

# Department of Chemistry Newsletter

## Issue 3 (March), 2022



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

## Announcements

### Congratulations to:



**Prof. Susan Murch** was honoured by the Metabolomics Association of North America Women in Metabolomics (WomiX) Mentorship Award! This award recognizes the extraordinary efforts of a women in metabolomics, who has demonstrated strong mentorship and leadership skills and has made a large impact on other researchers in the metabolomics field.



**Ieva Zigg** was selected for the Chemistry Lab Coordinator Position in a competitive search from 41 applicants and 4 finalists. Ieva's past achievements, proven track record, and infectious enthusiasm placed her on the top of the list of many excellent candidates. She accepted the position and officially starts on April 11.



Graduate student **Matthew McConnachie** in the Dang group was awarded the NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's (CGS M).

**Greta Tödtmann** was awarded an International Undergraduate Research Award to support her work on a project in Prof. DiLabio's group to elucidate a novel PINOylation mechanism for the functionalization of toluenes.

**Shilong Pan** from the Li group received the NSERC CGS-M Scholarship.

**Will Filipski** (BS in BIOC of May 2021 and UTA for CHEM undergraduate labs) recently was hired as the Germ-free Animal Care Technician at the University of Calgary. His primary role is to provide animal husbandry and hygiene monitoring to germ-free and gnotobiotic animals housed in the U of Calgary facility. Will is very excited about the position and we look forward to hearing some good stories about his experiences in the future!

# Facilities/Instruments News

## Successful CRET 2022 Proposals:

The Office of the Vice-Principal, Research and Innovation awarded funding for all three Critical Research Equipment and Tools (CRET) proposals submitted from the department. Congratulations to

- Assist. Prof. Wesley Zandberg (SpectraFlow Dynamic Dialysis System – Repligen, \$12,423),
- Assist. Prof. Robert Godin (Optical setup for the characterization of powders, \$6,540), and
- Assist. Prof. Isaac Li (Ultra-Low-Temperature, -80 °C Freezers, \$57,624.00)

## News from Compute Canada/ Digital Research Alliance of Canada:

- Prof. Gino DiLabio was awarded 1,970 core-years of Compute Canada resources over the next year, worth \$244,407.
- Assoc. Prof. Robert Szilagyí received 1,231 core-years of allocation for March 2022-2023 period, worth \$166,523.

## Recent publications/presentations



Jennifer C. Davis, Eric Ping Hung Li, Mary Stewart Butterfield, **Gino A. DiLabio**, Nithi Sangunthanam, Barbara Marcolin: *Are we failing female and racialized academics? A Canadian national survey examining the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on tenure and tenure-track faculty* **Gender, Work, and Organization**, Feb 2022. DOI: 10.1111/gwao.12811



**Viki Kumar Prasad**, Alberto Otero-de-la-Roza, and **Gino A. DiLabio**: *Fast and Accurate Quantum Mechanical Modeling of Large Molecular Systems Using Small Basis Set Hartree–Fock Methods Corrected with Atom-Centered Potentials* **J. Chem. Theory Comput.** 2022 ASAP DOI: 10.1021/acs.jctc.1c01128



**Trinh-Don Nguyen**: *News and Views: Plant triterpenoid scaffolding: A tale of two cyclases.* **Plant Physiology**. 2022 188(3), 1408–1409 DOI: 10.1093/plphys/kiab598



**Assist. Prof. Robert Godin's** research is highlighted in the newsmedia:  
<https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/363764/Making-solar-tech-better>



**Dr. Lauren Erland's** botany podcast on Arctic native plant conservation, plant conservation techniques with agar for species in the Orobanchaceae Family and plant hormones: <https://plantsarepeopletoo.buzzsprout.com/1887646/10176231-episode-17-dr-lauren-erland-research-associate-at-the-university-of-british-columbia-kelowna-discusses-arctic-native-plant-conservation-plant-conservation-techniques-with-agar-for-species-in-the-orobanchaceae-f>

## News/Events

Biophysical Society of Canada meeting: [biophysicalsociety.ca/bsc-annual-meetings/current-bsc-meeting/](https://biophysicalsociety.ca/bsc-annual-meetings/current-bsc-meeting/)  
 Registration deadline is April 15, and Abstract Submission is April 30.

## Student affairs

**Mark your calendars for the Chemistry Undergraduate Thesis Defence and Research Conference at UBCO on April 12, 2022**

[https://lilab.ok.ubc.ca/event\\_2022.html](https://lilab.ok.ubc.ca/event_2022.html)

### Thesis Defence

Time	Student	Supervisor	Committee
8:30-9:00	Emily Knudson-Goerner	Zandberg	Nguyen, Shipley
9:00 - 9:30	Heather Ng-Cornish	Zandberg	Murch, Durall
9:30 - 10:00	Jessica Ollinik	Zandberg	Erland, Murch
10:00 - 10:30	Simona Mastroianni	Murch, Shipley	Erland
10:30 – 10:45	Break		
10:45 - 11:15	Olivia Dixon	Menard	Neeland, Shipley
11:15 - 11:45	Scott Stussi	Pranckevicius	Godin, Smith
11:45 - 12:15	Kadie Wert	Godin	Perry, Pranckevicius
12:15 - 12:45	Ziyi Zhang	Godin	Jack, Menard

## Chemistry Undergraduate Research Conference

**Location: EME foyer**

**Format: In-person poster presentation**

### **1:30 PM - 3:30 PM**

#1: Emily Knudson-Goerner

#3: Jessica Ollinik

#5: Olivia Dixon

#7: Brooke Kwan

#9: Ziyi Zhang

#11: Micah Yang

#13: Shilong Pan

#15: Arantxa Da Fonseca

#17: Amos Chua

#19: Guilherme Zandamela

### **3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

#2: Heather Ng-Cornish

#4: Simona Mastroianni

#6: Scott Stussi

#8: Kadie Wert

#10: Allison Leam

#12: Dyuti Raghu

#14: Darina Vekhova

#16: Alexander Fennell

#18: Emmanuella Oduro

#20: Julia Hansen

### **Award Announcement (5:00 PM)**

We would like to express our gratitude for the land on which we gather, work, and live, 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](mailto:thuy.dang@ubc.ca)) editor-in-chief or her 'assistant editor' Robert Szilagyi ([robert.szilagyi@ubc.ca](mailto:robert.szilagyi@ubc.ca)).