

Department of Chemistry Newsletter

Issue 1 (January), 2022



Irving K. Barber Faculty of Science, University of British Columbia
Syilx Okanagan Nation Territory

Announcements

Congratulations to:



Dr. Tamara Freeman, who is the recipient of the CIC national 2022 Margaret-Ann Armour Award for Early Career Chemistry Education.

"This award is presented in memory of Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour as a mark of recognition to an early career educator who has made an outstanding contribution in Canada to undergraduate education primarily at the post-secondary level in the chemical sciences, chemical engineering, or chemical technology."



Dr. Isaac T.S. Li, who is the new holder of the Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Single-Molecule Biophysics and Mechanobiology. He has also received the UBC Okanagan's JELF award (\$ 200,000) for investigating the mechanobiology of diseases at the single-molecule level.



Matthew McConnachie (Dang's group), who is awarded the Stober Foundation Graduate Award in Chemistry for his MSc study into understanding and engineering anticancer alkaloids from plants.



Susan Black on her retirement. Susan has been an integral part of the Dean's Office and Department of Chemistry's office for close to 15 years. Her contributions to our Faculty are greatly appreciated and she will be dearly missed! Thank you for everything Susan and may your retirement be full of laughter and adventure.

Welcome



Jessica Valentina Zarama Buritica starting her MSc, co-supervised by Dr. Gino DiLabio and Dr. Robert Godin.

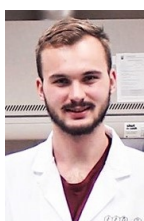
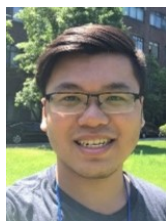


Hung Bui joining Dr. Thu-Thuy Dang's Plant BioCoRe group from the International University, a member of Viet Nam National University in Ho Chi Minh City.



Sutripto Khasnabis welcomed by Dr. Robert Godin's SolarSpec group. He is coming from the Ramaiah Institute of Technology, India, with previous experience in carbon-based materials, perovskites, and MXenes. He will be working to develop the transient absorption microscope tool we built in the lab and apply the technique to different types of materials. Welcome Sutripto!

Recent publications/presentations



Tuan-Anh M. Nguyen, Trinh-Don Nguyen, Yuen Yee Leung, Matthew McConnachie, Oleg Sannikov, Zhicheng Xia, Thu-Thuy T. Dang. Discovering and harnessing oxidative enzymes for chemoenzymatic

synthesis and diversification of anticancer camptothecin analogues. *Communications Chemistry* 4, 177 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42004-021-00602-2>

Happy (Solar and Lunar) New Year

Happy New Year!

In this first issue of the year, we would like to wish all Department's members and their families a very happy and prosperous year of 2022.

In addition to celebrating the new solar/Gregorian year, we are welcoming on this Tuesday (February 1st) the first day of the lunar new year, celebrated many people of East and Southeast Asian origins/descents including many faculty, staff, and students in our Department.

May the Year of the Tiger bring us all good health and successes!



We would like to express our gratitude for accessing the land on which we gather, work, and live from which is the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples.

If you would like to contribute to, or have any suggestions for, our Department's upcoming newsletters, please contact Thuy Dang (thuy.dang@ubc.ca) editor-in-chief or her 'assistant editor' Robert Szilagyi (robert.szilagyi@ubc.ca).