Department updates

Faculty hire - feedback wanted!

Jim Joins CPHAZ

Jibran @ CAMH

Tami in the news!

Thomas’s lab at NAVRMA

Biomed’s United Way reps!

*NEW* Grad Student Corner!

And much more...

Happy Fall Semester!

The hallways are definitely more active these days! Not only do we have a record number of Bio-med undergrad majors (283!!), but also our largest cohort of graduate students since my arrival in 2016 (77+)! I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to the 28 MBS (a record high of 11 in Repro biotech, and 3 for our NEW program in Applied Tox!) that joined the department, as well as the new MSc and PhD students. None of this would be possible without the efforts of our faculty to recruit such high caliber students.

Welcome to Biomed everyone!
Feedback requested on our 3 candidates for a Comparative Biomedical Scientist

We have now completed our interviews with the 3 short-listed candidates for the tenure-track position in Comparative Biomedical Sciences, Dr. Jordan Cheng, Giannina Descalzi and Amy Reichelt. This position will provide collaborative opportunities within the department, as well as leadership in our One Health initiative across the College and within UofG and beyond. I am requesting your feedback to any member of the search committee (Jon LaMarre, Jibran Khokhar, Thomas Koch, Anita Luu, Sarah Wooton, Glen Pyle) in person or via the poll you will receive by email. The more responses we get, the more representative your opinion will be!

The videos of the candidates teaching and research seminars are posting at this link (https://uoguelphca-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/khogg01_uoguelph_ca/Eour8QYkC5xJkKPea343jk0B5IBOKKqmRiFSN5IoMhiIA?e=QLokAi)

A huge thank you to all that attended the presentations and meetings with faculty and graduate students. It was very much appreciated!

Thank you for your participation in this important departmental function!
Jim Joins CPHAZ!

In case you missed it, Dr. Jim Petrik is featured in the latest Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses (CPHAZ) newsletter (http://cphaz.ca/newsletter-cancer-and-diabetes-whats-the-link/) showcasing his recent publication on the link between diabetes and cancer (Kellenberger LD, Petrik J. Hyperglycemia promotes insulin-dependent ovarian tumor growth. Gynecologic Oncology, Vol 149, 2018).

In 2017, an estimated 2,800 Canadian women were diagnosed with ovarian cancer and approximately 1,800 women died from the disease. Epithelial ovarian cancer is the most lethal gynecologic cancer, partly due to vague clinical symptoms and a lack of predictors of early disease. Cancer is not only a human disease, all vertebrates are vulnerable. One in four un-spayed dogs are at risk for mammary or ovarian cancer. Dr. Jim Petrik, in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, is researching the etiology of advanced stage ovarian cancer, comorbidities with other diseases, and is developing novel therapies for the treatment of this disease. His most recent research includes looking at diabetes, which affects 8-18% of all cancer patients, and it’s impact on growth rate of ovarian tumors.

Dr. Petrik and his students were able to confirm that malignant cells grow faster when living in a high-glucose environment (as seen in individuals with diabetes). They also discovered the tumors tended to be more severe and led to an increased risk of mortality when developing in a high glucose systemic environment. The medications used to control glucose levels may function as a beneficial cancer treatment, by limiting available glucose.

Jim is also our department representative on the search committee for a new Director of CPHAZ....great work Jim!
Increasing our One Health exposure, **Jibran Khokhar** presented his work at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's Addiction Grand Rounds. His talk was titled "**Substance Use and Schizophrenia: Cracking the Chicken-or-Egg Problem**"

**Ari Mendell**, PhD candidate with Dr. Neil MacLusky, is the recipient of a 2018 Trainee Professional Development Award (TPDA) from the Society for Neuroscience. It is a prestigious travel and professional development award to the annual meeting being held in San Diego this year. He will be presenting a poster both at the TPDA award winners session, as well as at a general poster session.

**Congrats Ari!**
On Sunday September 23rd, **Kathy Jacyniak** (PhD-2B), participated in an event called *Soapbox Science*. This event involved 12 women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) that are chosen across Ontario to talk about a science topic to the general public, but specifically children. Her topic was talking about the different ways animals can heal their hearts. Events like this are important because they encourage to break gender stereotypes, and their goal is to motivate and encourage the future generation of children to become scientists.  **Well done Kathy!**
Tami in the news!

1. Leading edge research from the Martino lab on "Women’s Heart Health" and "Circadian Medicine" is featured this month by the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the leading cardiovascular association in Canada. In addition to being a distinguished researcher, they will be showcasing our research from Biomedical Sciences UGuelph on their promotional and fundraising materials. Very cool! ([http://www.heartandstroke.ca/articles/women-circadian-rhythms-and-heart-disease](http://www.heartandstroke.ca/articles/women-circadian-rhythms-and-heart-disease))

2. Dr. Tami Martino was also interviewed by CBC Health News, and our latest Women's Health research and expertise on Circadian Medicine was quoted by CBC ([https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/second-opinion-body-clocks-1.4824353](https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/second-opinion-body-clocks-1.4824353))


4. The Centre for Cardiovascular Investigations (CCVI) is hosting Cardiovascular Research Day on October 11 at UGuelph, featuring 5 Distinguished Scientists from across Canada. All undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral students, faculty and staff with an interest in cardiovascular research are invited to attend for free, and there will be exciting new opportunities for networking people & ideas & resources, and to present posters / presentations for building your CVs. Please see website for further details: ([https://cardiovascular-research-day-2018.ca/](https://cardiovascular-research-day-2018.ca/))

Seating is limited, Please email ccviguelph@gmail.com to RSVP.

5. Welcome SOCRA!!  This year we also created the Southern Ontario Cardiovascular Research Association (SOCRA), to build “grass roots” cardiovascular research networking across the region. The inaugural event will run concurrently with CCVI Cardiovascular Research Research Day on October 11.
Koch lab NAVRMA attendance and research innovations

Congrats to the Koch lab for their strong Biomed representation at the North American Veterinary Regenerative Medicine Association's 2018 meeting: Sarah Lepage, Hamed Alizadeh and Thomas Koch attended the 2018 NAVRMA meeting in Sacramento, September 5-9th. Both Hamed and Sarah had abstracts accepted for oral presentation. Sarah won 2nd prize for her presentation entitled "Equine cord blood MSCs have greater differentiation and similar immunosuppressive potential to donor-matched cord tissue MSCs". Hamed's presentation entitled "Cell identity, proliferation, and cytogenetic assessment of equine umbilical cord blood mesenchymal stromal cells" was well received and his work was just published in Stem Cells and Development on September 25th. Congratulations to both Sarah and Hamed on these achievements! Ian Tobias from the Betts lab at Western won 3rd prize for his oral presentation entitled "Canine embryo-derived and induced pluripotent stem cells; contributions, challenges and perspectives". Prof. Dean Betts is a former faculty member in BMS and present adjunct faculty member.

This is also the same organization (NAVRMA) that Thomas Koch will now Chair, and he will be responsible for fund-raising, hosting and organizing next year's conference in Niagara on-the-Lake, September 8-11th (https://www.navrma.org/) so mark your calendars!

In terms of the Koch's lab innovative teaching and research, several graduate students that participated in a literature review-based graduate course, submitted their review (made more cohesive under Sarah LePage's editorial leadership) and it was recently published in the journal of Tissue Engineering. The title is: "A look below cartilage: The role of the osteochondral unit in joint health and disease". Sarah is first author, and Diana Carvajal and Allyssa Hooper are among the co-authors. Congrats!

European Exchange: Olivia Lee left for Leipzig, Germany, in September to complete a 3-month research and development internship at Jena Biosciences. Olivia secured funding and placement for this internship through the Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE) Award program from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) [https://www.daad.de/rise/en/].

Local news: Thomas was an invited to speak on the topic of the future of regenerative medicine at the Guelph Wellington Men's Club on September 18th. Jim Raeside was in the audience and made a point of letting me know what a fantastic job Thomas did on impressing upon his audience the importance of the work he is doing. Keep up the great work Thomas!
Dr. W. Allan King and Dr. Leanne Stalker attended the IX CONERA: congress on Animal Reproduction in Belém, Pará State, Brazil from September 10-12. Organized in part by Dr. Moysés Miranda (a previous visiting scientist to the RHB lab), both Dr. King and Dr. Stalker represented U of G and Canada, and presented keynote presentations to a variety of Brazilian undergraduate and graduate students, as well as international faculty members.

While at the conference, Dr. Miranda presented Dr. King with a very special award, recognizing his over 30 years of contribution to collaborative science between Brazil and Canada as well as his contribution to the field of animal reproduction in Brazil. A well deserved honor Allan!
We hope your fall semester is off to a good start. First and foremost, we just want to welcome all new incoming graduate students to the department!

Although many of you attended the graduate student orientation, and most students in the department know who we are, we wanted to briefly introduce ourselves. We are both the graduate student representatives and peer helpers for the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

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 graduate student Meet and Greet **NEXT THURSDAY (October 4th)**. This will take place from **5:30-9pm at 74 Lounge** (located in the back of Brass Taps, the local bar in the University Centre on main campus). Aside from big events, we will also host a monthly coffee shop style event with **free coffee and treats**! The purpose of this event is to allow students to get together regularly, and to talk to one another in a safe and judgement-free environment. We are also more than happy to take any comments and/or suggestions for future events if you have any!

Apart from our 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 counselor 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 (kjacynia@uoguelph.ca) and/or Anita (aluu@uoguelph.ca), 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, say, next Thursday perhaps?

Best, Anita & Kathy
A special thanks to Shahnaza Hamidullah (MSc with Dr. Khokhar) and Bryan Jenkins (PhD with Dr. Khokhar) for volunteering to serve as our departmental representatives on the OVC’s United Way Committee.
It is with profound sadness we announce the sudden passing of **Michael Bernardo** on September 20, 2018 at the age of 38. Some of you may recall that Michael completed an MSc with Dr. Tami Martino. Michael completed his MSc (1 yr MBS, but before it was officially called an "MBS") with Tami from 2009-2010. In Tami's lab he was investigating "Time of day of heart attacks". Michael was very successful with a first author publication on timing of myocardial infarction and molecular pathways triggered day versus night. He graduated in 2010. He obtained his MD medical degree in 2015 and was practicing medicine.

Our sincere condolences and sympathies extend to his family and loved ones.
The Centre for Cardiovascular Investigations (CCVI) and the Southern Ontario Cardiovascular Research Association (SOCRA) are hosting Cardiovascular Research Day on Thursday, October 11th, noon-6 pm. Please see the conference website: https://cardiovascular-research-day-2018.ca/

For all interested students - there will be a student poster session at the end of the day and students can present a 1-minute datablitz presentation for their poster during our afternoon speaker sessions. Also - we are hosting a SOCRA Student "Meet & Greet" from 10:45-11:45 am on Oct 11 for students to network with each other, all students are welcome to join us.

Please email ccviguelph@gmail.com to RSVP and to sign up for the poster session. **There is no charge for the conference and pizza lunch is included.**

We hope that you will join us, thank you!

Cristine & Priya  
CCVI Student Executive Co-chairs
Health, Safety & Wellness in Biomed

**PLEASE NOTE** Qualified Personnel with Emergency First Aid, CPR and AED training in Biomed are:

**First Floor**

**Hayley Wilson** - Room 1661, x52542; hwilso09@uoguelph.ca - Standard First Aid

**Aidan Murray** - Room 1667, Ext. 54982; amurra12@uoguelph.ca - First Aid, CPR Level C

**Third Floor**

**Monica Antenos** - Room 3638A; Ext. 58260; mantenos@uoguelph.ca - First Aid, CPR

**Elizabeth Hewitson** - Room 3661; Ext. 54838; ehewitso@uoguelph.ca - First Aid, CPR+AED

**Olivia Kostecki** - Ext. okosteck@uoguelph.ca - Emergency First Aid DPR/AED Level C

**Jim Petrik** - Room 3627; Ext. 54921; jpetrik@uoguelph.ca - First Aid, CPR

Please see the following site for important Health & Safety information and workshops on campus:

https://www.uoguelph.ca/wellnessatwork/events
As usual, my door is always open...

so pop in for a chat anytime!!

Tarek Saleh
Dept. Chair