Happy Fall!

The Fall semester is in full swing (55 more sleeps till X-mas!). I want to wish you all the best in your teaching and continued productivity and success in your research. To give you a greater sense of satisfaction, here are just some of the numbers to show you where Biomeders are making the greatest impact:

**Our 21 faculty teach 26 courses/semester to:**

- Bio-med Major = 913 students
- Neuroscience Major = 250 students
- DVM = 483 students
- Graduate students supervised = 87 (PhD = 26; MSc = 35; MBS = 26)
- 4th year research project students = 29

Keep up the great work Biomed!!!
Dr. Allan King was asked to conduct the swearing in ceremony for new citizens to Canada. He was asked by his former student, Assistant Deputy Minister for Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada, Dr. Harpreet Khochhar. Dr. King swore in 35 new citizens from 39 different countries!

He said the test was really hard!!

Way to go your honor!
Allan receives his UPE!

Dr. Allan King received his University Professor Emeritus designation at Fall convocation. It was a great (warm!) Fall day and a tremendous honour for Allan. We are proud of your accomplishments and for putting Reproductive Biotechnology on the map!

I think Allan is getting used to wearing a robe!

Allan and his wife Lena

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Allan King was one of several Biomed faculty that co-authored a multi-million dollar CFI award (lead by Dr. John Leatherland) that established our department as a leader in Comparative and Translational One Health Research.
Dr. Gord Kirby's Appreciation Day

Faculty and staff from OVC gathered to celebrate and show our appreciation for the 11 years that Dr. Gord Kirby served the College as the Associate Dean Research and Innovation.

Congrats Gord and welcome "back" to Biomed!
A huge "Thank you" to **Drs. Craig Bailey** (MBS Graduate Program Coordinator), **Laura Favetta** (Applied Reproductive Biotechnology Coordinator), **Tobi Oluwole** (MBS Coordinator, Applied streams), **Shahnaza Hamidullah** (MSc candidate with Jibran) and **Bryan Jenkins** (PhD candidate with Jibran) who all took time from their Saturday to participate in graduate preview day.

This year, 650 prospective students went through the W.F Mitchell gym to learn about what Graduate Programs we have to offer. If you were there, you know that there was a lot of positive and excited energy in the gym! Over 55 undergraduates visited the Biomed table to hear about the great research and graduate opportunities offered in Biomed.

**Way to go folks and thanks for representing Biomed!**
A potential drug to treat heart attacks and to prevent heart failure -- for which no cure currently exists -- may result from pioneering research by a University of Guelph professor.

Prof. Tami Martino, Department of Biomedical Sciences, and PhD student Cristine Reitz have discovered what they believe is a novel drug target controlling the body's repair responses after a heart attack. A leading cause of death worldwide, heart attacks trigger inflammatory responses that cause a scar to form in the heart. Over time, that damage eventually leads to incurable heart failure.

Media interviews can be found here:
CTV interview “Researchers Finding Way to Prevent Heart Failure”:
https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1800751

Eurekalert (and others) “U of G researchers discover drug to treat heart attacks”

Excitingly, this work was also featured as a Research Highlight by Nature Reviews Cardiology this week!!

Congrats Tami and Cristine!
The 2nd annual Southern Ontario Cardiovascular Research Association (SOCRA) held at YorkU on Oct. 18, 2019 was created by the Centre for Cardiovascular Investigations @ UGuelph - to bring together researchers and trainees in cardiac, renal, respiratory, and vascular research from across Southern Ontario. There is a special emphasis on networking and trainees, and topics spanned from basic to translational research, science to business, different funding model paradigms, and the many possible career paths available to students and postdoctoral fellows. Attendees from Biomed included the Martino, Pyle and Vickaryous labs. Join us next year – we’re really excited to be hosting back at UGuelph!!

Dr. Amy Botta, Dr. Keith Brunt, Dr. Glen Pyle, Dr. Jeremy Simpson, Dr. Tami Martino, Dr. Mark Ormiston, Dr. Robert Tsushima.
The Centre for Cardiovascular Investigations hosted their first Cardiovascular Scientist Seminar for the new school year, on Thursday Oct 10, 2019. Featured in the CCVI photo are members of our undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral student executive councils and faculty executives who helped to organize the event, with Biomeders in bold: Grace Teng, Iman Aziz, Kathy Jacyniak, Aidan Murray, Cristine Reitz, Hesham Farag, Dr. Sarah Alderman, Dr. Tarak Khatua, Dr. Coral Murrant, Michael Jones, Nina Harris, Dr. Mina Rasouli, Dr. Tami Martino.
In the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Prof. Jibran Khokhar looks at connections between cannabis use and mental health problems, particularly among adolescents. Rates of cannabis use in Canada are among the highest in the world; more than one quarter of 11- to 15-year-olds reported using cannabis in 2013, the highest rate among developed countries. Khokhar’s animal studies show that THC alters reward and motivation behaviours, and that adolescent exposure can lead to changes in brain circuitry and behavioural effects in adulthood. Referring to brain circuit changes in a study published in the Canadian Journal of Addiction, he said results of THC exposure “look like changes in the brain of someone with acute psychosis or schizophrenia.”.

Read the full story here: https://porticomagazine.ca/2019/10/cannabis-campus/
Kathy Jacyniak (PhD candidate with Matt Vickaryous) was recently featured in the See It Be It STEM webpage, a site devoted to inspiring girls and young women in science and related fields.

Please read the full article here: https://www.seeitbeitstemit.com/get-inspired/2019/4/8/meet-kathy-jacyniak

If you would like to nominate someone or have someone in mind, please nominate them or have them fill out the form on the website (https://www.seeitbeitstemit.com/get-inspired/)!
Hi everyone,

We hope that research and experiments are going well! We had a couple of highlights we wanted to address to all of you.

First off, we would like to introduce the new graduate student representative that has joined our team, Nick Prevedel. Nick is going to help organize and plan future events, so if you have any suggestions feel free to voice your comments to Nick, Anita or Kathy.

Secondly, we would like to thank everyone who attended our Graduate Student Meet and Greet. It was awesome to meet some newcomers in our department, and to share stories and lots of laughter with you all. We had such a good time (as you can see from our annual selfies below)!

Lastly, we are hosting our next graduate student coffee house on November 12th at 3pm in the Biomedical Sciences Common Room. We are going to have some coffee and treats, so please try to make it, even for a little bit!

Have a great rest of your week, and we look forward to seeing you at the Coffee House.

Anita, Nick and Kathy
United Way Campaign Kick off!

United Way...PLEASE give!

Support U of G’s United Way Campaign – Make Local Issues #UNIGNORABLE. This year, U of G’s goal is $620,000 and beyond! President Franco Vaccarino announced the goal at the campaign’s kick-off barbecue on Sept. 24. “Through our involvement with the United Way campaign, we aim to improve life – our singular purpose here at the University of Guelph,” he said.

Our department has 2 graduate student representatives on the OVC United Way campaign committee, Shahnaza Hamidullah (Khokhar lab) and Simran Bhullar (Madan's lab).

In the past few years, Biomeders have given most generously to this campaign, EXCEEDING our target fundraising goal!

Please continue this trend of generous giving during this year's campaign!

Keep up the great work Biomed!!
Annual Holiday Party and Gift Auction!

Our annual departmental holiday lunch and gift auction for United Way will be held on Dec 18th at 12pm in Creelman Hall.

Awards for "Best TA", "Best Graduate Mentor", "Best Student Seminar (MSc and PhD)", will all be awarded at this event.

In preparation, please bring your wrapped gifts to Kim's office anytime before Dec 16th. Let's try to set another auction record for the United Way!
As usual, my door is always open...

so pop in for a chat anytime!!

Tarek Saleh
Dept. Chair