A "new normal" is coming!

I hope everyone is enjoying their Summer thus far and have taken, or are planning to take, some much deserved time off. As the Ministry of Colleges and Universities has declared (https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-university-college-covid-fall-measures-1.6108134), we are looking forward to a return to a greater sense of normalcy this Fall. We seem to be on track for removing capacity limits in lecture theatres and labs, as well as physical distancing requirements, but masks will need to be worn at all times when indoors. I very much look forward to seeing folks back in the hallways in the Fall!

All the best and stay safe this Summer!
Dr. Khokhar invited to serve on a CIHR-IAB for the INMHA!

The Governing Council of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) was pleased with the impressive and diverse response to the launch of the 2021 Institute Advisory Boards (IAB) membership renewal (311 applications were put forward for consideration).

In recognition of Dr. Jibran Khokhar’s expertise and accomplishments, it gives us great pleasure to announce that Jibran has been invited to become a member of the IAB for the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA) for a term of three years effective September 1, 2021. His term could be renewed for up to three years.

Jibran’s participation on the IAB will not only allow CIHR to sustain the important advisory function of IABs, but will also enable them to better research initiatives, particularly ones that are innovative and cross-disciplinary. The vision is to build on the strengths of cross-Institute collaborations, while addressing the need for timely, Institute-specific advice; enhance Institutes’ overall ability to plan, function, and engage their respective communities; give Institutes access to a collective body of advisors who can be called upon to provide guidance on Institute-specific and where appropriate, cross-Institute initiatives and activities; and increase CIHR’s commitment to Indigenous health research.

Thank you Jibran for serving on this prestigious board and bringing more attention to the Neuroscience research at UofG.

Congrats Jibran and all the best!
Jessica Ruffolo wins a Travel Award!

Congratulations to Jessica Ruffolo (MSc candidate, Khokhar lab) on her award of an International brain Research Organization (IBRO) Travel Award for the Canadian Association for Neuroscience.

Congrats Jessica!
Welcome new graduate students!

Welcome to Biomedical Sciences ⬇️
(from Kim Best)

For the first time since March 2019, I am planning to be back in the office in September. I hope you will drop by at some point so we can introduce ourselves. It’s much easier to answer questions, and give you a small tour, etc in person.

You will have already begun to receive emails from the department as I have added you to the graduate student listserv. I am currently working on adding you to the department’s website: https://ovc.uoguelph.ca/biomedical-sciences/people/graduate-student-list and it would be greatly appreciated if you would send me a headshot and your current degrees and where they were obtained. - these photos will also be printed and posted on our department’s photo directory board which is on the 2nd floor.

PhD and MSc students will be provided with office/desk space. We are currently experiencing a shortage of space, but I can provide you with keys for those sooner than later.

Holly Illman, Operations Manager for Biomedical Sciences, will set you up with iClass access, if you don’t have it already, so keys are not required to enter the OVC Building .. just your ID card.

Graduate Seminars. PhD and MSc students are required to present seminars as part of their program’s requirements (see Graduate Handbook). ALL students are invited and encouraged to participate (attending and evaluating). The department has reserved Wednesdays 12:30-1:00p for these seminars, and I will be sending out access to a Graduate Seminar Sign-Up link for you to book your slot. MSc seminars are 25 mins in length, thus 2 MSc can present on the same day; PhD seminars are 45 mins, so they would take up the whole 1h slot. Pre-Covid, seminars were held live in 1642, but I’m not sure what September has in store for us yet...details to follow.

Photocopier/Scanner - I will be emailing you all shortly with PIN# for the department photocopier which is located in the Department’s Mailroom - Room 2633 (outside the Chair’s Office). If you wish to have access to use the scanner, let me know and I will add you.

YES - you have a mailslot! same room as the photocopier .. mail currently is picked up and delivered Thursdays and distributed into mailslot, alphabetically by last name. If you are expecting mail, and even if you’re not, please do not hesitate to check your mailslot. and if you need to send mail - on-campus/off-campus, there is a 'outgoing mail' tray.

Any questions, concerns ... Dr. Saleh and I will gladly assist you. All the best!
Brad's sweet ride!

Have you ever wanted to learn to drive a manual transmission vehicle? Now is your chance! Hagerty Canada (insurer of classic cars) is on a mission to teach 500 young drivers to drive a manual in 50 days, starting July 16th. If you would like to learn to drive a 1969 Chevrolet pick-up with a “four-on-the-floor” transmission, contact Dr Brad Hanna (Biomedical Sciences), who will accommodate as many graduate students as possible (check out link below!)

[Link]

Kathy Matuszewska
(PhD candidate, Petrik lab)

Janan Soja Doost (PhD candidate, Martino lab) was Brad's second trainee who also got to drive Ian Scagnetti's (Human Anatomy staff) 1973 Dodge Charger

Melanie Williamson
(MSc candidate, MacLusky lab) and
Pauldeep Virk (MBS candidate, Madan lab)
Publications from around the Dept this month...


**Buckhalter, S., Soubeyrand, E., Ferrone, S.A.E., Rasmussen, D.J., Manduca, J.D., Al-Abdul Wahid, S., Frie, J.A., Khokhar, J. Y., Akhtar, T.A., Perreault, M.L.* The antidepressant-like and analgesic effects of kratom alkaloids are accompanied by changes in low frequency oscillations but not ΔFosB accumulation. *Front Pharmacol* (Accepted)
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