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Message from the Graduate Chair

It looks as if spring is finally here, and I think we are all enjoying the change in weather. Our office has also experienced some recent change. Over the past ten months we have been fortunate to have James Dobson filling in as our graduate program coordinator while Chantal Jantzen has been on parental leave. Unfortunately for us, but fortunately for James, he is moving on to a position in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences. I hope you will all join me in thanking James for the excellent job he has done for us over the past year. I certainly appreciate all the support and insights he has brought to the position and I am happy he is not going very far.

With the small gap in time between James' departure and Chantal's planned return in May we will not be filling this position. Rather, the ovd.grad@usask.ca web address will be monitored by the remaining OVDR staff. You may notice some slower response times during this transition period. That said, we expect no disruptions to daily activities and graduate student assistance. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the ovdr.grad@usask.ca and/or myself if a pressing issue arises.

With mid March here the CoMGRAD scholarship announcements have just been made. Other upcoming events include our second Health Sciences 990 research day on May 3, and we are planning an additional program annual meeting shortly thereafter (date yet to be set).

Dave Cooper

Congratulations

The Vice Dean of Research Office would like to recognize Cindy Deschenes, a Health Sciences PhD student, for her recent accomplishment. Cindy has been awarded the 2019 Indigenous Graduate Leadership Award. Congratulations Cindy!

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

Upcoming Events

- **March 28:** Dr. Elham Rezaeisarlak MD, HSC PhD Defense
 - “Clinical and Biologically- Based Approaches for Classifying and Predicting Early Outcomes of Chronic Childhood Arthritis”
 - Please contact ovdr.grad@usask.ca if you would like to attend
- **March 28:** Dr. Linda Hiraki MD, PhD
 - “Genetics of Childhood-Onset Systemic Lupus Erythematosus”
 - 4:15 pm, Room E1254 E wing HSC Building
 - This event is catered, please RSVP to jody.bothner@saskhealthauthority.ca or Jody at 306-844-1067
- **April 4:** Tracy Danylyshen-Laycock, HSC PhD Defense
 - “Examining the Relationship Between Leadership, Facilitation, and Short Term Sustainability of a Dementia-Specific Training Program in Rural Long-Term Care Homes”
 - Please contact ovdr.grad@usask.ca if you would like to attend
- **May 3:** Health Sciences 990 Research Day
 - More details to come
 - This is a requirement for HSC students, but the public are encouraged to attend as well

Feedback:

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