

Dept. of Biochemistry Newsletter

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Image designed by Dr. Sanna Abbasi

PEOPLE AND OTHER STUFF

- Thanks to Dr. Jeff Whitsett for donating the honorarium for his Dr. Maud L. Menten Memorial Lecture. The funds will be used to support graduate students in the Biochemistry Dept.
- The Baker Centre for Pancreatic Cancer (<https://lhsf.ca/inspiring-story/baker-centre-pancreatic-cancer>) has opened the pan-cancer organoid facility, which is housed in the Cancer Research Laboratory Program in the Cancer Centre. It is open to any researchers in London wishing to perform organoid-based experimentation. Director is Dr. Chris Pin (cpin@uwo.ca).
- Updates from Biochemistry's EDID Committee are as follows:
 - i) A presentation about the plan to decolonize Biochemistry's teaching was made at the Sept. departmental meeting.
 - ii) An anti-harassment/discrimination campaign for the Biochemistry community was rolled out. Check out this [reporting tool](#) to find out which resources to access at Western for reporting harassment, discrimination, gender-based sexual violence, or other unprofessional behaviour.
 - iii) A survey was sent to the Biochemistry community to solicit input about improving EDID in our work and teaching environment. An action plan is being implemented, based on the survey results.

CONGRATS TO...

- ★ Dalton Ham and Jenica Kakadia for successful PhD thesis defenses

- ★ Siraj Elzagallaai, Selena Truong, and Sarah Wilhelm for successful MSc thesis defenses
- ★ Fatema Abdullatif for Best Oral Presentation Award at the MOOT 35 NMR Conference
- ★ Gary Foo for best poster presentation and Julia St. John for best talk at Biochemistry's Fall Symposium
- ★ Siyun Kuang for passing her qualifying exam



- ★ Dan Menyhart for winning 2nd place in the poster competition at the 9th International Conference on Protein Kinase CK2 in Münster, Germany. Congrats also to Predrag Jovanovic (McGill University) and the Litchfield lab who together won first place in the poster competition for their collaborative work.

- ★ Noor Rizvi and George Xie for Breast Cancer Canada

Translational Research Unit Traineeship Awards

- ★ Clara Schott for being nominated by the Biochemistry Graduate Committee as a potential candidate to represent the Department and Schulich at the ICAM (International Congress on Academic Medicine) meeting in April 2025 at Dalhousie
- ★ Kaitlyn Wade for receiving funds through the Digital Research Alliance of Canada's EDIA (equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility) Champions Program
- ★ Dr. Gebregiworgis for a Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre Catalyst Research Grant
- ★ Dr. Hegele for being featured in [Schulich's Rapport](#)
- ★ Drs. Heinemann and O'Donoghue for a Research Grant from the Rory Belle Foundation
- ★ Dr. Hu for being invited to act as one of the Academic Editors of PLOS Computational Biology and for being selected as a co-chair of the Education Committee of International Genetic Epidemiology Society (IGES)
- ★ Dr. Hu, his lab, and colleagues for having their [publication](#) selected as a [cover article](#) in PLOS Computational Biology
- ★ Dr. Karas for promotion to Associate Professor
- ★ Drs. Li and Lu for being featured in [Schulich's Rapport](#)
- ★ Dr. Li for his Canada Research Chair Tier I renewal
- ★ Dr. O'Donoghue for being appointed as the inaugural Huntington Society of Canada Research Chair ([Schulich News](#))
- ★ Dr. Pickering for a Canadian Cardiovascular Society Research Achievement Award
- ★ Dr. Turley for a Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre Catalyst Research Grant



★ Winners of pumpkin carving contest: 1st place for Shaw lab's "Beetlejuice"; 2nd place for Hu lab's "Biochem Comp Sci"; 3rd place for Junop lab's "Graduate Students' Nightmare"

★ Winners of Hallowe'en costume contest: 1st place for Shaw/Choy labs as "Beetlejuice"; 2nd place for Sam as "Funko Pop Batman"; 3rd place for Teija as "Princess Leia"



PUBLICATIONS

- Drs. Boffa, Koschinsky ([Lipoprotein\(a\) and cardiovascular disease](#)) ([Lipoprotein\(a\) - a national lipid association report](#)) ([Fibrinogen and plasma clot properties in Africans](#)) ([Lp\(a\) particles and muvalaplin](#))
- Dr. Brandl ([Impacts of mistranslating tRNA variants on Drosophila](#)) ([TUDCA and ER stress in S. cerevisiae](#))
- Dr. Connaughton ([Genetic testing in adults with chronic kidney disease](#))
- Drs. Connaughton, Hegele ([Kidney genetic service for patients with chronic kidney disease](#))
- Dr. Dumeaux ([Paternal obesity and sperm chromatin at histone H3](#))
- Dr. Garnham ([Enzymatic hydrolysis of resorcylic acid lactones by Aeromicrobium](#))
- Dr. Han ([Endocrine dysregulation in COVID-19](#))
- Dr. Hegele ([Patients with familial vs. multifactorial chylomicronemia syndrome](#)) ([Ethnic diversity and distinctive features of familial vs. multifactorial chylomicronemia syndrome - UK FCS National Registry](#)) ([Plozasiran for persistent chylomicronemia and pancreatitis risk](#)) ([High plasma lipoprotein\(a\) and cardiovascular consequences](#)) ([Neurodegenerative diseases](#)) ([Apolipoprotein C-III inhibition for ASCVD prevention](#)) ([Familial chylomicronemia syndrome](#)) ([Rare variants in LIPC encoding hepatic lipase](#)) ([Review of evolocumab - Erratum](#)) ([Fibroblast growth factor 21](#)) ([Lomitapide for homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia in children](#)) ([Extreme LDL-C concentration in homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia](#)) ([Mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease](#)) ([Neurodegenerative diseases](#))
- Dr. Heinemann ([Variant in histidyl-tRNA synthetase gene of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease type 2W](#))

- Drs. Heinemann, O'Donoghue ([Synthetic biology and therapeutic applications of transfer RNA](#)) ([Transfer RNA supplementation in Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease](#))
- Dr. Hu ([Machine learning methods for HIV-1 subtype classification](#)) ([Conditional probabilistic diffusion model driven synthetic radiogenomic applications in breast cancer](#))
- Dr. Hudson ([Nucleobase fluorescence emission](#)) ([Gene expression and G-quadruplex control in human astrocytes](#))
- Dr. Junop ([SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein and TDP-43](#))
- Dr. Li ([LKB1 and STRAD \$\alpha\$ in epithelial ovarian cancer](#))
- Dr. Ling ([Shu complex](#))
- Dr. Lynn ([Minions: Rise of Gru](#))
- Dr. Konermann ([Serine octamer magic number cluster formation during electrospray ionization](#)) ([Hydrogen/deuterium exchange mass spectrometry](#))
- Dr. Litchfield ([Pannexin 1 isoform in cancer](#)) ([Body weight control via CK2](#))
- Dr. Penner ([Aptamarkers for brain amyloid deposition](#))
- Dr. Rugar ([Mucopolysaccharidosis type VI and gene therapy](#)) ([Clinical trials and guidelines for mucopolysaccharidosis](#))
- Dr. Shilton ([Quinone reductases 1 and 2](#))
- Dr. Siqueira ([Colin Dawes in memoriam](#)) ([Carbohydrates modulate *S. mutans* adherence and bacterial proteome](#)) ([Galectin-3/gelatin electrospun scaffolds in skin healing](#))
- Dr. Turley ([Spatial separation of amino acids in RHAMM and hyaluronan binding peptide P15-1](#))
- Dr. Yeung ([Prevention of impacts of adolescent cannabinoid exposure](#))

