

## Dean's Newsletter

Issue 18, September 2017

*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](mailto:kieran.kobitz@usask.ca).*

### TOP STORIES

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#### GlaxoSmithKline Research Chair

Welcome to **Dr. Robert Laprairie**, the new Saskatchewan GSK Research Chair in Drug Discovery and Development. The chair is made possible through an endowment funded by GlaxoSmithKline, through its Pathfinders Fund for Leaders in Canadian Health Science Research and by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Government of Saskatchewan, SaskTel, the University of Saskatchewan, and the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.



#### New Nutrition Faculty

The Division of Nutrition and Dietetics would like to welcome two new Assistant Professors to the faculty:

- **Dr. Lesley Moisey** completed her B.A.Sc. and M.Sc. from the University of Guelph, and recently a Ph.D in Nutrition & Physiology from the University of Waterloo.
- **Dr. Jessica Liefvers** completed her B.Sc. and M.Sc. from the University of Alberta, and a Ph.D. in Health Studies and Gerontology from the University of Waterloo.



#### PharmD Program Begins

The college's new Doctor of Pharmacy program began with an orientation week for the first year students on Monday, August 28. This new entry-to-practice degree will replace the existing BSP, which will graduate its final class in 2020. The new program is designed to provide the skills and knowledge necessary for pharmacists to practice as their roles in the healthcare system expand.

***Watch for more on the above announcements on our website and social media in the coming weeks.***



## MORE COLLEGE NEWS

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The new **Cannabinoid Research Initiative of Saskatchewan (CRIS)**, which includes the college's **Dr. Jane Alcorn**, has launched its website. CRIS is an interdisciplinary research team that aims to obtain scientific evidence about the application of cannabinoids and cannabis derivatives to humans and animals, for health, disease and disorders. [Read more.](#)

We are pleased to announce that the college has formally established ties with the **Social Sciences Research Laboratories (SSRL)**. As a front-line research support unit, the SSRL assists faculty, staff and students undertaking research in the social sciences. [Read more.](#)



The new **Research Infrastructure Program** was announced as part of the college's larger strategy to enhance research activity and graduate student/postdoctoral fellow training in the college. [Read more.](#)

The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region submitted the following about the research activities of our nutrition students:

- Thanks to much of **Roseann Nasser's** support, all students completed research projects and presented at the 14th Annual Research Day in Regina.
- Three abstracts were submitted to the Dietitians of Canada Conference and accepted; 2 of which were prepared for poster presentations ("Does hospital food really suck?" & "Dietary Management of New Ileostomies: An Evaluation of a New Patient Education Handout and Implementation of a Pre-Printed Order Set")
- Three abstracts were submitted to the RQHR Research Showcase and accepted; 1 was delivered as an oral presentation and all 3 were poster presentations at the RQHR Research Day on June 21, 2017. A total of 3 posters (out of approximately 50) were selected for an oral presentation. **Sarah Crawford, Delaney Long, Taletha Bennett** and **Kalyn Harvey** were able to attend and present in person. [photo attached]
- With support from primary supervisors **Stephanie Cook** and **Sharon Walker**, third year nutrition students **Breanna Mills** and **Rebecca Kriger** were enrolled in the Regina Summer Student Research Program 2017. A total of 4 students were enrolled in the summer research program in RQHR.

## IN THE MEDIA

**Dr. Susan Whiting** was on Global Saskatoon this week to talk about the upcoming changes to Canada's Food Guide. [Watch the video.](#)

**Dr. Gordon Zello** was interviewed by Global Saskatoon for a story about why some Saskatoon restaurants struggle to survive. He spoke about the appeal and problems of fast food. [Watch the video.](#)



## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

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Earlier this summer, **Dr. Hector Caruncho** left Saskatoon to join the Division of Medical Sciences at the University of Victoria, but will continue as an Adjunct Professor at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. Hector's introduction to the Uvic community was posted to the university's website over the summer. [Read more.](#)

**Dr. Kishor Wasan** has accepted an invitation to the College of Reviewers to serve the peer review needs of CIHR and its partners.

In June, **Melanie Rozwadowski** presented her research poster "Designing and Implementing Learner-Focused Discussion Groups (DGs) in a Large First-Year Introductory Nutrition Course" at the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Conference in Halifax. She also made a presentation at the conference on the same topic.

In July, **Dr. Hassan Vatanparast** led a Canadian delegation to Universidad de San Carlos in Guatemala.

Welcome to the following new staff members who have joined the college:

- **Dr. Amy Smith-Morris** as a Sessional Lecturer for the 2017-18 academic year.
- **Jena Boyko** as a part-time Pharmacy Course and Lab Instructor until May 2018.
- **Cherie Rutherford** as a Sessional Lecturer for term one, teaching Marketing for Pharmacists.

## ALUMNI NEWS

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Congratulations to **Scott Livingstone (BSP 1988; MSc 1994)** on being named the first CEO of new Saskatchewan Health Authority. [Read more.](#)

Congratulations to **Paul Melnyk (BSP 1987; MSc 1997)** on being named CEO by Pharmasave Drugs (Central) Ltd. In his new role, Paul will oversee the strategic direction of over 55 Pharmasave stores in the Central Region.



Congratulations to **Krystal Horudko (BSP 2003)** on receiving a 2017 Patient Focused Practitioner Award from the Prince Edward Island Pharmacists Association. The award recognizes a pharmacist who is friendly over and above the call of duty and is customer service focused.

Congratulations to **Tamara Lange (BSP 2000)** who was appointed to the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan Board.

**Patricia Chuey (BScNutri 1989, MSc 1994)** was on CTV Morning Live Vancouver on Thursday, June 22, to talk about healthy snacking options for the summer. [Watch the video.](#)

**Julia Bareham (BSP 2008; MSc 2015)** spoke with CBC Saskatoon on Tuesday, July 4 to warn people about sufentanil. The drug is ten times more potent than fentanyl and was recently stolen from a Saskatoon home. [Watch the video.](#)



## ALUMNI NEWS

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**Kelly Kizlyk (BSP 2002)** was on Global Saskatoon Morning News on Tuesday, July 4 to talk about wart treatments. [Watch the video.](#)

**Julia Bareham (BSP 2008; MSc 2015)** appeared on CTV Morning Live - Saskatoon on Thursday, July 6 to discuss the effects of sufentanil, which was recently stolen from a Saskatoon home and could potentially make its way into street drugs. She also provided information on naloxone kits which are used in treatment of opioid overdoses. [Watch the video.](#)

**Patricia Chuey (BScNutr 1989, MSc 1994)** was on CTV Morning Live Vancouver on Monday, July 10, to talk about healthy grilled vegetable side dishes. [Watch the video.](#)

**Shelley Case (BScHEc 1980)** was on Global Saskatoon Morning News on Monday, July 17 to talk about celiac disease and gluten-free food options. [Watch the video.](#)

**Brooke Bulloch (BScNutr 2009)** was on Global Saskatoon Morning News on Tuesday, July 18 to talk about healthy and nutritious snacks for the summer. [Watch the video.](#)

**Brooke Bulloch (BScNutr 2009)** was on Global Saskatoon Morning News on Tuesday, August 15 to discuss the debate over the potential health hazards of lectins, which are proteins commonly found in beans and grains. [Watch the video.](#)

**Stephanie Langdon (BScNutr 2010)** recently featured **Patricia Chuey (BScNutr 1989, MSc 1994)** as the 100th interview in her What Do RDs Do blog series. [Read more.](#)

Our condolences to the family and friends of **Peter Pereverzoff (BSP 1954)** who passed away in August. Peter was a supporter of the college, including the Peter Pereverzoff Prize, which is awarded to a student who has completed third year pharmacy and has demonstrated excellence in community practice. [Read more.](#)



*Do you have alumni news to share? Submit your story to [kieran.kobitz@usask.ca](mailto:kieran.kobitz@usask.ca) to be featured in our next newsletter.*



## EVENTS

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Fall Welcome BBQ for Trainees

Faculty, staff, and students welcome new graduate students and postdocs to the college on **Thursday, September 7** outside the GSA Commons.

#### Strategic Planning Town Hall

Faculty and staff will have the opportunity to review the first draft of the documents as prepared by the Strategic Planning Committee on **Wednesday September 27**.

#### Professional Enhancement Day

After last year's success, a joint pharmacy and nutrition professional enhancement day will be held again this year on **Monday, October 2** at Marquis Hall. Speakers include:

- **Dr. Phil Chilibeck** - University of Saskatchewan - will speak on Exercise is Medicine Canada in Saskatchewan.
- **Dr. Chris Shields** - Acadia University - will share tips on how health care professionals can incorporate physical activity into their counselling.

#### Saskatoon Alumni Event

The college would like to invite alumni in the Saskatoon area to join us for an after work meet-up on **Tuesday, October 3** at the Delta Bessborough Hotel. The Kelsey Room will be reserved from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Please RSVP to Andy Collin at [andy.collin@usask.ca](mailto:andy.collin@usask.ca).

#### Stacherogy

The annual Stacherogy will return on Friday, November 3. Details to follow.

### PAST EVENTS

#### Cleft Palate Foundation Fundraiser

On Friday, June 23 **Dr. Adil Nazarali's** lab members organized a fundraising event in his memory to support the Cleft Palate Foundation. Students, trainees, and faculty raised \$3,466 to donation to the foundation. Cleft palate research was one of Adil's passions, and the American Cleft Palate- Craniofacial Association wrote a tribute to him. [Read more.](#)

## RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

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### SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

#### Trainee Spotlight

Congratulations to **Paul Pown Raj Iyyanar** who is our September Trainee Spotlight. His research program focuses on investigating the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in cleft palate pathogenesis. [Read more.](#)





## RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

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### TRAINEE SUCCESS

#### Program Update

Congratulations to the following Pharmacy and Nutrition graduate students, who completed their degree requirements over the spring and summer: **Dr. McDonald Donkuru** (supervisor: Dr. Anas El-Aneed), **Dr. Tasnim Jahan** (supervisor: Dr. Azita Haddadi), **Dr. Hossein Rafiei** (supervisor: Dr. Brian Bandy), **Dr. Pedram Rafiei** (supervisor: Dr. Azita Haddadi), **Dr. Elham Zeninezhad-Movassagh** (supervisor: Dr. Hassan Vatanparast), and **Krysta Currie** (supervisor: Dr. Derek Jorgenson). **Dr. Amanda Hall** (supervisors: Dr. Gord Zello and Grant Miller) also completed the requirements for her PhD in Health Sciences.

Ten new graduate students are expected to start their studies this fall: please welcome; **Samer Al-Bazz** (MSc with Dr. Hassan Vatanparast), **Saniya Alwani** (PhD with Dr. Ildiko Badea), **Riley Devine** (MSc with Drs. Phyllis Paterson and Gary Linassi), **Yajia Guo** (MSc with Drs. Jane Alcorn and Martin Reaney), **Sharayu Karkare** (MSc with Dr. Kate Dadachova), **Pardis Keshavarz** (MSc with Hassan Vatanparast), **Shabukta Malik** (MSc with Dr. Carol Henry), **Javeria Muhammadzai** (MSc with Drs. Meena Sakharkar and Francisco Cayabyab), **Courtney Quiring** (MSc with Dr. Dave Blackburn), and **Stephanie Vuong** (MSc with Drs. Jane Alcorn and Andrew Lyon).

The College's Annual **Trainee Welcome Barbecue** will be held on September 7 this year—all College members are welcome to attend!

The College will also be hosting a **Summer Student Poster Day** on the afternoon of September 7, which will provide our summer students the opportunity to share their work with each other and the College community. Awards will be given at the annual Trainee Barbecue held later that day.

#### External Award Recipients

**Mays Al-Dulaymi** has been awarded a **2017 AAPS Graduate Student Research Award in Drug Discovery and Development Interface** by the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

**Allison Cammer** has been awarded a **RaDAR Scholarship** from Rural Dementia Action Research.



## RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

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### College Award Recipients

The College is pleased to announce that the following students have been awarded scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year:

#### **Pharmacy and Nutrition Graduate Scholarship**

Saniya Alwani, Pharmacy PhD (Supervisor: Dr. Ildiko Badea)

Fakir Yunus, Nutrition MSc (Supervisors: Drs. Gord Zello and Diane DellaValle)

#### **Interdisciplinary Graduate Scholarships (with the College of Medicine)**

Riley Devine, Nutrition MSc (Supervisors: Dr. Phyllis Paterson and Gary Linassi)

Stephanie Vuong, Pharmacy MSc (Supervisors: Drs. Jane Alcorn and Andrew Lyon)

#### **Apotex Award (Pharmacy)**

Frank De Silva, Pharmacy PhD (Supervisor: Dr. Jane Alcorn)

#### **Graduate Research Fellowship**

Mona Hamada, Pharmacy PhD (Supervisors: Drs. Anas El-Aneed and Darryl Adamko)

#### **0.5 Graduate Teaching Fellowships**

Sharmin Sumi, Pharmacy MSc (Supervisor: Dr. Meena Sakharkar)

Munawar Mohammed, Nutrition MSc (Supervisor: Dr. Ellen Wasan)

#### **Pharmacy and Nutrition Graduate Service Award**

Esayas Bekele, Nutrition PhD (Supervisor: Dr. Carol Henry)

Renée Ramikie, Nutrition MSc (Supervisor: Dr. Carol Henry)

Leandy Riley, Nutrition PhD (Supervisor: Dr. Carol Henry)

### Poster Presentations

**Paul Iyyanar** presented the following poster over the summer: Iyyanar, P., Nazarali, A.J. *Htra1* is a direct target of *Runx2* during osteoblast differentiation. Presented at 40<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Society of Craniofacial Genetics and Developmental Biology at Minneapolis, MN, USA on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.



## RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

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### U of S AAPS Student Chapter Update

This summer the university American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Chapter members voted the new executive committee for the 2017-2018 year. The U of S- AAPS chapter was founded in 2015 and currently has over 50 members. The official handing over of the chapter as well as the introduction to the chapter faculty advisor Dean Wasan took place in July.

The chapter is planning to organize, sponsor and be a part of several events this upcoming year. Some of them are; The AAPS Visiting Scientist day, U of S AAPS-CoPN Summer Student Research Internship Program Poster Presentation Day, SNPSS Fall Welcome barbeque, CoPN Fall Graduate Program Welcome barbeque and the K-12 community Outreach Program.



### RESEARCH FUNDING

**Robert Laprairie** was awarded a CIHR operating grant totaling \$187,500 over 5 years for *Novel Type 1 Cannabinoid Receptor Allosteric Modulators* through the Chair: GlaxoSmithKline Partnered program.

**Meena Sakharkar** and co-supervisor **Jian Yang** received \$60,000 in MITACS Accelerate funding for *Treatment of Mastitis Infections in Dairy Cattle* for intern Karthic Rajamanickam.

**Hassan Vatanparast** received \$129,126 from General Mills Inc. for the project *Establishing a Recommendation on Criteria for the Nutrient and Food Composition of a Healthy Breakfast for European and North American Children and Adults - Canadian Research Component*.

**Susan Whiting** and colleagues were awarded a \$100,000 grant from Grand Challenges Canada for the project *Using Egg Shell Calcium to Mitigate Fluorosis in Ethiopia*.

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Addala, E., Rafiei, H., Das, S., **Bandy, B.**, Das, U., Karki, S.S., **Dimmock, J.R.** 2017. 3,5-Bis(3-dimethylaminomethyl-4-hydroxybenzylidene)-4-piperidone and related compounds induce glutathione oxidation and mitochondria-mediated cell death in HCT-116 colon cancer cells. *Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry Letters*, 27 ( 16 ) pp. 3669 - 3673.
- Al-Dulaymi, M., **El-Aneed, A.** 2017. Tandem mass spectrometric analysis of novel peptide-modified gemini surfactants used as gene delivery vectors. *Journal of Mass Spectrometry*, 52 (6) pp. 353 - 366.
- **Badea, I.** 2017. New strategies in melanoma therapy: Can nanoparticles overcome chemoresistance? *Nanomedicine*, 12 ( 14 ) pp. 1623 - 162.
- Bagher, A.M., **Laprairie, R.B.**, Toguri, J.T., Kelly, M.E.M., Denovan-Wright, E.M. 2017. Bidirectional allosteric interactions between cannabinoid receptor 1 (CB1) and dopamine receptor 2 long (D2L) heterotetramers. *European Journal of Pharmacology*. Article in Press.
- Cawthray, J., **Wasan, E., Wasan, K.** 2017. Bone-seeking agents for the treatment of bone disorders. *Drug Delivery and Translational Research*, 7 ( 4 ) pp. 466 - 481.




**RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES**


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- De Jong, H.J.I., Kingwell, E., Shirani, A., Tervaert, J.W.C., Hupperts, R., Zhao, Y., Zhu, F., **Evans, C.**, Van Der Kop, M.L., Traboulsee, A., Gustafson, P., Petkau, J., Marrie, R.A., Tremlett, H. 2017. Evaluating the safety of  $\beta$ -interferons in MS, *Neurology*, 88 (24) pp. 2310 - 2320.
- Fang, N., Gu, T., Wang, Y., Wang, S., Wang, F., An, Y., Wei, W., Zhang, W., Guo, X., **Nazarali, A.J.**, Ji, S. 2017. Expression of PTEN-long mediated by CRISPR/Cas9 can repress U87 cell proliferation, *Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine*, Article in Press.
- Hua, T., Vemuri, K., Nikas, S.P., **Laprairie, R.B.**, Wu, Y., Qu, L., Pu, M., Korde, A., Jiang, S., Ho, J.-H., Han, G.W., Ding, K., Li, X., Liu, H., Hanson, M.A., Zhao, S., Bohn, L.M., Makriyannis, A., Stevens, R.C., Liu, Z.-J. 2017. Crystal structures of agonist-bound human cannabinoid receptor CB 1. *Nature*, 547 ( 7664 ) pp. 468 - 471.
- Kucey, M., **Bolt, J.**, Albers, L., Bell, A., Iroh, N., Toppings, J. 2016. Prescribing of direct oral anticoagulants in atrial fibrillation based on estimation of renal function using standard and modified cockcroft-gault equations: A retrospective analysis. *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*, 69 (5) pp. 409 - 414.
- **Mansell, K., Shevchuk, Y.** 2017. Drug costs in Canada. *Canadian Pharmacists Journal*, 150 ( 4 ) pp. 227 - 228.
- MacKinnon, N.J., Penm, J., **Jorgenson, D.**, Smith, J. 2017. Part 3: Perspectives of pharmacy technicians on practice change. *Canadian Pharmacists Journal*, 150 ( 4 ) pp. 239 - 242.
- McKay, K.A., **Evans, C.**, Fisk, J.D., Patten, S.B., Fiest, K., Marrie, R.A., Tremlett, H. 2017. Disease-Modifying Therapies and Adherence in Multiple Sclerosis: Comparing Patient Self-Report with Pharmacy Records. *Neuroepidemiology*, pp. 124 - 130.
- Melesse, D.Y., Marrie, R.A., Blanchard, J.F., Yu, B.N., **Evans, C.** 2017. Persistence to disease-modifying therapies for multiple sclerosis in a Canadian cohort. *Patient Preference and Adherence*, 11 pp. 1093 - 1101.
- Mohammed-Saeid, W., Chitanda, J., Al-Dulaymi, M., Verrall, R., **Badea, I.** 2017. Design and Evaluation of RGD-Modified Gemini Surfactant-Based Lipoplexes for Targeted Gene Therapy in Melanoma Model. *Pharmaceutical Research*, pp. 1 - 11. Article in Press
- Omidian, K., Rafiei, H., **Bandy, B.** 2017. Evidence against an involvement of aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR) in polyphenol inhibition of benzo[a]pyrene-induced oxidative stress and neoplastic transformation. *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, 107 pp. 526 - 527.
- Omidian, K., Rafiei, H., **Bandy, B.** 2017. Polyphenol inhibition of benzo[a]pyrene-induced oxidative stress and neoplastic transformation in an in vitro model of carcinogenesis. *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, 106 pp. 165-174.
- Ong, A.M., Weiler, H.A., Wall, M., Goltzman, D., **Whiting, S.J.**, Daskalopoulou, S.S., Morin, S.N. 2017. A 51-item calcium-focused food frequency questionnaire is a reliable tool to assess dietary calcium intake in postmenopausal women *Nutrition Research*, 43 pp. 33 - 42.
- Penm, J., MacKinnon, N.J., **Jorgenson, D.**, Ying, J., Smith, J. 2016. Need for formal specialization in pharmacy in Canada: A survey of hospital pharmacists. *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*, 69 (5) pp. 356 - 366.
- Roy, C., Gray, C., Ruda, L., Bell, A., **Bolt, J.** 2016. High-dose, extended-interval gentamicin and tobramycin for pediatric inpatients: A survey of Canadian hospital pharmacists. *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*, 69 (5) pp. 367 - 375.
- Tangedal, K., **Semchuk, W., Bolt, J.** 2016. How should Canadian pharmacy departments utilize idarucizumab? *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*, 69 (5) pp. 429 - 430.
- Savla, R., Browne, J., Plassat, V., **Wasan, K.M., Wasan, E.K.** 2017. Review and analysis of FDA approved drugs using lipid-based formulations. *Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy*, pp. 1 - 16.
- Wang, X., Gregory-Evans, K., **Wasan, K.M.**, Sivak, O., Shan, X., Gregory-Evans, C.Y. 2017. Efficacy of Postnatal In Vivo Nonsense Suppression Therapy in a Pax6 Mouse Model of Aniridia. *Molecular Therapy - Nucleic Acids*, 7 pp. 417 - 428.
- Ward, S., Blanger, M., Donovan, D., **Vatanparast, H.**, Muhajarine, N., Engler-Stringer, R., Leis, A., Humbert, M.L., Carrier, N. 2017. Association between childcare educators' practices and preschoolers' physical activity and dietary intake: A cross-sectional analysis. *BMJ Open*, 7 (5), art. no. e013657.
- Weekes, D.M., Cawthray, J.F., Rieder, M., Syeda, J., Ali, M., **Wasan, E.**, Kostelnik, T.I., Patrick, B.O., Panahifar, A., Al-Dissi, A., Cooper, D., **Wasan, K.M.**, Orvig, C. 2017. La(III) biodistribution profiles from intravenous and oral dosing of two lanthanum complexes, La(dpp) and La(XT), and evaluation as treatments for bone resorption disorders. *Metallomics*, 9 (7) pp. 902 - 909.