

Hello everyone,

I can hardly believe we are closing in on the end of September. This really has been a Fall like no other (at least in our living memories). There has been much going on and many adjustments being made and I would like to thank everyone for their patience and support as we navigate this challenging time.

To our new students - welcome! You will have received a more detailed welcome message from Alyssa Kilgour (ovdr.grad@usask.ca) who has stepped in (with great skill and patience, I might add) to assist us while our regular graduate programs coordinator, Chantal Jantzen, is on parental leave. **To our returning students - welcome back!**

At the college level we held a Virtual Fall Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Welcome Event on September 11th and very much appreciated the participation of Dean Burshtyn from the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies as well as Dean Smith and Vice Dean Radmonski from the College of Medicine. If you missed that event you can access the slides and/or recording (details below).

Below are some updates to aid you with planning for the term and staying connected.

Take care everyone and I hope you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy.

Dr. Cooper
Graduate Chair, Health Sciences Graduate Program
Assistant Dean Graduate Studies, College of Medicine

Fall 2020 Updates & Events:

Virtual Fall Welcome event - September 11th

The slides and video from the Virtual Fall Welcome event can be found [here](#).

College of Medicine Graduate Student Society (CMGSS) Fall Welcome/Mixer

This event will be held Friday October 02 starting at 3:30 pm. The start of the meeting (first 15 minutes) will be the annual business meeting. Further details of the fun stuff to follow will be provided by CMGSS soon.

Here is the meeting link and password:

<https://gather.town/app/VcNfFxvGkBcRicK6/CMGSS>

Password: CMGSS2020

Health Sciences 990 Seminar Details

This symposium, scheduled for **Tuesday November 17th (1:00-3:30pm)**, forms the core of the 990 requirement for Health Sciences graduate students. Participation as a presenter should be coordinated with Alyssa (ovdr.grad@usask.ca) who has already reached out and begun putting together the program. For those who are not presenting your attendance as audience members is required (with the exception of those who have been granted completed status for this requirement under the old legacy policies). All students and faculty are welcome, regardless - please join us and support our students as they present their exciting research! Each presentation will be 12 minutes in length, with a 3 minute question period to follow. A program and event link will be distributed closer to the seminar date.

Gairdner Lecturers (Combined with other program 990s)

Each year the Office of the Vice Dean Research (College of Medicine) helps facilitate presentations by Gairdner Laureates to our community. This year these events will be held virtually on the **morning of October 20th** and constitute a **required component of Health Sciences 990**.

“The Gairdner Foundation was established in 1957 with the main goal of recognizing and rewarding international excellence in fundamental research that impacts human health. Annually, seven awards are given: five Canada Gairdner International Awards for biomedical research, one John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award, specifically for impact on global health issues, and one Canada Gairdner Wightman Award, reserved for a Canadian.

395 awards have been bestowed on laureates from 35 countries and of those awardees, 92 have gone on to receive Nobel Prizes.

The Gairdner Foundation also engages in outreach programs across Canada and acts as a convener with the public, policymakers and other stakeholders on the impact of science on our everyday lives.”

<https://gairdner.org/about/about-gairdner/>

October 20, 2020 - Tentative Schedule

- 8:45: Opening remarks/introduction by Dr. Radmonski
- 9 a.m. – Dr. Nusse
- 9:30 a.m. – Dr. Nusse Q/A
- 9:45 a.m. – Dr. Jeff Friedman
- 10:15 a.m. – Dr. Friedman Q & A
- 10:30 a.m. – two breakout sessions for students/trainees/faculty

Final details to follow. Please save the date and make every effort to support and attend these important activities for our College.

Bi-Weekly Grad Student and Postdoctoral Check-ins

Following the lockdown as the pandemic took hold in March 2020, two weekly check-in meetings were held by Dr. Cooper. The first with CMGSS and postdoctoral representatives from the College of Medicine and the second with Health Sciences Graduate Program students and faculty. Over the summer these meetings shifted to a monthly format. For this fall the two meetings have been combined into an informal bi-weekly format utilizing the **Gather Town** software platform that occurs every second Wednesday at 2:00 pm starting on September 16th. If you missed the first meeting you can view the recording [here](#). Gather Town will enable seamless movement into a programmatic (Health Sciences Graduate Program) sub-meeting as needed.

The next meeting is Wednesday September 30th at 2pm:

Persistent Link/Password:

<https://gather.town/VCnFfxvGkBcRicK6/CMGSS>

Password: USASKFall2020

Fall 2020 Check-In Meeting Dates (2pm):

October 14th

October 28th

November 11th - Remembrance Day/Reading week - **No Meeting**

November 25th

December 9th - last meeting for the term.

2021 Tri-Agency Doctoral Scholarship Competition

Finally, an internal Health Sciences deadline has been set for **October 6th at 4:30pm** for doctoral Tri-Agency Scholarship applications. If you are interested in this scholarship competition, please send your application and supporting documentation to ovdr.grad@usask.ca by the internal deadline for review prior to the scholarship deadline of October 13th.