jennifer Murray (Psychology) and Jenna Penny (MCB) helped in coordinating and putting together the abstract book for the event. Over 85 attendees listened to student talks and viewed the over 40 poster presentations from several labs across campus. Our keynot speaker, Dr. Ravi Menon, Tier I CRC in Biomedical Imaging from the Robarts Research Institute at Western gave a thought-provoking talk.

Special thanks to Elizabeth Hewitson, Ashutosh Patel, Chloe Soutar (Graduate students in Craig's lab) and Kim Best for their assistance in making this annual event a resounding success!
12th Annual Neuroscience Research Day

Winners of the Best undergraduate poster (Jude Frie; Khokhar lab) and PhD poster awards (Chloe Soutar, Bailey lab).
Dr. Craig Bailey hosted a special Neuroscience seminar by Dr. Hans Dringenberg, Professor at Queen's University in the Department of Psychology and Centre for Neuroscience Studies. Hans was in the department to meet with Chloe Soutar, a graduate student visiting from Queen's working on a collaborative research project in Craig's lab.
Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association meeting in Windsor

The 39th Annual SONA meeting was held at the University of Windsor this year. **Kate Nicholson** (MSc student in the MacLusky lab) won the award for the best poster presentation at SONA by an M.Sc. student. **Ashutosh Patel** (PhD student in the Bailey lab) was chosen for a prestigious "Trainee Speaker" from the UofG.
Congratulations to **Kathy Matuszewsk**a (PhD candidate in Petrik's lab) on being awarded a Canadian Student Health Research Forum Travel award in partnership with CIHR. Kathy is among the top 5% of PhD students who will receive $1000 toward travel-related expenses to attend the meeting. She will be presenting her research on "**3TSR-induced Vascular Normalization Enhances Oncolytic Virotherapy in Advanced Stage Ovarian Cancer**".

The direct support from CIHR includes their hosting of a Career Development Workshop for participants and their identification with excellence through poster awards.

**Have fun in Winnipeg in the summer Kathy!**
Graduate Student Corner

Congrats to Dr. Ari Mendel (recent PhD graduate from MacLusky's lab) for being awarded the 2019 Governor General's GOLD medal award! This medal is awarded each year for outstanding academic achievement at the graduate level of study. Recipients of convocation awards will be announced publicly at the June 3, 2019 meeting of Senate. CONGRATS Ari!

Do you have something to say about the mental health of post secondary students? We would love to hear it! Please join us on Tuesday, May 18th from 2-3:30pm in room 1812 of the Pathobiology Building for a dialogue about today’s needs, concerns, and aspirations on promoting and supporting student mental health. ALL perspectives are welcome. Please let us know if you can make it by emailing Erin Prior, Admin Assistant for Student Wellness eprior@uoguelph.ca

For more information on the MHCC’s post-secondary student standard initiative, visit their website https://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/what-we-do/children-and-youth/students-standard

Can't make it on the 28th? Complete this online survey on the MHCC website https://onlinesurvey.mentalhealthcommission.ca/s3/postsecondary

Oh, and did we mention there will be free refreshments available for all participants?!

For further information, please contact Emily E. Craig, MSc Candidate.
On Friday May 10th, **Dr. Jim Petrik** hosted a delegation from the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR) who visited the University for a day-long meeting with Guelph cancer researchers and members of the Vice-President Research’s office. The meeting was held at the Arboretum and had more than 20 Guelph cancer researchers in attendance.

After opening comments from Vice President-Research Dr. Malcolm Campbell, OICR director and president, Dr. Lazslo Radvanyi introduced their team which included members from their therapy development program, the head of the FACIT translational research program, and the head of Adaptive Oncology.

Cancer research at the University of Guelph was loosely divided into 3 main themes: Comparative Oncology Platforms to Advanced Translational Cancer Therapies; Combination and Immunotherapies for Treating and Preventing Cancer, and Cancer Therapeutics, Including Plant Based Products. Short overview presentations were given by team leads for each of the areas including Dr. Michelle Oblak, Dr. Jim Petrik, and Dr. Paul Spagnulo respectively.

Following the brief introductory presentations, Dr. Radvanyi gave an overview of OICR.
Dr. Laszlo Radvanyi, president and CEO of OICR presents an overview of the organization and outlines potential opportunities to engage with Guelph cancer researchers

Following the brief introductory presentations, Dr. Radvanyi gave an overview of OICR, its mandate, and how connections could be made with Guelph. Dr. Nicole Baryla then presented role of FACIT and potential opportunities that exist for researchers at Guelph.

In the afternoon, leaders from the 3 research areas then facilitated a free-form discussion period. U of G researchers and members of the OICR group had very engaged discussions and several potential collaborative efforts were identified. At one point, Dr. Campbell rose to comment on the number of tangible outcomes that were arising from this meeting and that his office was motivated to support any initiatives arising from the meeting.

In all, this was a very productive initial meeting with OICR and there could be several exciting ventures that arise. Special thanks to the VP Research office for sponsoring and organizing this very productive day.

Thanks Jim for your leadership in setting up this important networking event!
Dr. Glen Pyle is our latest UGFA Distinguished Professor Award winner!

I am very pleased to announce that the UGFA as selected Dr. Glen Pyle as the recipient of the 2019 Distinguished Professor Award for Innovation in Teaching across the University!

A formal recognition ceremony will happen in the Fall when the UGFA hosts a reception devoted to honoring teaching award winners, but I had to let the cat out of the bag early.

Glen joins former award winning Distinguished Professors, Drs. Brad Hanna, Lisa Robertson (now in Integrative Biology) and Pavneesh Madan, great company indeed!

Congrats Glen on this well-deserved recognition!

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Kim Best awarded Carton L. Gyles OVC Support Staff Excellence Award

It is with great pride that I announce this year's Carlton L. Gyles OVC Support Staff Excellence Award to Ms Kim Best.

Nominated by Dr. Allan King and supported by the majority of faculty, staff and students in Biomed, a most deserved recognition of her awesomeness in keeping us all in line. Congrats Kimmy!!!

The Khokhar lab also presented 6 posters with data from the lab with presentations by the following students: **Shahnaza Hamidullah, Jude Frie (x2)**, **Bryan Jenkins, Abanoub Rizk and Hayley Thorpe** (collaboration with U of T)
Dr. Tami Martino's lab attended the Canadian Society for Chronobiology 2019 meeting at McGill University, Montreal.

Congratulations also to our first time conference attendees for their fabulous presentations and posters, including Biomeders postdoc Dr. Tarak Khatua, MSc student Aidan Murray, and undergraduate summer students Nina Harris and Iman Aziz. Aidan Murray was a finalist for his poster!

Congratulations to our Biomed PhD student Cristine Reitz for winning the presentation award, and Biomed MSc Priya Mistry for winning the poster award.
They also visited some fabulous Montreal restaurants, and great times had by all!

Congratulations also go out to Martino lab undergraduate members and Cardiovascular Centre executives Zikra Awosanmi and Ashley Zwaiman for their acceptances to University of Toronto and Queen’s University medical schools, respectively!
Upcoming events

Summer 2019 Graduate Stipend Competition

We are pleased to announce there will be a graduate stipend competition in the summer semester. All pertinent details can be found at the link below.

There are 5 scholarship (group 1) positions available which can be allocated to any combination of PhD or MSc students, dependant on the applicant pool.

The deadline for students to submit an eApplication is end of day June 14th, 2019.

http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/research/en/researchtrainingopportunities/Graduate-Stipend-Support.asp

Please direct any inquires about the competition to ovcsas.research@uoguelph.cat
As usual, my door is always open...

so pop in for a chat anytime!!

Tarek Saleh
Dept. Chair
"Begging for forgiveness since 2016"!