CIHR success!!

By far the greatest newsworthy item from this past month has been our UNPRECEDENTED success in CIHR operating competitions. Drs. Thomas Koch, Glen Pyle and Jibran Khokhar were all recipients in the Spring competition for a grand total of ~$1.9 million over the next 5 years.

We cannot be more proud of the accomplishments of these investigators, but also acknowledge the fact that their amazing success could not have been possible without the support from graduate students, research and teaching staff and our administrative team. This brings the total number of CIHR-funded faculty in Biomed to 32%...WOW! This proves we are not just surviving during this pandemic, we are thriving in it!

CONGRATS Thomas, Jibran and Glen!
Welcome to our new graduate students!

On behalf of the department of Biomedical Sciences, I want to extend our warmest welcome possible to our new graduate students who join us over the Summer and this Fall. It is truly unfortunate that we were not able to treat you to pizza and pop, as is our custom during your orientation, and I regret not being able to see your faces so I can attach the names that I have read about.

Despite the COVID-related restrictions on our ability to provide a proper welcome celebration, please know that your graduate student experience and your research training will not be compromised at all. Our reputation and acknowledgement in research circles nationally and internationally will only be strengthened by your impending contributions, and for that I thank you!

I wish you all the best and please make a point of stopping in to introduce yourselves. I look forward to getting to know all of you in the upcoming months.

With our latest additions, that brings the total number of graduate students in the department to 92 (24 PhD, 42 MSc and 26 MBS). Again, we are experiencing unprecedented growth, expansion and success at every level. See some student photos below!

Welcome and we look forward to hearing about your research success!
Please join me in welcoming.....

Aasritha Thotakura - MBS
Madan

Ann Ram - PhD
Petrik

Bronte Kerrigan - MBS
Villoria-Petit

Cara Pilgrim - MBS
Madan

Cassidee Zettle - MBS
LaMarre

Judy Chen - MBS
Kirby

Janan Shoja Doost - MSc
Martino

Jaustin Dufour - MBS
Favetta

Jessica Ruffolo - MSc
Khokhar

Kiera McCahill - MBS
Favetta

Kristine Pohorilyi - MBS
LaMarre

Melanie Williamson - MBS, MacLusky

Narman Mortabgy - MSc
Koch

Ola Davis - PhD
Favetta

Roua Hassan - MBS
Kirby

Samantha Veltri - MBS
Kirby

Sydney Dobronyi - MSc
MacLusky

Vivien Truong - MSc
Favetta

M.Sc.

Gabriella Burdette - C. Bailey
Anna Canella - C. Bailey
Andrila Collins - B. Kalisch
Cassandra Collins - C. Bailey
Natalie Hillis - T. Mutsaers
Rushi Patel - L. Favetta
Kaitlin Scherer - G. Descalzi
James Tang - G. Descalzi
Jonathon Wong - T. Koch

MBS
Sri Ranjith Alike - G. Kirby
Benjamin Arceneaux - G. Kirby
David Bahrami - T. Koch
Victoria Ball - G. Kirby
Paige Beetam - Alicia VP
Ezra Dafta - J. LaMarre
Stephanie Durfy - G. Kirby
Sheli Gomberg - G. Kirby
Katherine Jones - J. Petrik
Emilia Kourmaeva - L. Favetta
Lindsay O'Brien - J. LaMarre
Jenna Rops - J. Petrik
Hi everyone,

We hope your fall semester is off to a good start. First and foremost, we would like to welcome all new incoming graduate students to the department! Even though the start of your graduate studies may look a little different than what you envisioned, we hope you know that you have joined a great community here in Biomedical Sciences.

Although some of you many have attended the graduate student orientation, and some of you are returning graduate students, we wanted to briefly introduce ourselves to the department. Anita Luu and Kathy Jacyniak are both the Graduate Student Representatives and Peer Helpers for the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

We have also added a new addition to our Graduate Student Representative team, our MBS representative Cara Pilgrim! A little bit about Cara...

“"I completed my undergrad at Guelph in Biomedical Science and I am now back for my MBS in Applied Reproductive Biotechnologies. I want to be able to help people love their experience at Guelph as much as I have!"” - Cara
A special "welcome" from our graduate peer helpers...

As the graduate student representatives, our role is to promote a positive graduate experience and act as a liaison to faculty and staff. Part of this role includes planning social events for graduate students in the department. To welcome the incoming graduate students, we will be hosting a virtual graduate student Meet and Greet in the next upcoming weeks! Please be sure to look out for the details of our event in your email inboxes.

Additionally, we are always looking for comments and suggestions for future events! If you have any recommendations, please do not hesitate to reach out to Anita (aluu@uoguelph.ca), Cara (cpilgrim@uoguelph.ca) or Kathy (kjacynia@uoguelph.ca).

Apart from the role as graduate student representative, we are also peer helpers for the department. Our goal is to provide guidance and resources to promote good mental health and well being for graduate students. Some of our roles include providing students with peer support, referring students to appropriate services and programs, and to act as a liaison with the OVC counsellor Bruno Mancini. We want to let you all know that we are here for you! If you would like to meet and chat anytime, please don't hesitate to e-mail either Kathy and/or Anita at any time, all discussions will be strictly confidential.

We hope that everyone is off to a great start to the semester and that we get the chance to meet each of you newcomers sometime soon!

Best,

Anita & Kathy
Whole genome sequencing analysis of high confidence variants of B-cell lymphoma in Canis familiaris.

**Alana Sparks**, J. Paul Woods, Dorothee Bienzle, Geoffrey A. Wood, **Brenda Lynn Coomer***. [PLOS ONE](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0238183) (Alana was an Master of Bioinformatics student!)

Tumour vasculature: Friend or Foe of oncolytic viruses?

Novel Allosteric Modulator of the Cannabinoid CB1 Receptor Ameliorates Hyperdopaminergia Endophenotypes in Rodent Models.

**Hayley Thorpe** was also selected and gave a talk last week at the International Behavioral and Neural Genetics Society Trainee Symposium titled: *On baking and getting baked: Cadm2 regulates preference and consumption of THC- and cannabis oil-infused cookie dough in mice*

**Bryan Jenkins** also gave a talk titled: *Investigating intent: my journey to understand the duality of psychoactive substances* for the Unidad de Investigación Experimental UCB in Bolivia.

**Congrats everyone and keep up the great work!!**
Roman Poterski, Sarah Donato, Jeff Thomason and the rest of the Anatomy team worked tirelessly over the Summer to ensure our students had both an academic AND safe experience in Anatomy lab this year.

Thank you all for your continued efforts to keep us all safe!
Congratulations (again) Ed!

Although we are planning a celebration for Ed, an outstanding staff member who dedicated almost 50 years of service to Biomed, the RHBL added a personal send-off on his last day. Congrats again Ed!
In case you miss 1642 (and the pizza and pop!) as much as I do....

Chalkboard says it all!
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
We got this Biomed!!
#biomedstrong