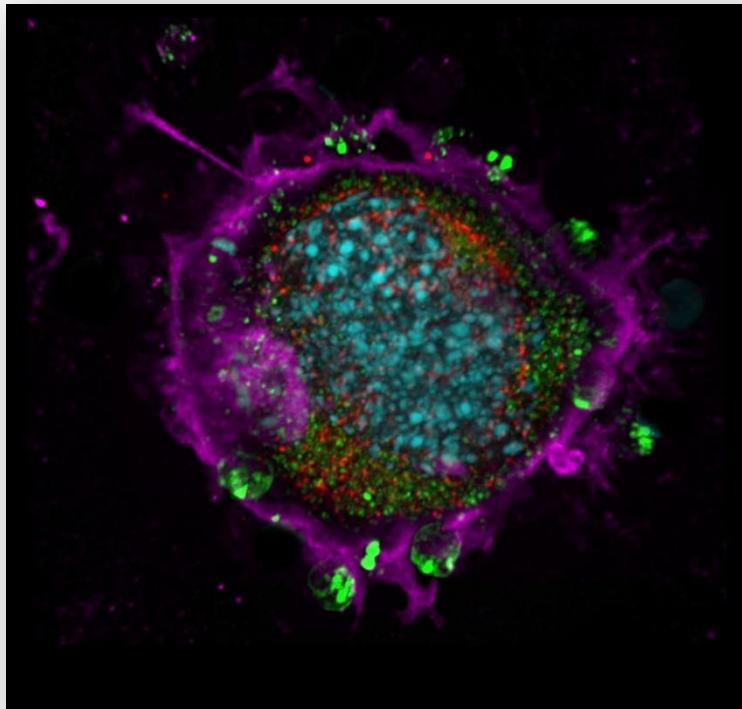


U of T Biochemistry

[Biochemistry Website](#)

Research Images



Immunofluorescence image of a mouse megakaryocyte cell captured by PhD student Helen Yao from the Kahr lab.

Magenta: **integrin alpha chain 2b** labelling the membrane.

Red: protein of interest (**VPS16B**) studied in our lab.

Green: **RAB11** labelling recycling endosomes.

Blue: **Hoechst stain** labelling multilobed megakaryocyte nucleus.

Please consider sending non-copyrighted images to include in our next newsletter to chair email: biochemistry.chair@utoronto.ca

Please note, next month's newsletter (June) will be the last before we take a summer hiatus so be sure to send any news items by the end of May.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Although the end of undergraduate classes usually means the campus is quieter, this year seems to be busier. It is great to see the steady increase in the number of in person meetings and social activities. The Biochemistry End of Year Party held at the Chelsea was well attended, hope to see more of you at the next event. The resumption in travel also means many are finally able to attend in person conferences, perhaps for the first time for our new students. Check out this interesting article on the negative impact of virtual communication for idea generation but interestingly, there is no negative and may even be a positive impact on deciding which idea to pursue. Perhaps there is a place for both types of meetings in our future.

[Virtual communication curbs creative idea generation](#)

Regards,

Liliana Attisano

For comments/feedback on the newsletter and to provide news to be include in the next issue send an email to biochemistry.office@utoronto.ca. We are always happy to hear from you!

BGSU News

Hello Biochem!

Last month we finally had our end-of-year party in-person at the Chelsea hotel! Thank you to all the executives who organized the event and everyone who attended. Check out all the event photos!

Stay tuned for more events coming up! As usual, if you have any ideas for future events, don't hesitate to contact us.

Your BGSU

Facebook: U of T Biochemistry Graduate Student Union – BGSU

Twitter: @yourbgsu

Email: yourbgsu@gmail.com



Undergraduate News

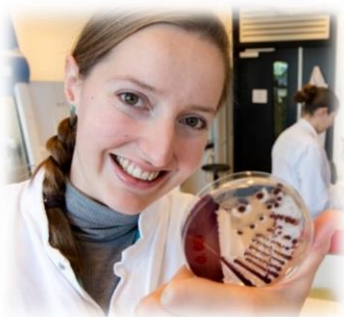
Fiona Cui has been awarded an Undergraduate Student Leadership Award by the Faculty of Medicine. This award recognizes students who show excellence in Academics, Research and have taken on substantial leadership roles at the University and/or in their communities. Fiona is a BCH Majors student who just finished up her 3rd year. Fiona's track-record in service and leadership is truly outstanding. Since coming to U of T she has been active in 12 different student unions and clubs and has also volunteered at Toronto Western Hospital and with Canadian Blood Services. These contributions are particularly impressive considering her consistent 4.0 GPA and the progress she has made on her research project in Kate Lee's lab. For more info on Fiona go to [Fiona Cui, Biochemistry](#).



Post-doc News

Meet the PostDoc Organization committee members!

We are beginning our 'meet and greet' your postdoc committee members with Anne Van der Meijl! Anne completed her PhD at Leiden University in the Netherlands and joined the Nodwell lab in April 2021. Currently, she is studying *Streptomyces* development and metabolite production when they are breaking down dead insects. Outside the lab, Anne spends her time bouldering, hiking and finding the ultimate cup of coffee. Anne will be our host for the upcoming social hour.



Social Hour

With summer around the corner, it's time for another postdoc social! We are getting together on **May 12th at 3-4 pm in Aroma Espresso Bar at 661 University Ave. for coffee/tea**. The topic of discussion at this meeting will be "Social media engagement as a career tool". Come by to swap stories/tips or just to get to know your fellow postdocs!

Regular Postdoc Slots for the 2022-2023 Departmental Seminar Series

We finished the departmental seminar series of 2022 with a bang: two postdoc seminars given by Kirsten Meyer and Véronique Taylor. If you are looking to dust off your scientific presentation skills the postdocs will be included in the 2022-2023 schedule. A reminder will be sent out in early **July** for those looking to apply.

Questions? Comments?

If you have any questions about events, want to join the committee, or have ideas for future topics of discussion? Please email Kate Lee hyunokate.lee@utoronto.ca or Kirsten Meyer k.meyer@utoronto.ca. We would love to hear from you!

Transcripts News

Hey Biochem!

Do you have a favourite non-academic, science-related book that you would love to share with your peers in the department? Let us know using the Google Form below and it will be featured in a future newsletter as part of our Biochem Book Club! If you would like to write a book review about it, you can indicate that in the form and a Transcripts editor will get in touch with you. Otherwise, we are happy to just spread the word, and one of our writers may review it if they are interested.

Biochemistry Book Club Submissions

Make sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram @transcriptsblog for more updates on our work!

transcripts

Announcement

Karen Maxwell has been appointed for a five-year term as Director of Research, Temerty Faculty of Medicine.

EDI News

Open Call for WIDE Committee Members: If any student or postdoc would like be part of our WIDE Committee, please contact Dr. Nana Lee at nana.lee@utoronto.ca - we are open to your ideas!

2022 TATP Excellence Award



The Department of Biochemistry is proud to announce that Alexa Fitzpatrick is 1 of 5 recipients of the 2022 TATP Excellence Award, recognizing the outstanding achievements of Teaching Assistants at the University of Toronto. As a TA in BCH210H and BCH311H, Alexa has taught over a thousand students in the life sciences programs, which will have a lasting impact on their careers as scientists and lifelong learners. Congratulations Alexa!

UPCOMING EVENTS

PhD Oral Seminars/Exams All PhD exams are held online. Interested persons wanting to attend the oral seminar should contact the Students Advisor for approval

Wang-Ting (Eric) Lu's remote PhD Oral exam has been scheduled as follows:

Friday June 3, 2022
9:00 am - 12:00 noon

PhD Oral Seminar: 9:00 - 9:45 am * *Held online - Interested persons wanting to attend the oral seminar should contact the Students Advisor for approval**

PhD Oral Exam: 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Thesis Title: " *Investigation of non-specific DNA binding by the type I-F CRISPR-Cas complex when bound to anti-CRISPR AcrIF9* "

Supervisory committee:

Alan Davidson (supervisor)

Trevor Moraes (supervisory member)

Karen Maxwell (supervisory member)

Ontario Cell Biology Symposium 2022

Further details can be found at <https://www.ontariocellbiology.com/>

4th Ontario Cell Biology Symposium Aug. 16-17, 2022

In person (Hospital for Sick Children,
Toronto) and virtual attendance options

[ontariocellbiology.com](https://www.ontariocellbiology.com)

@OntCellBio

The Symposium will feature talks by graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and early career researchers selected from abstracts, as well as poster presentations. Registration and abstract submission to open soon.

Undergraduate students are welcome to attend, regardless of research experience to date

21st Great Lakes GPCR Retreat 2022

You are invited to the **21st annual GPCR Retreat** that will be held jointly with **Great Lakes GPCR Retreat** and **Club des Récepteurs à Sept Domaines Transmembranaires du Québec**. This year's meeting will take place on May 12th–14th, 2022, at the [Queen's Landing Hotel at Niagara on The Lake](#). Click [HERE](#) for more information.



 **21st GPCR Retreat**

May 12-14, 2022
Niagara on The Lake
Ontario, Canada

The Graduate Supervisor Experience Survey is now OPEN!

The survey is now available for all thesis-based graduate students. You have been invited by an email from glse.supervision@utoronto.ca and have until **May 31st, 2022**, to complete the survey. We encourage you to fill out the survey so the faculty can help improve student-supervisor experiences in every graduate unit.


There are also PRIZES to be WON!

Students that successfully complete the survey will be entered in a draw to win 1 of 11 prizes. Top prize? A new iPad!

For more information regarding the project, visit the [GLSE website](https://glse.utoronto.ca). If you have any questions, feel free to email Yasman, at glse.supervision@utoronto.ca.

I look forward to seeing everyone's participation in the survey.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD




Graduate Supervisory Experience Survey

The purpose of the *Graduate Supervisory Experience Survey* is to explore the supervisory experience of our thesis-based graduate students. The results will help ensure the best educational experience for our graduate students.

CONFIDENTIAL, SIMPLE AND 100% ONLINE

MAY 2 - 31, 2022

SPEND 10 TO 12 MINUTES TO TELL US WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND.



TEMERITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Graduate and Life Sciences Education

COVID-19 planning updates

U of T will continue the following measures effective May 1, 2022:

- In light of the recent provincial trends, the University will continue its requirement to wear masks in certain settings until June 30, 2022, in accordance with the [Joint Provostial and Human Resources Guideline on Face Masks](#).
- Masks will continue to be required in classrooms and in indoor spaces where physical distancing cannot be maintained. The University continues to recommend the use of medical-grade masks where possible.

U of T will pause the following measures effective May 1, 2022:

- Health screening and contact tracing will become unavailable in UCheck.
- The proof of vaccination module will continue to be available and can be used to:
 - Upload proof of vaccination (required for new employees)
 - Voluntarily upload proof of booster (additional) doses for all students, faculty, librarians, and staff

I encourage everyone to visit our [division website](#) as we near the Summer term for up-to-date information about courses, programs and employment requirements.

More information on U of T's changing health measures can be [found here](#).