



This Issue

Message from Grad Chair P.1

Congratulations & Welcome P.2

Wellness & Upcoming Events P.3

Message from the Graduate Chair

Welcome to the 2019/2020 academic year!

It always seems that summer will never arrive and then it disappears all too fast. With the days growing shorter and a chill creeping back into the air its time to begin the new academic year.

Due to a lack of interest last year, as well as budgetary cuts, we are not planning on having a separate welcome back reception for the Health Sciences Graduate Program this fall. That said, the College of Medicine Graduate Student Society is currently planning a college-wide welcome event, and I encourage all our students to watch for a more details in the coming days and to participate if possible.

I find it hard to believe that this is my third year as the Graduate Chair for Health Sciences and as Assistant Dean Graduate Studies for the College of Medicine. While we have come a long way in providing an improved framework for funding and academic programs there is always more that can be done. In that spirit, we have identified learner wellness as a priority for this year and will be moving forward with some related initiatives (see below). Of course, we continue to welcome any and all feedback regarding the program and particularly appreciate suggestions for improvements.

Finally, as detailed below, I would like to congratulate our scholarship winners and welcome the new students to our program.

Dave Cooper

Congratulations

We would like to recognize the following Health Sciences Students for their success in the 2019 Health Sciences Graduate Scholarship competition:

Upkardeep Pandher, PhD Student
Chelsea Cunningham, PhD Student
Emiliana Bomfim, PhD Student
Yanna Ma, PhD Student
Liris Smith, PhD Student
Kaitlin Merkowsky, PhD Student
Ngoc Ton, MSc Student

Additionally, we would like to congratulate Michael Zaki, PhD student, on his renewal of the University Graduate Scholarship administered by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Do you know of someone within our program that deserves recognition? Please contact ovdr.grad@usask.ca.

Welcome and Farewell

The Health Sciences Graduate Program is excited to welcome five new students for the Fall 2019 session.

Rebecca Erker, PhD Student
Supervisor: Dr. Donna Goodridge

Mackenzie MacAuley, MSc Student
Supervisor: Dr. Franco Vizeacoumar

Nicolas Henao Romero, MSc Student
Supervisor: Dr. Jose Tellez-Zenteno

Phillip Radetzki, MSc Student
Supervisor: Dr. Camelia Adams

Valerie Caron, PhD Student
Supervisor: Dr. Sarah Donkers

We are bidding goodbye to four students who have successfully defended their theses, and wish them the best moving forward in their careers.

Tracy Danylyshen Laycock, PhD
Elham Rezaeisarlak, MD PhD
Adelaide Amah, MSc
Ziadeddin Al Baghdadi, PhD

Graduate Student Wellness

The College of Medicine acknowledges that there is growing concern over the mental health and well being of graduate students, and is committed to providing our students with support.

A research study by Evans et. al published by the Nature Biotechnology Journal in 2018 indicates that there is evidence to support a mental health crisis in graduate students. Their results suggest that graduate students are six times more likely to experience depression and anxiety than the general population.

On October 16th at 1:30 pm the Office of the Vice Dean Research will be hosting a special seminar intended to initiate a new perspective in our College, one where we prioritize the wellness of our graduate students.

This seminar is open to all students, faculty, and staff, and is **considered a mandatory component of the 990 seminar for Health Sciences graduate students.** In addition to a special presentation, two new initiatives will be announced related to graduate student wellness. More information to come at a later date.

Upcoming Events

- September 9th: Ali Mooshekhian MD, PhD Defense
 - “Effects of Low Field Magnetic Stimulation on Cognitive Impairment and Brain Pathologies in the Cuprizone Mouse Model of Demyelination”
 - Please contact ovdr.grad@usask.ca if you would like to attend
- October 16th: Special Wellness Seminar
 - 1:30 pm
 - Details to come
 - Mandatory for HSC graduate students
- November 5th: HSC 990 Research Day
 - 1:00 – 4:00 pm
 - HLTH 1130
 - This is a requirement for HSC students, but the public are encouraged to attend

Feedback:

We welcome any feedback you may have regarding this newsletter and programmatic policies in general. Please send your thoughts to the program coordinator ovdr.grad@usask.ca or Dr. Cooper david.cooper@usask.ca