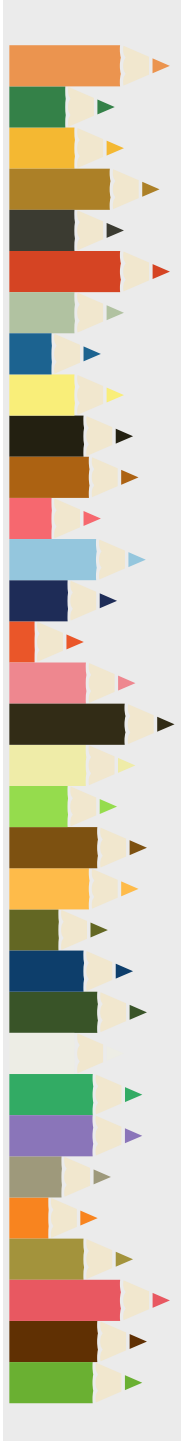


U OF T BIOCHEMISTRY

[Biochemistry Website](#)

Chair's Message



As we usher in the Fall season and begin a new Academic year, my time as Interim Chair has come to an end, effective September 30, 2022. In this role, I had a significantly increased opportunity to interact with faculty, staff and students in a variety of new and diverse contexts. I have come to realize how incredibly committed and talented the members of Biochemistry are. This was particularly highlighted by everyone's resilience and willingness to adapt with very short notice, during one of the most challenging times in recent memory brought about by COVID. A sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who everyone who has selflessly contributed their time and expertise to the operations, teaching and research mandates of the Dept. of Biochemistry, particularly to those that worked closely with me throughout this time.

Last week was our Annual Biochemistry Retreat held on 2 days at two locations including on campus and on the Toronto Centre Island at Artscape Gibraltar Point. What a great event! Seeing new and familiar faces in person was a refreshing change. The poster sessions and talks from trainees and our newest faculty member, Michael Norris showcased all the incredible research going on in the department. Our keynote speakers, Dr. Damian Ekiert and Dr. Gira Bhabha from NYU, introduced us to new and exciting research. Take a look at some of the highlights in this newsletter. A big thank you to the planning committee, Spencer Freeman, Kate Lee, Jon Ditlev, Carrie Harber, Shenique Baker, Dixon Ng, Cami Aprosoff, Nicholas Silver, Tim Yi-Ting Lee, and Cindy Yimei Wan for all your hard work, it was a success and a job well done! Also, thank you to all those who contributed in other ways including judging of awards and posters, and to all of you who attended and presented their work or contribution to discussions. For those who were unable to attend, we do hope that next year you are able to participate.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that our new Biochemistry Chair, Dr. Lea Harrington, will be joining us on October 3, 2022. Dr. Harrington comes to us from the Dept. of Medicine, Université de Montréal--let us all welcome her to the Dept. Biochemistry, the Temerty Faculty of Medicine and the UofT Community.

Thank you to everyone again, for the experience in serving as your Chair.

Prof. Liliana Attisano - Interim Chair



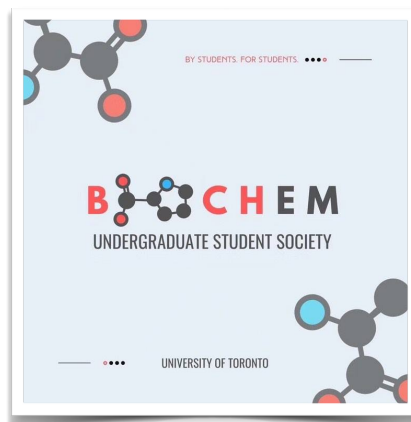
Announcements

Dr. Karen Maxwell has stepped down and **Dr. Trevor Moraes** is now serving as **Associate Grad Coordinator** as of Sept 1, 2022.

BUSS News

Hey Biochemists!

We hope that the incoming biochemistry major and specialists who just joined our community are enjoying the program so far and had a wonderful and eventful first month of school with everyone back on campus! To help students transition into second year, the BUSS mentorship

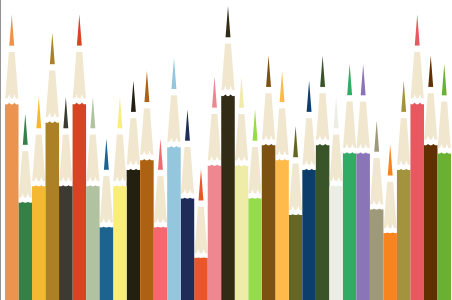


Program is being finalized and will start this month. This is a great opportunity for students to get involved and meet other people in the same program. We ran our fall elections, and we are excited to welcome our new executive team

members to the team. More information about the mentorship program and an opportunity to meet all our executives will be posted on our social media (@uoftbuss on Facebook and Instagram) and via email. Please stay tuned! Finally, we encourage students to attend the various academic and social events that we host throughout the school year. We look forward to meeting everyone and wish you all the best this upcoming semester!

Biochemically yours, BUSS

If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please contact us at uoftbuss@gmail.com.



Transcripts News

Hey Biochem! This month we'll highlight some articles we put out during the summer break in case you missed them.

"[People's Choice of Amino Acids: Nominating Our Favorite Protein Building Blocks](#)" by Kate Jiang

"[From Cells to Vials, How Biomanufacturing is Done](#)" by Annoj Thavalingam

Still interested in joining us but missed the first meeting? Don't worry, Transcripts is still recruiting new members! Contact us at emily.miraglia@mail.utoronto.ca or kate.jiang@mail.utoronto.ca for details.

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



Biochemistry Departmental Retreat 2022: Highlights

Our first in person Departmental Retreat in 3 years took place this past week! On September 21st, many of our talented faculty and trainees presented posters at the David Naylor Student Commons. On September 22nd, members of the department traveled to Centre Island to hear talks from our trainees, faculty, and invited speakers. A Biochemistry Olympics event was also held on the island!

Here are some highlights from the retreat:

Dixon Ng from the **Moraes Lab** was awarded the **Connell Award for Best All-Round Postdoctoral Fellow**.

Huazhu (Peter) Liang from the **Melnyk Lab** was awarded the **Pfizer Graduate Scholarship**.

Brandon Payliss from the **Wyatt Lab** was awarded the **Centennial Award in honour of Sela Cheifetz**.

Kamran Rizzolo and **Angela Yu** from the **Houry Lab** were awarded the **Connell Award for Top Graduate Student Publication of 2021** for their paper on the [Functional Association Between the Trigger Factor Chaperone and ClpXP Proteolytic Complex](#). Elaine Thai from the Julien Lab was awarded the David A. Scott Award for best all-around graduate student.

Dr. John Glover was awarded the **David Isenman Citizenship Award** for service to the Department beyond the call of duty.

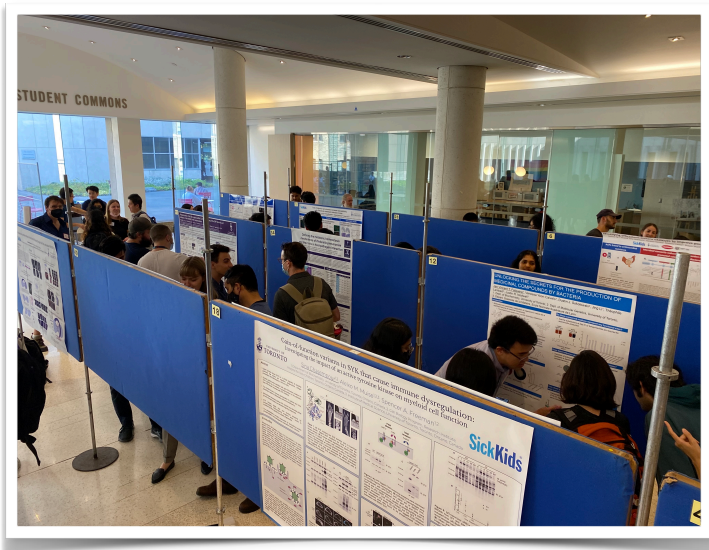
Dr. Michael Norris, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, presented his work on the **Structural Basis of Paramyxovirus Budding**.

We also heard amazing talks from our two invited keynote speakers, who lead a joint lab at NYU Grossman School of Medicine:

Dr. Damian Ekiert, Associate Professor, Department of Cell Biology & Microbiology, spoke about his lab's work characterizing MCE proteins that bridge the inner and outer bacterial membrane to mediate lipid transport.

Dr. Gira Bhabha, Associate Professor, Department of Cell Biology, spoke about her lab's work on characterizing the polar tube, a harpoon-like invasion apparatus of microsporidia.

Here are some photos from the retreat:



Poster Day

Award Winners



Department Group Photo

Upcoming Events

Javi Zhang's PhD Remote Oral Exam

Tuesday October 18, 2022

2:00 - 5:00 pm Eastern Time (zoom links below)

PhD Oral Seminar: 2:00 - 2:45PM

PhD Oral Exam: 3:00 - 5:00PM

John Parkinson (supervisor)

Alex Palazzo (supervisory member)

Alex Ensminger (supervisory member)

[ZOOM LINK](#): 2:00 - 2:45PM - OPEN SEMINAR

Meeting ID: 885 3784 7273 / Passcode: 427507

Brandon McLeod's PhD Remote Oral Exam

Thursday October 20, 2022

2:00 - 5:00 pm EST time (zoom links below)

PhD Oral Seminar: 2:00 - 2:45PM

PhD Oral Exam: 3:00 - 5:00PM

Jean-Philippe Julien (supervisor)

Trevor Moraes (supervisory member)

Kevin Kain (supervisory member)

[ZOOM LINK](#): 2:00 - 2:45PM - OPEN SEMINAR

Meeting ID: 838 2724 9046 / Passcode: 120995

Siobhan O'Brien's PhD Oral Exam

Monday October 24, 2022

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

PhD Oral Seminar: 9:00 - 9:45AM

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

Stephane Angers (supervisor)

Jason Moffat (supervisory member)

Michael Ohh (supervisory member)

Interested persons wanting to attend the oral seminar should contact the Students Advisor for approval