Happy New Year!

...or Deja-Vu Year? I hope you all enjoyed your holiday break and spent some quality time with friends and family. While I realize we are not returning to work under more ideal circumstances, I am confident we will continue to deliver a high standard of teaching excellence in our graduate and undergraduate courses.

On the research front, it is "business as usual". The department now has KN95 masks for those who require it for teaching/research, as well as rapid tests kits for any who may suspect they have come into contact with a positive case. Once again, I am here to assist you with any accommodation requests.
Dr. Keith Betteridge turns 85!

As with most things in life, he continues to improve with age! **Happy Birthday Keith** and all the best in health, happiness and prosperity!
Dr. Brad Hanna is one of several DVMs who answered the call from the Minister of Health to assist in providing "shots in arms" to get Ontarion's vaccinated. During the orientation they said nurses are so worn out from 2 years of unrelenting crises that the absentee rate among nurses across Ontario is expected to surpass 30% this month, a rate they haven't seen before. And because of this staffing shortage, vaccination clinics like the one at UofG, are not able to operate at capacity, even with nursing students and MDs helping out.

Ten veterinarians being trained to vaccinate people seems like a drop in the bucket, but this demonstration in support of legislation that would normalize the recruitment of vets during emergencies, which would make a pool of 4,500 people available across the province - not huge (there are 105,000 nurses), but not insignificant either. Those ten vets along with Brad will vaccinate close to a thousand people each, which will help here in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph.

Good on ya Brad!

Volunteer vaccinators Phase 1 DVM student Emily Merry and Dr. Brad Hanna
Dr. Melissa Perreault wins Minister's Award of Excellence!

Very proud to announce that Dr. Melissa Perreault won the Minister's Award of Excellence in the category of *Equality of Opportunity for opening postsecondary education to marginalized and underrepresented groups*. Melissa has been working to remove barriers for Indigenous students in STEM programs and making the university a more inclusive place for these students.

*Congrats Mel and keep up the great work!*
Ola Davis and Rushi Patel (MSc candidates in Dr. Favetta’s lab) were selected for the student competition at the annual International Embryo Transfer society (IETs) conference in Savannah, Georgia on Jan 10-14, where they presented data from their research.

Congrats Ola and Rushi!
Claudia Klein, Phoebe Bruce, Jutta Hamermueller, Tony Hayes, Brandon Lillie, **Keith Betteridge.** *Transcriptional profiling of equine endometrium before, during and after capsule disintegration during normal pregnancy and after oxytocin-induced luteostasis in non-pregnant mares.* **PLOS ONE** | https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0257161 . 2021.

**Nguyen, M., Sabry, R., Davis, O.S., Favetta, L.A.** *Effects of BPA, BPS, and BPF on Oxidative Stress and Antioxidant Enzyme Expression in Bovine Oocytes and Spermatozoa.* **Genes (Basel)** 2022, 13, 142. https://doi.org/10.3390/genes13010142


Dr. Jibran Khokhar was honoured to deliver the 11th Annual Munkacsi Lecture (virtually) at the University of Saskatchewan Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology Seminar Series.
Dr. Patrick McCunn (postdoctoral fellow in the Khokhar lab) received the *Stratas Foundation Matthew Burke Memorial Scholarship for Mental Health Research.*

*Congrats Patrick!*
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