Happy New Year!!

I hope you all had a relaxing, restful and peaceful holiday season. Even with social distancing, I hope you were able to connect with family and friends, albeit virtually. I hope you are all energized and ready for the start of the Winter semester. I look forward to working with you all on your teaching and research needs.

As this pandemic continues, it may seem like there is no end in sight to our struggle to return to "normal". I am truly inspired by our hard working staff and students that have continued to support our daily research and teaching activities. You are truly our "front line workers" and deserve our heartfelt gratitude!

I urge you to continue to focus on all the great accomplishments that we were able to achieve this past year, despite the pandemic. All the best in 2021...hey, it can only get better from here, right?!

Stay safe and stay strong BIOMED!!
Welcome to Dr. Melissa Perreault!

It is my extreme pleasure to inform you that Dr. Melissa Perreault has joined our Biomed family!

Dr. Melissa Perreault obtained her PhD in behavioural neuroscience in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neuroscience at McMaster where her studies focused on opioid-dopamine interactions in obsessive-compulsive disorder. She continued her postdoctoral studies in neuropharmacology in the laboratory of Dr. Susan George at the University of Toronto, with a focus on the dopamine D1-D2 receptor heteromeric complex and its role in addiction and schizophrenia.

During this period, she also spent time as a visiting researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Anthony Grace, Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience, at the University of Pittsburgh where she was trained in in vivo systems electrophysiology. Dr. Perreault began her appointment as Assistant Professor at the University of Guelph in January 2017 with promotion to Associate Professor in July 2021.

In her laboratory, she uses pharmacological, pharmacogenetic and behavioural techniques combined with systems electrophysiology to evaluate how neuronal network communication is impaired in animal models, and to understand the cell signaling pathways responsible for the network disruption. In this regard she has two main lines of research. The first involves understanding sex differences in the mechanisms regulating systems function and treatment responses in autism and depression. The second is associated with the mechanistic processes underlying the cognitive impairments in schizophrenia and Alzheimer’s disease.

In addition to her research, Dr. Perreault is a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario and is an avid supporter of equity, diversity, inclusion and Indigenization.

Welcome Melissa, we all look forward to learning more about your exciting research!
Welcome to "new" Biomeders!

This month, our Biomed family grew by a few more graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Please join me in congratulating and welcoming:

**Hesham Farag** (Tami Martino) and **Chloe Graham** (Matt Vickaryous) transferred to the PhD program ...congrats!

**Marangaby Mahamat** - PhD - Jon LaMarre (starts S'21)

**Laura Forhan** - MBS - Pawel Bartlewnski

**Cassidy Van Stiphout** - MBS - Alicia Viloria-Petit

**Aquilla Reid-John**, MBS - Giannina Descalzi

**Hannah Emami-Alagha**, MBS - Pawel Bartlewnski

**Syed Adnan Ali** - MBS - Shayan Sharif

Two new postdoctoral fellows joined Jibran Khokhar’s lab, **Dr. Richard Quansah Amissah** and **Dr. Hakan Kayir** (below)

Welcome everyone!
This month, Dr. Jibran Khokhar was a part of panel at the SfN Virtual Connectome 2021 called "Diversity Builds a Better Neuroscience".

Dr. Jibran Khokhar also gave a talk on the World Wide Neuro Platform for the Manitoba Neuroscience Network.
This has been an incredibly trying year to say the least. We made it this far because of our resilience, and we will get through this with our continued patience.

For those struggling to find it within themselves to continue to see the light at the end of this dark tunnel, there is always help available (in fact, just down the hall!).

Bell Let's Talk Day - Jan 28th

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
@UOFG
#BELLLETSTALK
DAY IS JAN. 28, A DAY TO JOIN THE GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH CONVERSATION AND HELP END THE STIGMA OF MENTAL ILLNESS.
#EVERYACTIONCOUNTS

#UOFG HAS SEVERAL FACULTY WHO SPECIALIZE IN MENTAL HEALTH TOPICS & ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS.

LEARN MORE: HTTPS://UOGUEL.PH/3QHDO

Stay strong Biomed!
Publications from around the Dept this month...


SCINAPSE Finalists

In BIOM*4300 (Dr. Neil MacLusky's "Scientific Communication" course) a group of students (Kaitlyn, Julia, Tiffany, and Julie) were successful in the SCINAPSE case competition. They have received notice that we are to advance to the second round in which they will create a poster of their proposal, to be presented at the University of Ottawa (virtually). In addition, their abstract will be published to the Undergraduate Research in Natural and Clinical Science and Technology (URNCST) journal. They have the opportunity for their entire research proposal to be published in the next round of the competition.

This is the second year in a row that a group from Bio-med made it to the final round. The group two years ago (headed up by Anthony Nguyen, who just got an early interview at U of T medical school) came second overall in the national competition.

Our students should be encouraged to participate more in national competitions as this gets our reputation out as a leading educator in Biomedical sciences!
Biomed Kudos Board

Don't forget to write your inspirational thoughts or send a shout out to someone in the department who went above and beyond, or your favourite recipe, by posting your message on our Kudos board

https://uoguelph.kudoboard.com/boards/JiF0RjcU
Please do not hesitate to knock on my door (with your mask!) or contact me by email if you have ANY questions/concerns at tsaleh@uoguelph.ca

Stay safe, stay well

#biomedstrong