Summer is here...I think?

Maybe you can't tell given the on-and-off snow and frosty mornings, but the summer semester has begun. Dr. LePage tells me that enrolment in DE course for the summer, which last year were around 266, this year has increased by over 50% and reached almost 490! We are clearly providing a significant and important service to our undergraduate Major programs.

As you prepare for you courses to be delivered in an alternate format, or for those with lab or practical learning components which can accommodate face-to-face teaching, remember that the Office of Teaching and Learning is ready to help you. Please reach out this summer and take advantage of all they have to offer!

Keep safe and keep smiling Biomed!
Blood Donation Challenge!

Inspired by the story in the last Biomeder around Allison Macay's visit to the Canadian Blood Services to donate blood, Dr. Brad Hanna paid them a visit and donated his life force for this noble cause. He and I thought it would be a great idea to challenge everyone in Biomed to follow Allison's lead and donate blood.

Let's see how many of you are up for the challenge!
Maybe try to get your lab out for a "group donation"? Please don't forget to call ahead and make an appointment (More information on COVID-19 is available at blood.ca/covid19. To make an appointment to donate, download the GiveBlood app, call 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) or book now at blood.ca. Walk-in appointments are also available at all locations.).
PLEASE take a selfie while you are there!!

Canadian Blood Services can be found at 130 Silver Creek Pkwy North.

Remember, it is in you to give!
"Thank you to all of our amazing Profs..."

The OVC class of 2023, Opal Otters, created a video montage thanking all the profs who taught them in the DVM program. As you will notice in this heart-warming video in which they show their appreciation, a special shout out was made for Dr. Pavneesh Madan. Congrats to everyone who played a role in making such an impact on these student's learning experience this past year!

Link to the video: https://uoguelphca-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/dcorso_uoguelphp_ca/EVFtKIC-7u9Krf7AQicgZKoBY5EhIf7Ah0NE3PIYvahdQ?e=9m9U7a
An unfortunate consequence of this lock down is that we have been unable to participate in public defences of our MSc and PhD students, to show them our support, and to celebrate their graduate success. In addition to all of the amazing students who have defended their theses since we left in March, Dr. Tami Martino put together this trip down memory lane to honour Cristine Reitz's successful defence....

Farewell to Cristine Reitz

Photo called “All now PhD’s” I think this is around 2011, the Martino lab, Cristine Reitz was an undergrad student and the others were just starting graduate work. All of them now have their PhDs! They are (L:R) Dr. Cristine Reitz, Dr. Petr Podobed-Speransky, Dr. Tami Martino, Dr. Faisal Alibhai, Dr. Elena Tsimakouridze.

Photo called “Cristine Reitz PhD” – at the PhD thesis defense, 2020 Zoom style! From L:R Dr. Jibran Khokar (Chair), Dr. Tami Martino (supervisor), Dr. Ren-Ke-Li (external examiner), Dr. Glen Pyle (Committee member, Dr. Nina Jones (internal examiner), Cristine Reitz.

Photo called “Cristine top moments” – compilation of memories by Cristine, of all kinds of cool people, places, and things that she did as a PhD student with us!

Photo called “After Party” – newly minted Dr. Cristine Reitz is congratulated 2020 Zoom style by the Martino lab!
Okay, so we don't normally announce or celebrate birthdays in the newsletter, but as Kim so eloquently put it: "...but it is Raeside, and he's 94!!". On behalf of all Biomeders, Happy belated (May 21st was his b-day) birthday Jim!
Coomber lab 40 day photo challenge!
Jinan's interview on Instagram

For the full interview, please contact Jinan Saboune.
The Virtual Science Chats series kicked off on Thursday May 14th, with the Martino Lab hosting our first session and the Favetta Lab on May 28th.

This will be a weekly event where labs or groups of students will take turns hosting a Virtual Session where all members of the department can join to discuss some science! Pour yourself a hot coffee, tea, or a nice smoothie and join us every Thursday at 2:30 PM.

Weekly reminders plus Zoom links will be sent out. If you are interested in participating please sign up: https://doodle.com/poll/gk4phgbv5aum5pu7
Since the hallways are empty in the department, I thought it would be a good idea to advertise the latest research in Biomed in the newsletter going forward. Here are some that were published since we left (student's names in bold):


An Open Source Automated Bar Test for Measuring Catalepsy in Rats. *eNEURO*, 2020, Karling R. Luciani,* Jude A. Frie,* and Jibran Y. Khokhar

**Congrats on enhancing the international reputation of the department Biomed!**
This year, the OVC will be using a modified two-step interview process. Each candidate will be required to complete a situational judgement test (https://takecasper.com/) as a substitute for some components of the regular MMI, as well as participate in an abbreviated personal virtual interview similar to the MMI BIF stations. OVC faculty will be conducting these personal virtual interviews, which will take place the week of June 1 – 5, 2020, via the Microsoft Teams platform. Your help with the DVM admissions process is greatly appreciated.

Assessors will work in pairs to interview candidates using a standardized set of probes and scoring rubric. You will need to read your assigned candidates’ Background Information Forms in preparation for each interview session. We will hold a virtual training session on Monday May 25th from 10AM – 12PM. It will be recorded for anyone that cannot be there during that time. We have tried to limit the time required per assessor and to set up the schedule so that you have flexibility in the time of day that works best for you throughout the interview week. Please let Elizabeth know which colours of “teams” you are able to participate in (ask Elizabeth for the schedule). Each team will interview a total of 6 candidates per day, 3 per block. Initially, you will only be assigned one team, and additional teams only with your permission. If you have complete flexibility in which colour team you are assigned to, please also let Elizabeth know that, so that she can schedule you according to best fit – much appreciated!

If you are available, please contact Elizabeth Lowenger ASAP!
In the news....

Drs. Sarah LePage and Glen Pyle were featured in the OVC News: https://ovc.uoguelph.ca/news/pivot-alternative-teaching-delivery-closed-out-winter-semester

ALSO....

Congratulations to Cristine Reitz (former PhD student of Dr. Tami Martino) on being the sole nominee from OVC for both the D.F Forester and Governor General's Award at the PhD level.

Congratulations to Haley Wilson (former MSc student of Dr. Neil MacLusky) who was nominated for the D.F. Forester Medal (MSc).
Admin coffee chat/meeting

Your administrative team hard at work! THANK YOU for all that you do...much appreciated!!
Okay, so my door is closed for the first time in 4 years, but that does not mean I am out of reach. **Please** do not hesitate to contact me if you have ANY questions/concerns at tsaleh@uoguelph.ca

Stay safe, stay well
We got this Biomed!!
#biomedstrong