

JANUARY- APRIL
2024

ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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Convocation

June 13th, 2024

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June 14th, 2024



WELCOME

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest graduate student, [Stephen Magliocchetti](#). Stephen joined us in January as a PhD candidate and will be under the supervision of [Dr. Tyler Beveridge](#)

Join us in welcoming back Faye Carr into her role as Financial Administrative Assistant.

We also welcomed back [Dr. Alison Allan](#), Chair in April from her study leave, and thank [Dr. Shawn Whitehead](#) for serving as acting chair in her absence.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to [Kaitlyn Beaulieu](#) and her husband Tom who welcomed their baby boy on February 26th! Please join us in congratulating and wishing the new parents well!

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Judy Campisi, our Murray L. Barr Lecturer in 2017, passed away on January 19th, 2024. Judy studied the nature of cellular senescence and treatment using senolytic compounds that removed senescent cells from aging tissues. She applied the term "antagonistic pleiotropy" to describe cellular senescence in the balance between cancer and aging. She was 75 years old, but no one would believe that. Her obituary can be found here:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s43587-024-00603-5>

STAY IN THE LOOP

Tag us at [#westernuACB](#)

 [ACB Events Calendar](#)

 [@westernuACB](#)

 [@acbgradcouncil](#)

 [ACB Graduate Council](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS & GRANTS

Congratulations to [Dr. Kem Rogers](#) on receiving the 2024 A.J. Ladman Exemplary Service Award, presented by The American Association for Anatomy (AAA). This award recognizes distinguished members in the field of anatomical sciences who have demonstrated exceptional service to the Association and/or mentorship in the discipline. Dr. Rogers was presented with this award at the Closing Awards Ceremony during Anatomy Connected 2024 in Toronto.

Congratulations to [Dr. Jibran Khokhar](#) for his remarkable achievements over the past few months, including:

- The Open and Reproducible Science Award (Basic Research) from the Society for Social Neuroscience for his work in animal social neuroscience. Learn more: <https://www.s4sn.org/open-reproducible-social-neuroscience>.
- An Early Researcher Award from the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities for his project titled 'Alcohol Use and Schizophrenia: Understanding the Why to Help Improve Treatments for Patients.' Read more: <https://news.westernu.ca/2024/03/western-early-researchers-awards/>
- Being named the 2024 College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Awardee in recognition of his significant research contributions to the field of drug abuse.



Join us in celebrating [Dr. Michelle Mottola's](#) outstanding achievement! Dr. Mottola has been honored as one of two Schulich Medicine & Dentistry researchers named Distinguished University Professors. This prestigious recognition highlights her exceptional leadership, research excellence, and dedication to community service. Read more [here](#):

https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/about/news/2024/april/schulich_medicine_dentistry_researchers_named_distinguished_university_professors.html



We are thrilled to celebrate [Dr. Charys Martin's](#) 2024 Schulich Award of Excellence for Faculty Excellence in Undergraduate Education. Dr. Martin, along with other Schulich Award of Excellence recipients, will be honored at the annual awards celebration on May 28th, 2024

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

Dr. Alison Allan gave an invited talk at Brandon University (Science Seminar Series) entitled: Role of the lung microenvironment in mediating breast cancer metastasis: a balance between the “seed” and the “soil”. January 19, 2024.

Anatomy & Cell Biology members [Dr. Jibrán Khokhar](#), [Dr. Abdalla Albeely](#) and [Dr. Marieka DeVuono](#), participated in 'The Great Debate' on February 22, 2024 as part of the 6th annual Neuroscience Research Day (NRD).



Anatomy & Cell Biology had a significant presence at the American Association for Anatomists (AAA) annual meeting, Anatomy Connected 2023, held during the March 22nd weekend in Toronto. Our faculty, trainees, and staff made notable contributions through presentations and poster sessions.

[Dr. Charys Martin](#) delivered an enlightening talk on May 23rd, exploring "Visualization of Anatomical and Pathological Specimens in a Large Group Setting: A Transdisciplinary and Collaborative Approach to Case-based Integration," while [Dr. Kem Rogers](#) presented the prestigious A.J. Ladman Exemplary Service Award Lecture on March 25th. Additionally, [Dr. Andrew Deweyert](#) and [Dr. Kaitlyn Wood](#) showcased their research through poster presentations.



This year even saw Staff representation by [Haley Linklater](#), who attended and showcased her unique anatomy stained glass artwork for the first time in public. For more of her captivating creations, follow her on Instagram [@Seymour.glass.london](#).

Lastly, a huge congratulations to all the Graduate Students who exhibited their outstanding work at the conference and to those who received awards:

Poster Presentations

[Laya Al Malouf](#) (Clinical Anatomy)
[Bryn Bhalerao](#) (Clinical Anatomy)
[Anastasios Catanzaro](#) (Clinical Anatomy)
[Emily Dietrich](#) (Clinical Anatomy)
[Meaghan Frank](#) (Clinical Anatomy)
[Charlotte Jones-Whitehead](#) (Clinical Anatomy)

[Navroop \(Meenaal\) Kaur](#) (Clinical Anatomy)
[Jorge Mejia-Lopez](#) (Clinical Anatomy)
[Alyssa Moore](#) (Willmore Lab)
[Amy Pietrantonio](#) (Willmore Lab)
[Supreet Singh](#) (Clinical Anatomy)
[Brittany Zurkan](#) (Clinical Anatomy)

Oral Talks

[Cassidy Fu](#) (Clinical Anatomy)
[Charlotte Jones-Whitehead](#)
[Stephen Magliocchetti](#) (Beveridge Lab)

[Alyssa Moore](#) (Willmore Lab)
[Raluca Urian](#) (Willmore/Allman Lab)
[Kayla Vieno](#) (Rogers/Campbell Lab)

Awardees

[Cassidy Fu](#) – Langman Graduate Platform Award – Second place
[Kayla Vieno](#) – Educational Research Platform Award – Second place
[Charlotte Jones - Whitehead](#) – Graduate Student Poster Presentation Award – Second place

**We want to feature your
new publications here!**

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Dutt, H., Dean, A., Kamal, R.S., and Allan, A.L. Importance of incorporating the perspectives of people with cancer into oncology education: a scoping review. (2023) J Med Educ Curric Dev. 2023;

<https://doi.org/10.1177/23821205231219394>

Librais, G. M. N., Jiang, Y., Iqra, R., Brandl, C. J., Shapiro, R. S., & Lajoie, P. (2023). Evolutionary diversity of the control of the azole response by Tra1 across yeast species. G3 (Bethesda, Md.), jkad250. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/g3journal/jkad250>

Wolpe AG, Luse MA, Baryames C, Schug WJ, Wolpe JB, Johnstone SR, Dunaway LS, Juśkiewicz ZJ, Loeb SA, Askew Page HR, Chen YL, Sabapathy V, Pavelec CM, Wakefield B, Cifuentes-Pagano E, Artamonov MV, Somlyo AV, Straub AC, Sharma R, Beier F, Barrett EJ, Leitinger N, Pagano PJ, Sonkusare SK, Redemann S, Columbus L, Penuela S, Isakson BE. Pannexin-3 stabilizes the transcription factor Bcl6 in a channel-independent manner to protect against vascular oxidative stress. Sci Signal. 2024 Jan 30;17(821):eadg2622

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38289985/>

Sanchez-Pupo RE, Finch GA, Johnston DE, Craig H, Abdo R, Barr K, Kerfoot S, Dagnino L, Penuela S. Global pannexin 1 deletion increases tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes in the BRAF/Pten mouse melanoma model. Mol Oncol. 2024 Feb 7. doi: 10.1002/1878-0261.13596. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38327091.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38327091/>

Wakefield, B., Tang, J., Hutchinson, J. L., Kanji, R., Brooks, C., Grol, M. W., Séguin, C. A., Penuela, S., & Beier, F. (2024). Pannexin 3 deletion in mice results in knee osteoarthritis and intervertebral disc degeneration after forced treadmill running. Journal of orthopaedic research : official publication of the Orthopaedic Research Society, 10.1002/jor.25830. Advance online publication.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/jor.25830>

Frie, J.A., Khokhar, J.Y. FARESHARE: An open-source apparatus for assessing drinking microstructure in socially housed rats. NPP—Digit Psychiatry Neurosci 2, 1 (2024).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s44277-024-00002-z>

Dr. John Kiernan, Professor Emeritus, has recently made many changes to his "Facts and Files" UWO web site. Navigation has been simplified and there are now (Jan 2024) some new neuroscience items that could be helpful to students and teachers. The histotechnology section has items to interest researchers. Have a look at: <https://publish.uwo.ca/%7Ejkiernan/filelist.htm>.

ACB IN THE NEWS

Dr. Steven Laviolette's research on the impact of nicotine intake, including through vaping, on teen brains was recently featured in a CTV News Toronto video. In the segment, Dr. Laviolette discusses his study and his team's clinical trials aimed at testing effective interventions. Additionally, he was highlighted in a Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry news article, which gives a more in-depth view of his team's work. Explore more about Dr. Laviolette's research and its implications in the CTV News Toronto video [here](#) and the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry news article [here](#).

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/video/c2889125-study-reveals-the-lasting-impact-of-vaping>

https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/about/news/2024/february/researchers_revolutionizing_understanding_of_nicotines_effect_on_adolescent_brain.html



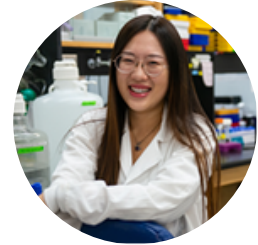
ACB IN THE NEWS CONT...



Dr. Jibrán Khokhar was recently featured in The London Free Press, discussing the importance of comprehensive research to assess the efficacy of psychedelic-assisted treatments, particularly with the emergence of a local clinic offering psychedelics for mental health therapy. Read the full article [here](#).

<https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/new-london-clinic-will-offer-psychedelic-drugs-to-treat-mental-illness>

We're proud to spotlight Jennifer Guo, a PhD and Doctor of Dental Surgery Candidate under the supervision of Dr. Douglas Hamilton, who was recently featured in a Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry news article. Jennifer exemplifies excellence as she serves both patients and her country with a smile. Read more about Jennifer's inspiring journey and contributions in the article [here](https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/about/news/2024/march/clinicianscientist_candidate_serves_both_patients_and_country_with_a_smile.html)



Pedro Marinho (Khokhar Lab) has his research "Long-term effects of adolescent cannabis use and its interaction with schizophrenia" featured in the Inspiring Minds Showcase. This digital collection features a curated group of randomly selected Master's and Doctoral students from across campus, offering a glimpse into their impactful research in 150 words or fewer.

<https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/exhibit/inspiring-minds-showcase/long-term-effects-of-adolescent-cannabis-use-and-its-interaction-with-schizophrenia/>

CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

LONDON HEALTH RESEARCH DAY



LHRD is London's largest and most prominent platform for learners to showcase their research in various health-care fields and to interact with peers and leaders in health care and research.

www.schulich.uwo.ca/gradstudies/current_students/london_health_research_day/event_details.html




SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS WESTERN 2024

Save the date for Western University's seventh Science Rendezvous event on Saturday, May 11th, 2024 from 2-9 p.m. at Alumni Stadium, and look for the ACB Booth run by departmental volunteers!

Science Rendezvous is an all-ages, fun-filled, and free-of-cost event where you and your family can engage in S.T.E.A.M. activities led by Western University's budding scientists.

ACB EVENTS

ANNUAL BODY BEQUEATHAL MEMORIAL SERVICE



RSVP
Anatomy & Cell Biology Memorial Service
Kenny Theatre, Student Life Centre,
King's University College
266 Epworth Ave.,
London, Ontario
Saturday, May 11, 2024
11:00am -12:30pm

The annual memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 11th at the Student Life Building, King's University College, to honour the donors of our body bequeathal program. We ask that you please consider attending this meaningful event.

ACB RESEARCH RETREAT

Join us for this year's Research Retreat, themed 'Open Science and Artificial Intelligence in Research,' on Friday, June 7th, at the Weldon Library Community Room. Starting at 9 am, the full-day event promises insightful discussions and collaborative sessions, followed by a Social Mixer at the Grad Club. All ACB Faculty and Post-Docs are welcome, and we encourage you to bring a Trainee from their lab. Please RSVP by Friday, May 31st: https://uwo.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5Ac6YxaSmcNEDQy



Awards Day 2024

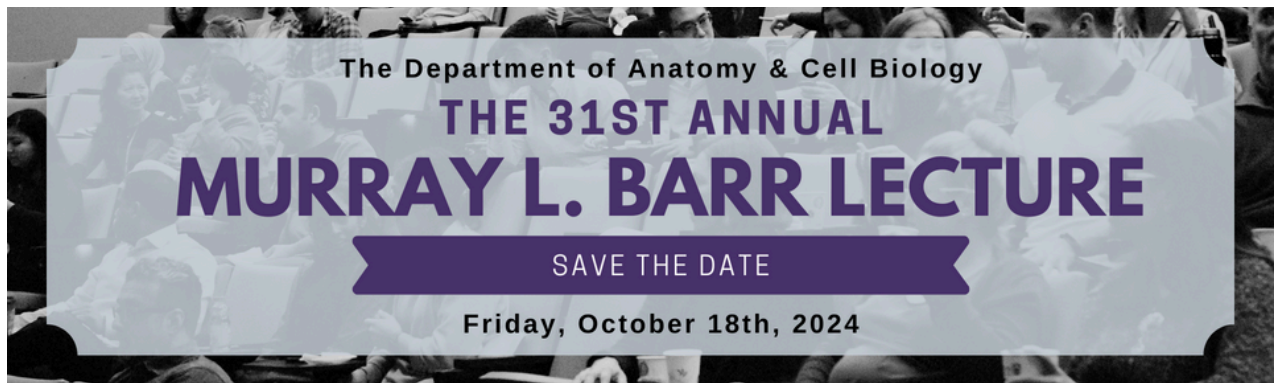
JUNE 14 | Save the Date | 10:00 AM

AWARDS DAY

We're excited to invite you to the ACB Awards Day! Join us for brunch on Friday, June 14th, at 10:00 am at The Wave, UCC, as we celebrate and recognize our 2023/24 award winners and the Fall 2023/Spring 2024 graduates. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details and RSVP instructions!

MURRAY L. BARR LECTURE & ACB RESEARCH DAY 2024

We're excited to share that our annual Murray L. Barr Lecture and Research Day is scheduled for Friday, October 18th, 2024. This year, we're honored to have Nobel Prize Laureate Dr. Jack Szostak as our guest lecturer, who will discuss "The Origin of Life: Not as Hard as it Looks?" Please mark your calendars for this highly anticipated event, and stay tuned for more information, including how to register for presentations at ACB Research Day.



The Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology
**THE 31ST ANNUAL
MURRAY L. BARR LECTURE**

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, October 18th, 2024

PAST ACB EVENTS

ACB EDID LUNCH & LEARN

On March 1st, the ACB Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization (EDID) Committee hosted a Lunch and Learn session at the Community Room in Weldon Library. Our guest speakers, Stephanie Warner, PhD, Manager of Knowledge Engagement at the University of Calgary, and Mariam Hayward, MSc, Director of Inclusive Research Excellence & Impact at Western University, joined us to discuss the principles and implementation of DORA. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the engaging roundtable discussions that followed. We also launched and showcased our department's EDID webpages, which you can explore them [here](https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/anatomy/about_us/Equity,%20Diversity,%20Inclusion%20and,%20Decolonization/index.html).

https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/anatomy/about_us/Equity,%20Diversity,%20Inclusion%20and,%20Decolonization/index.html

SPRING SOCIAL

ACB had a fantastic evening of bowling and pizza on March 16th for our Annual Spring Social. We were thrilled to welcome the New Clinical Anatomy Applicants who joined us!

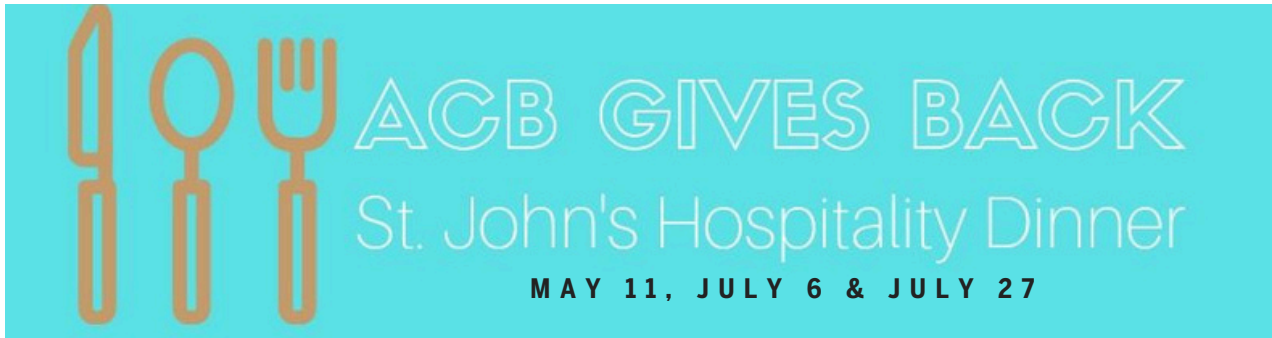
A big thank you to everyone who attended, and special appreciation to [Meaghan Frank](#) and [Jack Webb](#) for their efforts in organizing and setting up the event. Additionally, a huge shoutout to the Clinical Anatomy Students who assisted in running the interview portion of the day



ACB GIVES BACK

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITALITY DINNER

St. John's requires the ongoing support of Volunteers to help prepare and serve food at the community dinners. To register, please add your name to the volunteer sign up sheet by [clicking here](#)



SL10 FOR CAMPFIRE CIRCLE

Please help us in supporting ACB graduate students [Kasha Mansour](#), [Tiffany Johnston](#), and [Stephanie Leighton](#) (Team Crush Cancer) as they participate in this year's sporting life 10K in support of the pediatric oncology camp, Campfire Circle. Campfire Circle is a not-for-profit organization that provides one-on-one hospital bedside programs, community and virtual programs, and summer overnight camp for kids and families affected by childhood cancer. For more information about this cause please visit <https://campfirecircle.org/>.

As our graduate students prepare to run 10K down Yonge Street, we are hoping you can help them in reaching their fundraising goal. If you are willing to donate, please click the link below: <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/79097/2024-sporting-life-10k/pledge/team/618904>

ACB BLOOD DRIVE

The ACB Graduate Student Social Committee organized a Blood Drive on March 27th. Thank you to everyone who came out and donated!

