

Welcome to the Fall semester! I trust you all had a great summer and had an opportunity to spend more time with friends, family, pets, etc. We had a very busy summer with the hiring 2 new tenure-track faculty, coordinating the Summer CORE program, USRA, URA and other summer students, and numerous thesis defenses and qualifying exams. I want to congratulate all those graduate students that completed their MBS or defended their MSc or PhD this summer. All students did a fantastic job in their presentations and defenses, and we wish you all the best in success as you embark on this next stage of your career progression. ***Well done!***

I want to extend a special **WELCOME** to all incoming MBS, MSc and PhD students to the department. We will hold a special celebration in their honor to officially welcome them to the department in the coming weeks. Stay tuned.

*All the best in success this Fall to all “Biomed-ers” in your teaching, research and service activities. Above all else, KEEP HAVING FUN!*

## Updates/happenings from around the Department:

1. **Dr. Pavneesh Madan’s** research was highlighted on the “AgInnovation Ontario” website regarding his innovative research into dairy cow embryos and their promise for improving human in vitro success (<https://www.aginnovationontario.ca/en/dairy-cow-embryos-hold-promise-for-improving-human-in-vitro-success/>). Congrats Pavneesh!
2. **Research Funding News!!** Congratulations to **Dr. Jim Petrik** who recently received notice of an award from an Alliance between the Cancer Research Society and Ovarian Cancer Canada. Jim’s lab will receive a total of \$120,000 over 3 years to study *Vascular normalization as a mechanism to*

*increase uptake and efficacy of oncolytic viruses and vaccine-induced effector cells for the treatment of advanced stage ovarian cancer. Congrats Jim!*

Also on the cancer funding front, **Dr. Viloría-Petit** was awarded a Cancer Research Society (CRS) Operating Grant, as a co-PI with her collaborator at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dr. Sherri Christian. The project aims at *identifying adipocyte-derived modulators of breast cancer progression*. This will contribute to our understanding of the connection between breast cancer aggressiveness and obesity. (*PS - this is in addition to the Cancer Research Society funding she received back in June*). Keep up the great work Alicia!

3. **Dr. Jim Petrik** was recently featured in a news article regarding the upcoming Ovarian Cancer Walk of Hope (<https://www.therecord.com/news-story/7523248-walk-of-hope-raises-needed-research-funds-for-ovarian-cancer/>). The “**REB-lab**” in **Allyssa Hooper’s name** has a team that is seeking donations. I hope you all take an opportunity to check out the page and make a donation for a very worthy cause.
4. **Cindy Ha**, a summer student at the Viloría-Petit lab, received third place during this year's Summer CORE Program Poster Day.
5. **Karla De Uslar** has provided us with a 'view only' login and password for Staples ([www.eway.ca](http://www.eway.ca) (username and password = **uogview**)) for pricing only. Gracias amiga!
6. The department held a get together to wish **Dr. Lisa Robertson** a fond farewell. Lisa has been in the department since 2003 and has been instrumental in the redevelopment and reorganization of the Veterinary Histology & General Pathology as well as the Veterinary Developmental Biology courses. Lisa has also been solely responsible for delivery of 2 very popular courses in the Biomed Major, Functional Mammalian Neuroanatomy and Medical Embryology. For these efforts, Lisa was awarded the OVC undergraduate teaching award as well as the UGFA Distinguished teaching award. Among her notable service-activities, Lisa

was heavily involved in the drafting of the iQAP review report and self-study. Thank you Lisa for all you have done for the department and we wish you all the best in your new position “across the road” !





7. **Dr. Tami Martino** was invited to the College of Reviewers for CIHR and was also invited to review grants for the Federal Government.

Tami was also invited to give a lecture to the new 1st year undergraduate students in residence on the importance of sleep, the disadvantages of social jet-lag, and how circadian rhythms are important for overall health.

The Martino lab lunch was held on August 25, and we said goodbye to 2 outstanding students. **Austin Duong**, MBS, who's project was on the role of the circadian clock in the medial prefrontal cortex, and whole-body physiology after a heart attack. **Zikra Awosanmi**, URA student, who's project was on applying circadian biology to benefit the whole-body health of animals. Their posters featuring this work are hanging on the walls outside her lab.

Remember that my door is always open, so pop in anytime for a chat.

Cheers!

Tarek,

Chair, BMS