Message from the Head

Hello, PhysPharmers! Welcome to the October issue of our newsletter. I know many of you are neck-deep in grant writing, but hopefully you manage to break away for some socially-distanced turkey this Thanksgiving weekend.

With the recent update on the expanded research designation (ERD) and workplace safety plans, there is currently some lack of clarity in respect of the rules and protocols around lab activity and the processes involved in getting our lab members back to work. At present, the system appears to be as follows:

The expanded research designation (ERD) has now been discontinued and the Critical Research Designation can be viewed as dormant. However, there is still a need for PIs to complete a workplace plan that includes all their staff. This needs to be entered via the sharepoint system. At present, the plan needs to be updated by re-entering the whole plan when adding new staff. Unfortunately, there is currently no ability to simply add a new person to an existing plan. The sharepoint site can be found at: https://ecs.ucalgary.ca/spse/EM/COVID19/return/SitePages/Home.aspx

In preparing these plans, PIs within the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) need to adhere to the following rules on lab numbers:

- PIs with up to two staff: Everyone can work at any given time.
- Three to seven staff: Three people can work at any given time.
- Eight or more staff. You may operate at 50 per cent occupancy at any given time.

This aspect remains unchanged. Once the workplace plan has been submitted, it will go to me for approval. Currently, you will see that there is a further level of approval required. This is the senior leadership team (SLT) and for us, this will be Jon Meddings. If you require help, you can contact me.

A reminder to all who are submitting grants that a growing number now require initial approval through the Research Management System (RMS), which replaced the old hard-copy RFAA forms. Here is a link to the RMS website in case you have trouble finding it: https://research.ucalgary.ca/conduct-research/additional-resources/research-management-system-rms. If you require training, or if you have received training but would like a brush-up, the ADR office is offering zoom sessions. You can check out the dates and times for these and sign up as needed here.

Introducing Our Newest Faculty Member: Dr. Justin Deniset

The department would like to issue a huge warm welcome to its newest faculty member, **Dr. Justin Deniset** who joined us October 1st with an appointment in Physiology & Pharmacology and Cardiac Sciences with membership in the Libin Institute.
Justin completed his undergraduate degree at St-Boniface University in Winnipeg. He then went on to pursue his PhD in the Department of Physiology and Pathophysiology at the University of Manitoba under the guidance of Dr. Grant Pierce, studying the role of infection and stress responses in vascular remodelling. For his postdoctoral work, he joined the lab of Dr. Paul Kubes here at the University of Calgary, using imaging modalities to study the behavior and function of the innate immune system during infection and injury. Collectively his work has contributed to 22 peer-reviewed papers, including those in top-tiered immunology focused journals such as the Journal of Experimental Medicine and Immunity. His future program in cardio-immunology will focus on understanding how the immune system contributes to normal heart function and how it modulates the healing response in the heart following infection and/or injury. Welcome Dr. Deniset!

**Bulletin**

**Research & Scholarship and Administrative Leave Applications**

The application process for Research & Scholarship and Administrative Leaves for the 2021-2022 academic year is now open.

In order to meet the application deadline of **October 15th**, interested applicants should contact HR Operations Academic at hracadem@ucalgary.ca as soon as possible to initiate the process in their Academic Portfolio. Please note that this applies only to GFT members.

**Early Career National Committee**

Antoine Dufour was recently appointed as the co-chair of the Association of Canadian Early Career Health Researchers (ACECHR) national committee. To find out more, please visit their website at: [http://www.acechr.ca/about.html](http://www.acechr.ca/about.html)

Early-career investigators (ECIs) are typically assistant professors at research universities and hospitals who have held their positions for 6 years or less. ACECHR is a group of early-career investigators advocating for funding policies that would promote a sustainable research workforce and invest in future discovery and innovation in health research. Recently, they wrote a letter to Justin Trudeau and Dr. Michael Strong to reinstate the CIHR spring 2020 competition.

The Committee's objectives are:

1. Advocate for increased, stable federal support for health research.
2. Promote policies that will support productive careers in health research.
3. Communicate the perspectives of early-career researchers to the government, funding agencies, research institutions, and public.

Please reach out to Dr. Dufour for further details: [antoine.dufour@ucalgary.ca](mailto:antoine.dufour@ucalgary.ca)

**Trainee Corner**

**Funding Deadlines**

**CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarships - Doctoral October 1st 2020**

**NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarships - Doctoral October 1st 2020**

**CSM Graduate Student Scholarship - October 22, 2020**

Through a collaborative cost-sharing initiative, the CSM’s Graduate Science Education Office is aiming to recruit and fund graduate students. The CSM and the individual graduate supervisor will cost share a $30,000/year stipend for four years of a PhD program or two years for an MSc program. Funds will be renewed on an annual basis pending demonstration of sufficient progress and compliance with program requirements.

All complete applications for the Cumming School of Medicine Graduate Student Scholarship should be submitted to the Graduate Science Education Office by email to awardsgse@ucalgary.ca as a *single PDF* file. Applications are due by 4:30 pm (MT) Tuesday, October 22, 2020.

For COVID related resources, visit the GSE website: [https://grad.ucalgary.ca/covid-19-information-graduate-students](https://grad.ucalgary.ca/covid-19-information-graduate-students)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Think Big - A Night "In" with Your Brain: The Brain-Gut Connection**

October 2nd 2020

6:30 - 8:00pm

Zoom - Register [here](#).

Join us for this fascinating, interactive, online discussion of how the brain and gut work together to affect our physical and mental health.

**What I Wish I Knew: Tips for Your First Semester of Grad School**

Oct 09 11:00 a.m. Zoom

**PhysPharm Achievements**

Congratulations to Dr. Derek McKay who was elected as a Fellow of the American Physiological Society (APS) and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Congrats to Dr. Wayne Chen et al. for the publication of their paper *Limiting RyR2 Open Time Prevents Alzheimer's Disease-Related Neuronal Hyperactivity and Memory Loss but Not Beta-Amyloid Accumulation in Cell Reports. Featured in UToday.*

Congratulations to Matiram Pun from the Poulin lab who received an Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES).

Congratulations to Emily Mercer and Mackenzie Gutierrez from the Arietta lab who received ACHRI graduate scholarships.

Congratulations to Toni-Lee Sterley from the Bains lab who was awarded a SFARI Bridge to Independence Award. These are extremely prestigious awards - only 3 awarded in North America. Way to go Toni-Lee!

Congratulations to Arpan Neupane from the Kubes lab whose paper *Patrolling alveolar macrophages conceal bacteria from the immune system to maintain homeostasis* was published in Cell!

Congratulations to Hailey Cuddihy from the Sharkey lab who successfully defended her MSc 15th September.

Congratulations to Tony Liwa, under the supervision of Dr. Donna Slater and Dr. Bill Cole, for successfully defending his PhD in Medical Sciences.