

# Department of Biomedical Sciences Newsletter

## From the Chair:

I wanted to extend my deep gratitude to the faculty, staff, and students as COM was forced to significantly decrease on-campus activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your understanding, patience, and hard-work during this time of transition is greatly appreciated. Hoping that everyone remains safe as we plan to return to campus for delivering the curriculum and slowly ramping up research.

## Newsletter

**Please** let me know, via email, accomplishments, publications, presentations, awards, grants, seminars, study section service, etc. for you and your laboratory. Send them to Russ Ferland as they happen, so you do not forget.

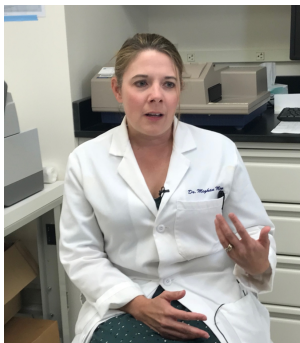
## Faculty meeting dates:

- June 23, 2020 @ 9:30-11am via Zoom
- July 28, 2020 @ 9:30-11am via Zoom
- August 25, 2020 @ 9:30-11am via Zoom

## Reminders

**Please remember to wear masks when on campus and moving inside buildings (and when you cannot safely have physical distancing).**

Feel free to send any agenda items for discussion at our faculty meeting to Russ Ferland.



**Meghan May, PhD** (left), a professor in the department, has been discussing SARS-CoV2/COVID-19 on multiple media outlets during the pandemic, in addition to working on gaining insights on coronaviruses through bioinformatic analyses of the sequence of SARS-CoV2 (and related coronaviruses).



**Frank Willard, PhD** (right), a professor in the department, was recently the keynote speaker at the 2020 Fascia Research Summit presenting a seminar entitled “Embryological development of visceral and pharyngeal fasciae” on May 20, 2020.

## AY 20-21 UNE COM Seminars (to date):

**Tuesday, August 18**

via Zoom, Noon (12 pm)

**Nicolas Tritsch, PhD**

Assistant Professor

NYU Langone Health  
Neuroscience & Physiology

“Dopamine neurons modulate the size of striatal projection neuron ensembles.”

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**PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A SPEAKER, OR INVITING ONE, TO PRESENT A RESEARCH SEMINAR TO THE UNE COMMUNITY THROUGH ZOOM IN THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR. OUR STUDENTS ARE STILL REQUIRED TO FULFILL THEIR SEMINAR ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT.**

## Spring-Summer 2020 COM Shared Governance:

COMFA

**Thursday, June 18**

Via Zoom, 12-1:30pm

**Thursday, July 16**

Via Zoom, 12-1:30pm

**Thursday, August 20**

Via Zoom, 12-1:30pm

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Congratulations to **Derek Molliver, PhD** for his successful promotion to Professor!

Congratulations to **Ramaz Geguchadze, PhD** for a successful third year Research Assistant Professor RPT review!

Congratulations to **Hwyda Arafat, MD, PhD** for being selected as the OMS-I faculty member of the year by the students!

A huge shout-out and thank you to **Drs. Rowe and Ly, and Drs. Willard, Frothingham, and Phillips**, for completing the herculean effort of organizing the OMKI and OCS1 course, respectively, when the courses were forced to go on-line due to COVID-19.

Thank you to **all of the faculty** who had to shift their lectures on-line and adjust their time due to COVID-19 considerations.

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<https://clipartix.com/retirement-clip-art-image-15775/>

Congratulations to **Barbara Winterson, PhD** on her retirement from UNE. Thank you for your service and commitment to UNE and the COM. We wish you the best!

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## [Faculty / Student / Staff Highlights:](#)

### [New Publications \(from PubMed \(links enabled in blue\)\)](#)

#### [Synovial Cysts Confounding Access to the Dorsal S1 Neural Foramen in Transforaminal Epidural Steroid Injections.](#)

El-Yahchouchi CA, **Willard FH**, Kaufmann TJ, Wald JT, Diehn FE, Geske JR, Maus TP.  
Pain Med. 2020 Mar 1;21(3):570-575. doi: 10.1093/pm/pnz298.

#### [Editorial: Emerging Cellular Stress Sensors in Neurological Disorders: Closing in on the Nucleolus and the Primary Cilium.](#)

Parlato R, **Tucker KL**.  
Front. Cell Neurosci. 2020 Mar 20;14:64. doi: 10.3389/fncel.2020.00064. eCollection 2020.

#### [Atypical Antipsychotic Medications Disrupt the Cardio-Metabolic and Cardio-Immune Axes.](#)

Rostama B, **May M**, **Houseknecht KL**.  
Interv. Cardiol. (2020) 12(2), 11-16.

#### [Letters to the Editor: Influence of Research on Osteopathic Medical Student Residency Match Success.](#)

Lowery JW, Hum JM, Obeime I, Zahl S, Parr CP, Larsen B, **King T**, Kisby G.  
J Am Osteopath Assoc. 2020 Jun 1;120(6):368-369. doi: 10.7556/jaoa.2020.057.

### [New Publications \(from bioRxiv \(links enabled in blue\)\) – not peer-reviewed but under peer review](#)

#### [Propranolol and parathyroid hormone synergistically improve bone volume fraction by suppressing resorption.](#)

Treyball A, Bergeron AC, Brooks DJ, Nevola KT, Hashmi H, Nagano K, Barlow D, **Houseknecht KL**, Baron R, Bouxsein ML, Guntur AR, Motyl KJ.  
bioRxiv 2020.01.08.898320; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.01.08.898320>

#### [Selectomic and Evolvability Analyses of the Highly Pathogenic Betacoronaviruses SARS-CoV-2, SARS-CoV, and MERS-CoV.](#)

**May M**, Rostama B, Relich RF.  
bioRxiv 2020.05.05.078956; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.05.078956>  
Currently, in review at *Science Advances*.

#### [Late Adolescence Mortality in Mice with Brain-Specific Deletion of the Volume-Regulated Anion Channel Subunit LRRC8A.](#)

Wilson CS, Dohare P, Orbeta S, **Ferland RJ**, Sah R, Scimemi A, Mongin A.  
bioRxiv 2020.05.22.109462; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.22.109462>  
Currently, in review at *eLife*.

## Regional/National/International Presentations

**Meghan May, PhD** gave a platform presentation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Zika Virus and *Aedes*-Associated Infections Conference entitled “Glycan Binding Specificity of Zika Virus Strains PRVABC-59 and MR-766” in February 2020 in Washington, DC.

**Tamara King, PhD** was invited to give a lecture, “Sex differences in the emergence of temporomandibular joint pain” to the Faculty of Dentistry at McGill University on March 25, 2020; however, it was canceled due to COVID-19.

**Meghan May, PhD** co-presented a community lecture entitled “Chronic pain and COVID-19: Navigating uncharted waters” as part of a webinar series for the U.S. Pain Foundation on April 7, 2020.

**Meghan May, PhD** presented an invited talk, “The Emerging Pathogen SARS-CoV-2: Origins, Evolution, and Latest Research” and panel discussion hosted by the Maine Osteopathic Association in May, 2020.

**Tamara King, PhD** was invited to give a lecture to the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, but was canceled due to COVID-19. It has been rescheduled for Spring of 2021.

## In the News

**Meghan May, PhD** has been on over 30 media outlets discussing COVID-19, such as the New York Times, Forbes, Business Insider, the Portland Press Herald, NPR (WBUR Boston), the Reader's Digest, and the Washington Post.

## Grant (study section) reviewers

**Russell Ferland, PhD** was a study section member and reviewed grants for the NIH's, “Acute Neural Injury and Epilepsy Study Section”, February 27-28, 2020.

**Tamara King, PhD** reviewed grants for the NINDS HEAL initiative (NIH) on the Special Emphasis Panel for “Discovery & Validation of Novel Safe and Effective Pain Treatment” in March, 2020.

**Ian Meng, PhD** was a study section member and reviewed grants on pain biomarkers for the NIH HEAL initiative in March, 2020.

**Tamara King, PhD** was a grant reviewer for the Louise and Alan Edwards Foundation's, Scientific Advisory Committee (Canada).

**Derek Molliver, PhD** will be serving on an NIH Special Emphasis Panel for the sensorimotor integration study section in June or July 2020 (TBD).

## Student Awards

**Dr. Kathleen Becker's** undergraduate student, Sydney Lang, who was chosen to present at the BioME Student Showcase (April 15, 2020) as a finalist. Sydney is a junior and one of the 15 undergraduates that were chosen. She has been working with Dr. Becker since the fall and this work has been funded through Dr. Becker's startup and mini-grant. Congratulations to Ms. Sydney Lang and Dr. Becker.

## New Funding:

**Meghan May, PhD** is part of a research project entitled "Ceftriaxone Prophylaxis to Reduce Early Onset Pneumonia in Cardiac Arrest Survivors", which is a part of the COBRE in Acute Care Research and Rural Disparities [PI Doug Sawyer, MMCRI].

## Other News:

**Derek Molliver, PhD** attended the 2020 NIH Pain Consortium Symposium on Advances in Pain Research focusing on "*Technologies for Improved Understanding and Management of Pain*" on June 3, 2020.