

Physiology and Pharmacology

April 2024 Newsletter



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Dr. Oana Birceanu

Stay Connected



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PhysPharm

What a remarkable end of the Winter Term and start to Spring for PhysPharm!

Not only did we get to witness a remarkable celestial environment on the day of the eclipse, but our faculty, staff and students have garnered an impressive list of recognitions and awards. We are pleased to congratulate David Hess on the 2024 Faculty Scholar Award and Frank Beier on the 2024 Distinguished University Professor Award. Thank you to all who were able to attend last week's DUP lecture and celebration.

This year we had an equally impressive success with the Schulich Awards of Excellence, which have recognized the remarkable contributions and accomplishments of Olga Krougly, Tom Appleton, Angela Beye, Marlys Koschinsky, and Taylor Schmitz. Please consider joining the Department at this year's celebration on Tuesday, May 28th (see details [here](#)).

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dan Hardy, members of the Awards Committee, and the Departmental staff whose efforts were instrumental in assembling these award-winning dossiers. The talents, hard work, and supportive environment created by the remarkable people in PhysPharm is indeed worth celebrating!

Speaking of announcements worth celebrating, I would like to conclude by extending a heartfelt welcome to **Dr. Emily Day** who will be joining us as a tenure-track Assistant Professor this July. We are thrilled that Dr. Day will be bringing her expertise in immunometabolism to the Department, relocating from her current position at Trinity College Dublin. Thank you to the Appointments Committee and all members of the Department for engaging in this recruitment and enabling us to attract a wonderful new colleague.

Cheryle



Welcome

- ✧ **Dakota Smith** – Animal Lab Specialist with Dr. Brian Corneil

Congratulations

- ✧ **Distinguished University Professor** – Frank Beier
- ✧ **Faculty Scholar** – David Hess
- ✧ **Senior Investigator Award from the Canadian Society of Pharmacology and Therapeutics** – Frank Beier
- ✧ **Schulich Awards of Excellence:**
 - ❖ Angela Beye, Education Leader Award
 - ❖ Tom Appleton, Research and Innovation, Midcareer
 - ❖ Taylor Schmitz, Research & Innovation, Early Investigator
 - ❖ Marlys Koschinsky, Research & Innovation, Senior Investigator
 - ❖ Olga Krougly, Staff



- ✧ **NSERC Discovery grants:**

- ❖ Lina Dagnino
- ❖ Julio Martinez-Trujillo
- ❖ Chris Pin
- ❖ Don Welsh
- ❖ Wataru Inoue

- ✧ **NSERC RTI grants:**

- ❖ Peter Stathopoulos
- ❖ Oana Birceanu

- ✧ **Congratulations to Dr. Angela Beye on successful completion of the 2024 Around the Bay 30K (ish) Road Race!**



Get Well

Sending our best wishes to Dr. Qingping Feng for a speedy recovery.

Undergraduate Studies Update

As our semester ends, we are amid final exams and final reports. Please remember to have your assigned theses marked and to Dr. Easton, so that those final grades for 49890E can be reported on time.

Recall that our current learning management system, OWL, powered by Sakai, will no longer be running our courses starting this summer. Therefore, all faculty members will need to take the time to learn how to use our new learning management system, which will be OWL Brightspace, for you to create your courses for the fall and winter semesters.

You should all have access to a sandbox, to learn how to navigate and create your courses.

<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

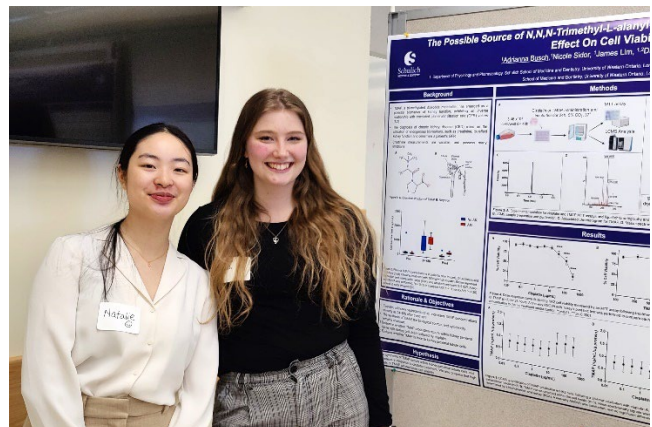
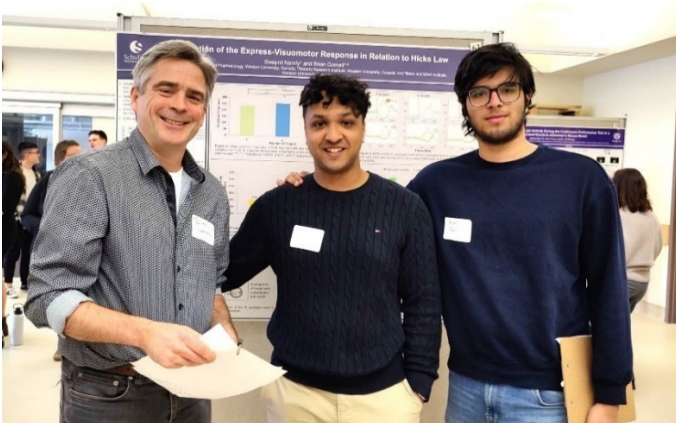
There are several workshops already available to sign up for through the Centre for Teaching and Learning: <https://teaching.uwo.ca/elearning/brightspace-workshops.html>

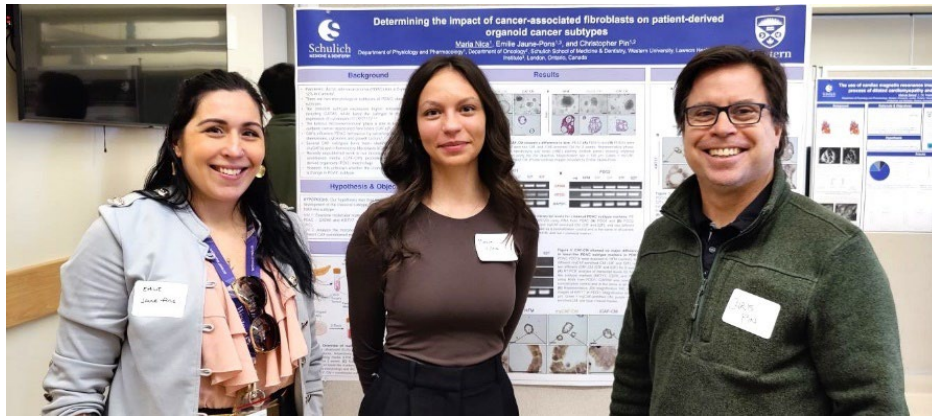
These Practical Workshops Include (but not limited to):

1. Crafting your course lessons in OWL Brightspace – *April 29th, May 16th, May 30th, June 12th*
2. Exploring Brightspace's quizzes and question library features – *May 15th, May 28th, June 13th*
3. Integrating discussions and group activities/assessments into your Brightspace content – *May 6th, June 5th*
4. Teaching with OWL Brightspace – *April 25th, May 22nd, June 20th*

4980 Poster day

Our 4980E students presented their research on Poster Day on Monday, March 25th. Thank you for all the support you showed in coming to their presentations. There was a definite buzz in the room, and as always, this is our fourth-year students' favourite day. You helped to make them all know that they are valued members of our department.





Graduate Studies Update

Initial IQAP Review Activities

As part of Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) that occurs every ~7 years, we have begun a self-study to analyze and reflect upon different aspects of our Graduate Program. To kick things off, there was a Phys-Pharm Graduate Student Focus Group held on Monday April 15 that was moderated by the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement. Thank you to the moderators and the graduate students that participated in the discussions that focused on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges in the Grad Program. Based on their helpful feedback, we are planning on conducting a survey of all departmental graduate students later this year. Please stay tuned for details...

Research Committee Update

Lunch and Learn

Our next Lunch and Learn presentation will take place on Thursday, May 16th, 2024 between 12:00-1:00pm in MSB 212. Dr. Marco Prado and associated personnel will be presenting an overview of the state-of-the-art equipment, expertise and resources available at the London Regional Microscopy Facility and the Mouse Translational Research Accelerator Platform (MouseTRAP). Please watch for the advertisement and call to RSVP coming soon.

Sparking the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)

Sparking SoTL will be hosting a discussion on developing professional competencies as part of training within our programs. Please join us on May 30th, 2024 from 12:30-1:30 PM in MSB 212B.

Stevenson's Distinguished Lecture and Research Day

Mark your calendars! Our 2024 Distinguished Lecture and Department of Physiology and Pharmacology Research Day will take place on Thursday, November 7th, 2024. Dr. Stanley Nattel (Montreal Heart Institute), who studies vascular inflammation, physiology, pharmacology and biochemical mechanisms of arrhythmias, will be our keynote speaker.

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology Core Facility

Coming soon! The Department will be acquiring a new state-of-the-art qPCR instrument in ongoing efforts to revitalize the Physiology and Pharmacology Core Facility (MSB Rm235). Watch for a Qualtrics survey asking for input on what equipment you would like to see housed and shared in this facility.



Don't Feed the Animals: The DTT labs shine at the 2024 Southern Ontario Reproductive Biology Meeting at the Toronto Zoo.

Health and Safety Committee Update

Last month we had selected Health and Safety inspections (mainly in MSB) and overall they went very well. Individual labs inspected will receive reports. Main flagged issues were i) outdated contact numbers, and ii) lack of emergency exit map. Please update.

With impending start of Summer Students, Work Study Students and Volunteers, we ask all PIs to fill out the online appointment form for Departmental records ASAP. That form can be sent to Michele Grigg.

https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/bmsc/research/undergraduate_summer_research.html

With the summer approaching the Health and Safety Committee need to remind supervisors, staff, volunteers, and students for proper lab attire. This includes:

- a. Long pants;
- b. Long hair tied back;
- c. Closed toe and heel shoes (no sandals or ballet flats);
- d. Socks.

EDID Committee Update

The Schulich office of EDID sent out a brief online [Census](#). Please share the link with your team and participate.

Social Committee Update

Thank you to everyone who attended the Bowling Social! It was on Thursday, April 26th, 2-4PM at Fleetway. Thank you to the Grad Council Social Committee for their help organizing this fun event!



Next social event: Summer Potluck Party, early June. Games, food and snacks at Gibbons Park. More details to come!

If you have suggestions for future events, please reach out to the Social Chairs Faraj Haddad (fhaddad2@uwo.ca) or Van Lu (vlu24@uwo.ca).

Graduate Student Council Update

Our department is coordinating a booth at Science Rendezvous, taking place on May 11th. Anyone interested in volunteering for this should contact Aswin (asuresh6@uwo.ca).

The Opening Doors Seminar held on April 15th was a great success with good turnout from students and some faculty. Our guest speakers discussed their careers in science consulting and funding agencies, and we had great engagement during both the seminar and the graduate student lunch. If you have any feedback or suggestions for future career seminars (i.e., specific speakers, career sectors, etc.) the PPGSC would love to hear from you!



Our TA stewards held a solidarity event at the Grad Club on April 3rd, which was well attended (see some photo below)! Food and drinks were provided by PSAC 610, and union representatives discussed important TA-related issues and concerns with those in attendance.

Upcoming Seminars

The Department of Physiology and Pharmacology
2024 Winter/Spring Series
All lectures will be held at 3:00 p.m. in MSB 384 unless otherwise noted



Date: Monday, May 6 (MSB 384 and Zoom)

Speaker: Nicole Campbell, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Physiology & Pharmacology

Title: *“Giving Students What They Want and Need: Adapting Curriculum for Today’s Learners”*

Host: Chris Pin



Date: Monday, May 13 (MSB 384 and Zoom)

Speaker: Patricia Brubaker, PhD
Professor, Departments of Physiology and Medicine, University of Toronto

Title: *“Reflections on 45 years as a scientist”*

Hosts: Van Lu and Savita Dhanvantari
Jointly hosted with Pathology & Laboratory Medicine



Date: Monday, May 27 (MSB 384 and Zoom)

Speaker: Silvia Penuela, PhD
Associate Professor, Anatomy & Cell Biology

Title: *“Cancer cell signalling through pannexin channels”*

Host: Chris Pin

This Seminar Series is Sponsored by the Mogenson Trust.
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

*We love celebrating our accomplishments, in and out of the lab.
Please share your stories, pictures and newsworthy items for
upcoming editions!*