

Dean's Newsletter

Issue 7, November 2015

The Dean's newsletter is published every second month and provides updates on academics, research, events, and other items of interest. Join us in celebrating our achievements by submitting your updates to kieran.kobitz@usask.ca.

Editor's note: The next issue of the Dean's Newsletter will be published the week of January 4, 2016, due to the holiday season.

TOP STORIES

College receives international recognition in AAPS video

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition was one of ten pharmacy schools selected in a global search for this year's American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists video series. The video was broadcast at the 2015 AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition in Orlando, Florida, on October 25 to 29. The conference was attended by over 10,000 pharmaceutical scientists from around the world. This prestigious opportunity was granted to the college due to our strengths in research and the leadership opportunities we provide to our students.

[Watch the video.](#)



Photo credit: AAPS TV screen capture



Photo credit: Adjile.ca footage

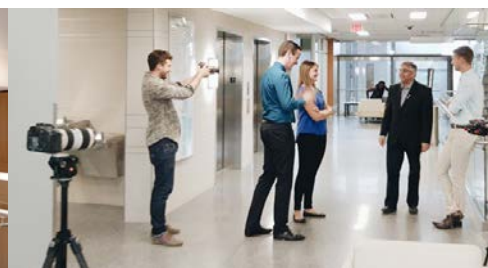


Photo credit: Ehjae Chan / Adjile.ca

Saskatchewan Government passes Bill 151

With the passage of Bill 151, the Saskatchewan Government has authorized pharmacists to provide medications by injection, the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals now regulates both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, and a number of other changes have been implemented for the profession of pharmacy. We're proud to announce that the Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacists office will have trained over 800 pharmacists by the end of November to administer medications and vaccines by injection.

Congratulations to everyone at the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals! Your hard work has advanced the profession of pharmacy in Saskatchewan, and has given pharmacists the opportunity to work in an expanded scope of practice.



TOP STORIES (cont'd)

Clara Hughes at Pharmacy Professional Enhancement Day

On Tuesday, October 6, Olympian Clara Hughes spoke to a crowd of over 400 people in TCU Place at the largest Pharmacy PED to date. Clara spoke about her personal struggles with mental health, and provided an inspiring message for future healthcare professionals. Thank you to Chantel Huber from CTV Saskatoon for joining Clara on stage to have an honest conversation about mental health during the second part of the keynote address.

Clara joined the College at the reception after her keynote address. Staying true to her word, she stayed at the reception until she had met all of the students and had heard their stories.

This year's Pharmacy PED was a joint effort between the college and the Saskatchewan Pharmacy and Nutrition Students Society. The event was organized by **Darren Bogle, Senior Stick**, and **Kieran Kobitz, Communications and Alumni Relations Specialist**. **Darren** and **Steven Kary, Senior Stick-Elect**, were the Masters of Ceremonies for the evening.

The event was only possible through the support of the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals, and the Pharmacy Cornerstone Fund.

More pictures of the evening are available on the [College's Facebook page](#).



Photo credit: Josh Schaefer



MORE COLLEGE NEWS

White Coat Ceremony

Congratulations to all of our first year students on receiving their white coats. The annual Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony was held on Sunday, October 18, in the Health Sciences building. Thank you to Master of Ceremonies Dr. Yvonne Shevchuk, Dr. Patricia McDougall for providing greetings from the University, and to the following people who acted as dressers for the students:

- **Justin Kosar**, President-elect, Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals
- **Julia Bareham**, Chair, Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan
- **Kishor Wasan**, Professor and Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- **Jennifer Bolt**, President, Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (SK Branch)
- **Taylor Raiche**, Co-President, SPNSS
- **Darren Bogle**, Senior Stick, SPNSS
- **Kelsey Joorisity**, CAPSI Representative
- **Christine Hrudka**, Canadian Pharmacists Association Representative
- **Loren Regier**, Keynote Speaker
- **Lori Postnikoff**, Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals



Photo credit: David Stobbe

CAPSI Outreach

On Friday, October 23, third year pharmacy students **Kelsey Joorisity**, **Devanshi Parekh**, **Kristina McFaul**, and **Katelyn Peterson** were at River Heights School to talk to students about the harmful effects of smoking for TEVA Canada's Butt-Out presentation.



Photo credit: CAPSI University of Saskatchewan



MORE COLLEGE NEWS (cont'd)

All Academic Huskie Athletes

Congratulations to our students who were recognized at the Huskie Athletics All-Academic Team Breakfast on Wednesday, September 23:

- **Shannon Del Bigio** (Pharmacy Year 4) Cross Country – Huskie 1st
- **Carmen Gorlick** (Nutrition Year 3) Soccer – CIS AA and Huskie 1st
- **Cara Wirachowsky** (Pharmacy Year 4) Cross Country CIS AA and Huskie 1st
- **Brooke Mentanko** (Pharmacy Year 3) Track and Field – Huskie 2nd
- **Ashley Promhouse** (Pharmacy Year 4) Track and Field – Huskie 2nd
- **Bobbi Nicholat** (Pharmacy Year 1) Soccer CIS AA and Huskie 1st

Students are recognized for balancing their athletic commitments while earning the following grades:

- CIS All Academic Team – at least 80% average on minimum of 18 CU during 2014-15 academic year
- Huskie 1st All Academic Team – average of at least 79.5% on a minimum course load of 24 CU during the 2014 -15 academic year
- Huskie 2nd All-Academic Team – average of at least 74.5% on a minimum course load of 24 CU in the 2014-15 academic year

Photo Credit: Josh Schaefer / Huskie Athletics



Student Blogs

Fourth year pharmacy students **Chantel Martin** and **Darren Bogle** spent this past summer working at the Saskatoon Cancer Centre. They both wrote guest posts for the The Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology blog based on their experiences.

- [Read Chantel's blog.](#)
- [Read Darren's blog.](#)

PharmaZzz helps pharmacists help patients with insomnia

Dr. Fred Rémillard and his colleagues, Loren Regier (RxFiles), **Karen Jensen** (medSask), and Pharmacy student Janelle Trifa, have developed PharmaZzz©, a non-medication therapy offered by community pharmacists and designed to help patients with chronic insomnia improve their sleep and come off hypnotic therapy. The first workshop and training session was recently held for the program, and included speakers with expertise in sleep disorders and cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) as well as opportunities for role playing and discussions. Sixteen pharmacists from throughout the province registered for the program. [Read the story.](#)

Creating cancer-killing compounds

Professor Emeritus Jonathan Dimmock was part of an innovative project by dentistry student Dania Alkhani to find a less invasive, more effective treatment for oral cancer. [Read the story.](#)



MORE COLLEGE NEWS (cont'd)

Pharmacy Management in Canada textbook

Congratulations to **Dr. Jason Perepelkin** on the launch of the Pharmacy Management in Canada textbook. A book launch was held over lunch on Tuesday, October 6, to celebrate this achievement. Thank you to the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan for providing lunch.



PharmD Update

Progress continues to be made on the new PharmD curriculum, and two recent updates have been posted to the blog:

- **September:** \$102,000 for the PharmD Curriculum Development. [Read the blog.](#)
- **October:** Our new PharmD program could potentially be approved by April 30, 2016. [Read the blog.](#)

IN THE MEDIA

A number of media outlets took note of the College's announcement regarding the Pharmacist Immunization and Injection Training program:

- **News Talk 650 CKOM:** Pharmacists receive training to give flu vaccine. [Read the story.](#)
- **Battlefords Daily News:** U of S trains pharmacists to give flu vaccine. [Read the story.](#)
- **Lisa Bagonluri**, Manager of Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacists, also provided comment for **CJWW 600's** story on their newscast. [Read the story.](#)

Dr. Yvonne Shevchuk and **Janine Hiebert (BSP, 1998)** appeared in a Global Saskatoon News segment on Friday, October 16, to speak about the benefits of the flu shot. [Watch the video.](#)

Pharmacy PED gained considerable media attention for the College, most notably:

- **John Gormley** interviewed Clara Hughes for approximately 10 minutes on air during the noon hour newscast for CKOM Radio on September 29, in advance of Pharmacy PED.
- **The Sheaf** interviewed Clara Hughes after Pharmacy PED about the importance of mental health to students. Darren Bogle also commented for the story. [Read the story.](#)
- **CTV Saskatoon** was also generous enough to help promote the event on their Community Calendar during the News at Noon, their website, and with a Weather Connect segment during their evening newscast. [Watch the segment.](#)

Dr. Susan Whiting appeared on Global Saskatoon News on Tuesday, October 27, to discuss the WHO warning about processed meats and cancer. [Watch the video.](#)



MORE COLLEGE NEWS (cont'd)

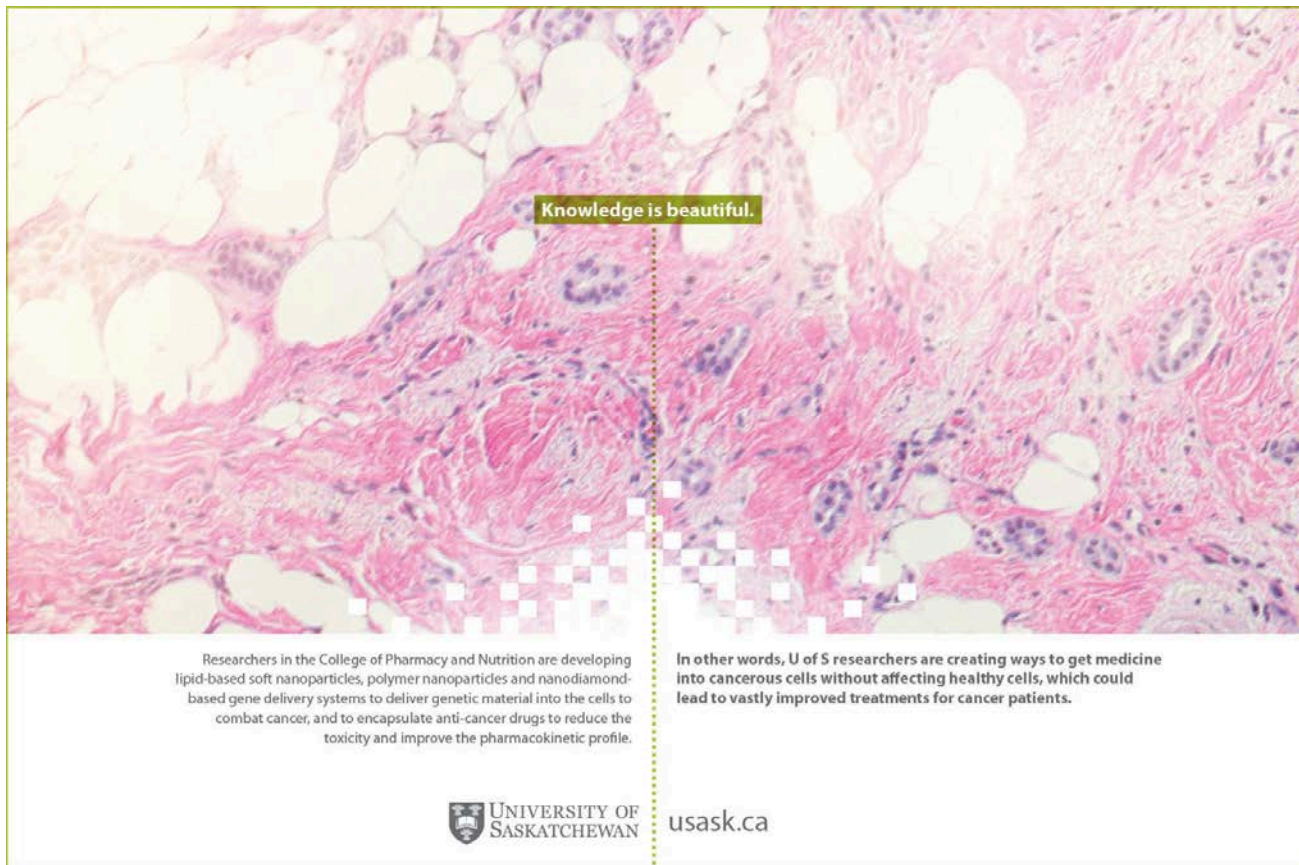
Dr. Derek Jorgenson wrote about pharmacists and billing numbers in his Ethics and Issues column for Pharmacy Practice+. [Read the story.](#) (Subscription required)

On Monday, October 19, **Amber Ly (BSP, 2003)** and Lecturer **Dr. Jaris Swidrovich** posed for a social media photo op to celebrate the first day pharmacists in Saskatchewan could provide flu vaccine injections. The post was chosen as one of the top social media posts of the week by the University's **On Campus News**, and reached over 5,500 people on the college's Facebook page. The links below will lead you to all of the college's social media:

- [Facebook Page](#) facebook.com/usaskPharmNut
- [Twitter](#) @usaskPharmNut
- [Instagram](#) @usaskPharmNut




As part of the **University of Saskatchewan's Knowledge is Beautiful** campaign, the following ad appeared in the Globe and Mail, the Saskatoon Star Phoenix, and other daily newspapers across western Canada on Saturday, October 10. The campaign highlights the unique research from each of the colleges on campus.



Knowledge is beautiful.

Researchers in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition are developing lipid-based soft nanoparticles, polymer nanoparticles and nanodiamond-based gene delivery systems to deliver genetic material into the cells to combat cancer, and to encapsulate anti-cancer drugs to reduce the toxicity and improve the pharmacokinetic profile.

In other words, U of S researchers are creating ways to get medicine into cancerous cells without affecting healthy cells, which could lead to vastly improved treatments for cancer patients.

 UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN usask.ca



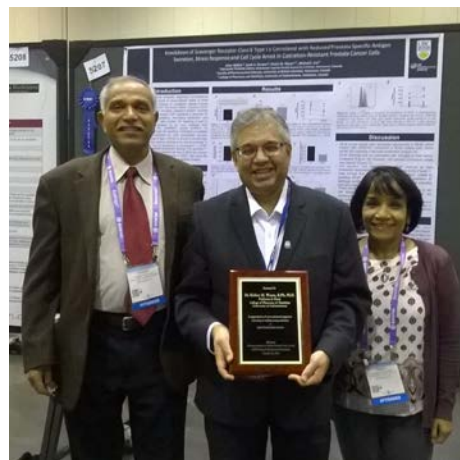
FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to **Stephanie Mulhall**, Coordinator, Assessment and Evaluation, who received her Master of Education, Educational Administration at convocation in October. Throughout her program, she focused on assessment and evaluation within the context of higher education, and her graduate project involved a teaching evaluation tool for the college.

Dean Wasan and his colleagues were presented with a recognition award from the Members of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Global Health Focus Group for their work on supporting, educating and training young scientists as global health professionals.

Technology developed by **Drs. Kishor and Ellen Wasan** will be manufactured by Corealis Pharma Inc. [Read more.](#)

Congratulations to **Dean Wasan** and his colleagues at the University of Copenhagen who won the 2015 American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences Lipid Based Focus Group Poster Award entitled In Vivo Precipitation of Poorly Soluble Drugs from Lipid Based Formulations.



The recently retired **Jackie Huck** was recognized as an honorary member of the U of S Alumni Association at the Alumni Achievement Awards on Thursday, October 22. Honorary Alumni status may be granted to any person who is not otherwise a member of the Alumni Association in recognition of their exceptional contribution to the Association or the University. [Read more on the Green and White Alumni Magazine website.](#)



APPOINTMENTS

Melissa Surkan will join the Dean's Office as our new Clerical Assistant, Administrative and Finance on Monday, November 2.

Melissa brings with her a wealth of institutional knowledge in several areas of clerical support. Her most recent work in the gift processing area of Advancement and Community Engagement has equipped her well to assist with our College financial and budgetary requirements. Attention to detail and working with numbers are two of Melissa's strong suits, as was her friendly welcoming personality.

In addition to providing clerical support to the Assistant Deans in their newly expanded roles, Melissa will assist the Dean's Office with a variety of administrative and transactional financial activities. Melissa's strong work ethic, team spirit and innate ability to calmly manage competing deadlines will serve her well in our College.

Dean Kishor Wasan has been reappointed to the Fellowship Committee of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (2015-2017).



ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Courtney Junop (BSP, 2011)** who is the 2015 Magnum Opus Award Saskatchewan Winner. Courtney is currently the owner of and a pharmacist at The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy & Compounding Centre Saskatoon.

[Read more about Courtney on the awards website.](#)

Amber Ly (BSP, 2003) was on CTV Morning Live On Monday, October 26, to explain how people can now see their pharmacist for a flu vaccine.

[Watch the video.](#)

Julia Bareham (BSP, 2008; MSc, 2015) appeared in a CTV Regina segment to talk about a national pharmacare program, on behalf of Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan. [Watch the video.](#)

Alison Friesen (B.Sc.Nutri, 2015) was on Global Saskatoon on Friday, October 9, to talk about how to make Thanksgiving dishes a bit healthier. [Watch the video.](#)

Do you have alumni news to share? Submit your story to kieran.kobitz@usask.ca to be featured in our next newsletter.

EVENTS

PAST EVENTS

STEMfest

On September 28 and 29, the college participated in STEMfest, an international festival of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. **Jaris Swidrovich, Stephanie Mulhall, Muriel Miller, Tracy Everitt, and Poppy Lowe** developed content and attended the event. Our students volunteered to make the trip out to Prairieland Park Events and Convention Centre to teach younger students, between grades 3-11, about the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. This was an excellent opportunity to engage students around Saskatchewan and raise awareness about what pharmacists and dietitians do. Our students showed great initiative at helping to plan the activities, volunteering, learning across divisions, and making it an effective interprofessional activity.





EVENTS (cont'd)

Larry Lynd Presentation

U of S alumnus and UBC faculty member Larry Lynd was in Saskatoon on Monday, September 21 to speak to the college, alumni, and other guests. His talk "Exploring a new paradigm of drug discovery and development: what are the implications?" covered a range of topics from orphan diseases to drug reimbursement.

Student-Faculty/Staff Golf Tournament

Saskatchewan Pharmacy & Nutrition Student Society held another successful Student Faculty Golf Tournament on Wednesday, September 9, at Moon Lake Golf and Country Club. **Dr. Jaris Swidrovich** and Communications Specialist **Kieran Kobitz** represented the faculty and staff.



Public Health Nutrition Research Network Symposium

On October 17th, 2015 the Public Health Nutrition Research Network hosted their third annual symposium, "Connecting for Food Security: From Local to Global Perspective". The symposium was an opportunity for participants from various health sectors to actively engage with each other and with invited speakers to help define priorities and directions in research, policy and practice in the field of public health nutrition.

Key note speaker Dr. Valerie Tarasuk lead a discussion on Food Security and Food Equity in Saskatchewan. In this discussion additional potential uses for the data presented and plans to efficiently study food security and food equity issues in Saskatchewan were suggested.

Graduate student Sarah Finch provided a detailed account of the symposium on our website. [Read the story.](#)

Global Health Conference: Nourishing Equity

In partnership with the College of Medicine, the nutrition faculty and students were part of a conference on food security and equity which was held on Saturday, October 17.



EVENTS (cont'd)

UPCOMING EVENTS

College Research Day

The college's first semi-annual Research Day will take place on Tuesday, November 10, at the Western Development Museum. The day will include a keynote address by Dr. D. Lynn Kirkpatrick, a poster session, and a number of oral presentations.

SPNSS Winter Formal

The annual SPNSS Winter Formal will take place on Saturday, November 21, at TCU Place. Tickets will be on sale November 16-21 outside of the Thorvaldson main office.

Stacheroogy

Stacheroogy is back for another year, and will be held on Friday, November 27. This year will include Minute to Win It style challenges for the participants.

College Holiday Party

The college's annual holiday part will take place at Boffins Public House on Saturday, December 5.

RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

RESEARCH FUNDING

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada recently awarded Dr. Tremlett (UBC) and her team, including co-investigator **Dr. Charity Evans** (Pharmacy), a three-year Clinical and Population Health Operating grant to assess the safety monitoring of patients taking MS oral treatments.

TRAINEE SUCCESS

Congratulations to our MSc and PhD Graduates – Fall Convocation 2015

PhD in Pharmacy

Masoomeh (Ziba) Poorghorban

Thesis: *Physicochemical Characterization and Anticancer Activity Evaluation of flcyclohextrin-gemini Based Nano-delivery Systems*

Co-Supervisors: Ildiko Badea and Pawel Grochulski



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

MSc in Pharmacy

Saniya Shiraz Alwani

Thesis: *Amino Acid Functionalized Nanodiamonds as Gene Delivery Vectors: Synthesis, Physicochemical Characterization and Cellular Interaction Studies*

Supervisor: Ildiko Badea

Brennan Dale Bonnet

Thesis: *SAD Phasing of Proteins Using Xenon Gas*

Supervisor: Pawel Grochulski

Matthew William Bowen

Thesis: *The Effects of Intermittent Fasting and High Protein Diet in Individuals with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus*

Co-Supervisors: Kerry Mansell and Terra Arnason

Sarah Abdul-Hai Fatani

Thesis: *Qualitative Exploration of the Education and Skills Needs of Community Pharmacists in Saskatoon Concerning Addiction*

Supervisor: Anas El-Aneed

Nassaingay Avia Logan

Thesis: *Non steroidal anti- inflammatory drugs and cardiovascular toxicity: identifying evidence for channelling bias in a population based study*

Supervisor: David Blackburn

Dennis Okori Okello

Thesis: *Six2 exhibits a temporal- spatial expression profile in the developing mouse palate and impacts cell proliferation during murine palatogenesis*

Supervisor: Adil Nazarali

Sams Mohammad Anowar Sadat

Thesis: *Targeted Chemotherapy: Trastuzumab Tailored Docetaxel Loaded PLGA Nanoaparticles for HER-2 Positive Breast Cancer*

Supervisor: Azita Haddadi

Shenzhen Yao

Thesis: *Impact of the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan (SDP) to Medication Utilization and Adherence Among Saskatchewan Residents*

Supervisor: David Blackburn



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

Paul-Pown-Raj Iyyanar won the third prize poster award at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Society for Craniofacial Genetics and Developmental Biology held at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD on October 5-6, 2015.

Title of the poster: *Hoxa2* regulates osteoblast differentiation in the palatal mesenchyme by modulating Bmp signaling in the developing palate

Authors: Paul-Pown-Raj Iyyanar and Adil J. Nazarali.

Angie Li, M.Sc. Nutrition student, presented a poster entitled "The impact of protein-energy malnutrition developing after cortical stroke on skilled locomotion" in Toronto, ON at the Canadian Stroke Congress held Sept 17-19, 2015.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

Researcher of the Month October 2015: Dr. Hassan Vatanparast

Dr. Vatanparast investigates the impact of nutrition and other lifestyle factors on chronic conditions such as obesity, metabolic syndrome, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and osteoporosis.

[Read more about his work on our website.](#)



Researcher of the Month 2015: Dr. Roy Dobson

Dr. Dobson is engaged in a range of research topics including the social role of pharmaceutical companies, interprofessional practice and education, and the role of the pharmacist in primary care.

[Read more about his work on our website.](#)



Trainee Spotlight October 2015: Dr. Sally Caine

Dr. Caine's current research uses novel synchrotron techniques in combination with standard biochemical, immunohistochemical, and functional analyses to understand the interaction between nutrition and rehabilitation efficiency after stroke.

[Read more about her work on our website.](#)





RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Fang, J. Classification of fruits based on anthocyanin types and relevance to their health effects (2015) *Nutrition*, 31 (11-12), pp. 1301-1306.

Asiamah I*, Hodgson HL, Maloney K, Allen KJ, **Krol ES.** Ring substitution influences oxidative cyclisation and reactive metabolite formation of nordihydroguaiaretic acid analogues. *Bioorg Med Chem.* 2015 Sep 25. pii: S0968-0896(15)30064-X.

Alaverdashvili M*, Li X*, **Paterson PG.** (2015) Protein-Energy Malnutrition Causes Deficits in Motor Function in Adult Male Rats. *J Nutr.* 2015 Sep 30. pii: jn216382.

Setayeshgar, S.*, **Whiting, S.J.**, Pahwa, P., **Vatanparast, H.** Predicted 10-year risk of cardiovascular disease among Canadian adults using modified Framingham risk score in association with dietary intake (2015) *Applied Physiology, Nutrition and Metabolism*, 40 (10), pp. 1068-1074.