Since becoming Chair in 2016, I have truly enjoyed the continual increase in the diversity of our faculty, staff and graduate student population. As a single snapshot to date, 7 faculty, 6 staff and over 27 graduate students identify as racialized, disabled or indigenous. If you include our incredibly talented female faculty, staff and students, our dept is well over 65% equity-deserving. Combined with our largest intake of International students this Fall, we are making great progress. This is a trend that I certainly hope will continue, and that I will encourage.

On that note, our commitment to EDI has never been stronger. With the help of the co-Chairs of our EDI committee, Drs. Giannina Descalzi and Jim Petrik, I look forward to many more achievements on this front.

REMEMBER: EDI is ALL of our responsibility. Please participate and send your feedback regarding issues of equity and/or inclusion to any member of our EDI committee (Olivia Williams, Nikita McKnight, Olutobi Oluwole, Pavneesh Madan, Laura Favetta, Jon LaMarre).
Welcome Dr. Rezi Fatemi!

Leo Li, Hesham Farag, Dr. Tami Martino, Janan Shoja Doost, Clara Dmytryshyn and Dr. Reza Fatemi

Hesham Farag's successful MSc defence, and a welcome to the Martino lab's new research associate Dr. Reza Fatemi (picture from the group lunch after Hesham's defence)

Congrats Hesham and welcome Dr. Fatemi!
Dr. Laszlo Radvanyi Visits Biomed!

On August 8, Dr. Laszlo Radvanyi, President and Scientific Director of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR), visited the Department of Biomedical Sciences and the OVC. Dr. Radvanyi met with a number of Biomed researchers and then had a tour of the Animal Cancer Centre. Dr. Radvanyi expressed a commitment to working with us to develop a translational cancer research program. With OICR, we plan to create a searchable dashboard linking our Companion Animal Tumor Sample Bank with OICR’s Ontario Tumor Bank. This will be the first of its kind resource that will allow researchers to search both companion animal and human tumors for biomarkers, therapeutic targets, etc. TriPhase, which is the commercialization arm of OICR, will be an essential resource in taking the novel therapies developed in our companion animal trials to human cancer trials.

Drs Jim Petrik and Laslo Radvanyi were given a tour of the Animal Cancer Centre by Dr. Danielle Richardson. Here, they are with Lily, who is receiving chemotherapy treatment.
Dr. Jim Petrik received a grant from Ovarian Cancer Canada for $46,000 - title is "The development of novel patient-derived organoid xenograft models of ovarian cancer". Co-applicant is Dr. Trevor Shepherd from Western University.
On August 16th, MBS students presented their research during our annual poster presentation day. The day was a great success and well attended by Biomeders and beyond, thanks to Dr. Craig Bailey, our MBS Graduate Program Coordinator.

William "With Great Moustache Comes Great Responsibility" Staikos presents his poster on osteosarcoma and stem cells. Congrats!
Dr. James (Jim) Raeside published his final manuscript in the Journal of Endocrinology. The paper, now in press, titled "A ‘new’ estrogen metabolite: an epoxide of estrone as a sulfated steroid" will be featured in an upcoming edition (http://dx.doi.org/10.1530/JOE-22-0147 and via PubMed).

CONGRATS JIM!!

We do not typically feature publications in the newsletter, however, if any of you publish your final paper after turning 96, I will make an exception!!
Our graduates!

Congrats to you all on your successful QE and thesis defences!

Vivien Truong, MSc defense
  (Laura Favetta)
Janan Shoja Doost, QE
  (Tami Martino)
Alexandra Rankovic, PhD defense
  (Gord Kirby)
Emilia Kourmaeva, MSc defense
  (Laura Favetta)
Nicole Weidner, PhD defense
  (Tony Mutsaers)
Marangaby Mahamat, QE
  (Jon LaMarre)
Rushi Patel, MSc defense
  (Laura Favetta)
Laurie Choux is an exchange Master Student from France that will be working in Dr. Favetta's lab until the end of October funded on a MITACS scholarship. Laurie had the traditional visit to Niagara Falls (with addition of Emma Favetta, Laura's daughter) on the Maid of the Mist. Welcome Laurie!!
Thank you for all the teams that participated in the Biomed Photo Scavenger Hunt. We hope you had fun! A big congratulations to the winning team: URA student Alex Nobel, URA student Karemina Barrera Jaimes, MSc student Nikita McKnight, and staff member Sarah Donato!
Biomed Scavenger Hunt pictures...
Now that we have returned to pre-COVID department operations, I encourage you all to visit our publication board to see the new and exciting research being conducted in Biomed!
Please do not hesitate to knock on my door or contact me by email if you have ANY questions/concerns (tsaleh@uoguelph.ca)
Stay safe, stay well
#biomedstrong

Tarek Saleh

HAVE A GREAT AUGUST!