

Recent Events

INFORMATICS AND STATISTICS FOR METABOLOMICS WORKSHOP

Bioinformatics.ca through its Canadian Bioinformatics Workshops (CBW) organized a series of workshops during May and July. Dr. Tahira Fatima, of Dr. Lui's lab, attended a two day workshop on Informatics and Statistics for Metabolomics. Twenty-two participants from the U.S., Canada and UK participated in the intense workshop which introduced metabolomics, technology and software and featured guest lecturers, renowned for their expertise in the field. The workshop also allowed participants to practice using bioinformatic and chemoinformatic tools e.g., ChemoX and MetaboAnalyst for NMR, GC-MS data analysis and R for statistical interpretation of data. This workshop was very beneficial for Dr. Fatima and was made possible through the Educational Assistance funding from Western that is available for all full-time employees.

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Conference Activities

CONFERENCES



International
Organization for
Standardization

The group's 4th Plenary meeting of members of the International Standardization Organization (ISO) Technical Committee 249 "Traditional Chinese Medicine" was held in Durban, South Africa from May 20 to May 23, 2013. Ed Lui served as an expert member on: Working Group 1 – Quality and safety of raw materials and traditional processing, and; Working Group 2 – Quality and safety of manufactured TCM products.



The 12th meeting of the Consortium for the Globalization of Chinese Medicine (CGCM) was held this year in Graz, Austria from August 27-29, 2013. Dr. Ed Lui and Dr. Ratnesh Singh, a post-doc in Dr. Bakovic's lab, both participated in the conference. Dr. Lui was invited

co-chair of the Education Session and panelist of Herbal Resources (Cultivation & Quality). Dr. Singh presented a poster on the effect of North American ginseng in human metabolic syndrome.

The 10th Annual NHPRS Conference was hosted in Windsor, ON this year and was a great success for the OGIRC. Our sponsorship resulted in valuable exposure of OGIRC research to the NHP community. The OGIRC partnered with OGGA and displayed an exhibit in the main conference room enabling participants to read about the project and resulting publications as well as take home a sample of NA ginseng root provided by OGGA.

Representatives from Jamieson, Health Canada and the Canadian Health Foods Association were in attendance and took time to visit the OGIRC exhibit. Notable attendees were Dr. Lawrence Helson of Cornell University and Dr. Garth Nicholson of the Institute for Molecular Medicine.

Drs. Lui, Arnason, Brown, Karmazyn, Feng, Cechetto, Fatima and Sima Manifar gave oral presentations of their ginseng related research in various sessions throughout the conference. Robbie Li and Tomasz Dzialoszynski presented posters of their research. Chike Azike, PhD candidate from Dr. Lui's lab won a student oral presentation prize from the CIHR training program in Neurodegenerative Lipidomics.



News & Announcements

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Congratulations!

Dr. David Cechetto was awarded the 2013 Western Humanitarian Award for his work in rebuilding the shattered health care system in Rwanda.

Dr. Jesse Zhu of the Advanced Processing PTG, together with his colleague Dr. Hiran Perinpanayagam, was recognized by *Biomedical Materials* as having one of the best papers published within the past two years.

Dr. Ed Lui was nominated for both the Dr. Roger's Prize for Excellence in Complementary and Alternative Medicine and the Cheung On Tak International Award for Outstanding Contribution to Traditional Chinese Medicine.

The book chapter written by Dr. Lui et al, "Bioactive Polysaccharides of American Ginseng *Panax quinquefolius* L. in Modulation of Immune Function: Phytochemical and Pharmacological Characterization", published by InTech in the book, *The Complex World of Polysaccharides*, has been accessed over 1000 times.

Bryan Wong, a 3rd-year undergraduate student who was active working in Dr. Lui's laboratory and the central office as a work study student and volunteer, received an NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award, and has been working with Dr. Derek Mitchell in the Brain and Mind Institute over the summer in 2013.

Lijun Wang, Dr. Lui's Visiting Graduate Student, for completing her research in January 2013. Lijun has returned to Beijing to complete her studies at the Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences.

Sima Manifar, from Dr. Zhu's Advanced Processing PTG, for completing her Masters program in March 2013, successfully defending her thesis entitled: Flow Enhancement of Ginseng and other Fine Powders with Rotating and Conventional Fluidized Beds.

Dr. Lui's fourth-year students, who completed their programs in April 2013: Sara Asmail and Bryant Lam will both be pursuing graduate programs here at Western. Clayton Law will be attending UBC in the Education

program. Dr. Trevithick's fourth-year student, Brendan Caraher has completed his program as well.

Chike Azike for winning the CIHR Training Program in Neurodegenerative Lipidomics Research Scholarship at this year's 10th Annual NHPRS Conference in Windsor, Ontario.

OGIRC IN THE NEWS

TVO aired a documentary on an OGIRC partner, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine – Remote, Rural and Revolutionary – which focuses on the groundbreaking initiatives in teaching aspiring rural doctors to practice in underserved areas. The challenges are tremendous with scarce resources, huge responsibilities and the realities of remote community life, but results of the initiatives have been significant.

The London Chinese Press published an article on June 19, 2013 covering the 4th Plenary meeting of members of International Standardization Organization (ISO) Technical Committee 249 "Traditional Chinese Medicine" that was held in Durban, South Africa from May 20 to May 23, 2013. This meeting was held to discuss a variety of topics with regard to raw herb materials, processing, safety, and international standard in the field of traditional Chinese medicine. <http://www.londonchineseexpress.ca/node/1862>

OGIRC Facebook & Website

If you haven't visited our facebook, please take a moment to look us up, and "Like" the page at <http://www.facebook.com/OntarioGinsengInnovationAndResearchConsortium>.



Don't forget, the OGIRC website has a *Publications* page showcasing group members' publications. Let us know if you have publications that should be added to the page. <http://www.uwo.ca/physpharm/ogirc/>.

Upcoming Events



Ontario Ginseng Innovation & Research Consortium

IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE 2013 FOOD EDUCATION FEATURE:



Royal Agricultural Fair 2013

OGIRC will have an exhibit at For the Love of Food feature during the 91st Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto from November 1 to 10, 2013. The Fair draws in approximately 300,000 visitors annually with roughly 18,000 students visiting and learning from the educational exhibits and experiences. What a terrific venue to display our research for everyone who stops by!

On November 6th from 4-5pm, Dr. Ed Lui will represent OGIRC at the Chef's Station, preparing ginseng soup and discussing the importance of each ingredient in this healthful food. Full details about the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair 2013 can be found at <http://royalfair.org/>.

OGIRC Visiting Speaker

Tuesday, November 12, 3:00 – 4:30

MSB 212 (Physiology & Pharmacology Board Room)



Professor Simon Lee,
Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences, University of Macau, China

"From Omics to Drug Metabolism and High Content Screen of Natural Product in Zebrafish"

What's up with us!

A warm welcome is extended to:

Dr. Ian Welch with Western's Animal Care & Veterinary Services joined the OGIRC as a new collaborator in the Pre-Clinical PTG to continue efforts with Dr. Lui focused on ginseng's potential protective and anti-inflammatory effects.

We are pleased to welcome Jenny Ma and Kathie Baer to the OGIRC team. Jenny is working in Dr. Lui's lab as a research technician and Kathie is the new Knowledge Translation Coordinator in the OGIRC administrative office.

The lab has many volunteers and work study students for the 2013-2014 academic terms, and we're excited to have them all on board: Kouros Karimi-Shahri, Keith Lau, Mike DeDominicis, Maha Hoseh, Bonnie Hou, Richard He and Aaron Chen, Sam Lee, and Lisele Pereira. Also, welcome to Christal Huang and welcome back to Tharmitha Suyeshkumar, work study students assisting in the OGIRC administrative office.

Farewell to:

Al Hassan Kyakulaga, who finished his work in Dr. Lui's lab in December and returned to Makerere University in Uganda to continue his working towards his PhD.

Ma Ying, from Dr. Zhu's Advanced Processing PTG

We regretfully say farewell to Susan Underhill our Administrative Assistant in the OGIRC office. Susan has been an integral part of the OGIRC administrative team and will be greatly missed. She isn't moving far though, as she has accepted a position in the Pathology Department office.

We must also reluctantly say good-bye to Bryan Wong, who worked as a volunteer at our 2012 conference and during the 2012-13 academic year in our central office.

Many thanks go out to all the volunteers and work study students who assisted in Dr. Lui's lab over the 2012-13 academic and summer terms: Joy Hur, Paul Kim, Alvin Tieu, Natasha Bartlett, Michelle Lee, Jennifer Lim, Anthony Wong, Jacob Alex, Nicole Arseneau, Lawrence Chan, Nandana Ranatunga, and Kelly Chang.

Best of luck in all your future endeavours.

Journal Club & Departmental Seminar Series

Our first Journal Club of 2013 was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 with presentations by Guangyu (Robbie) Li from Dr. Noble's lab and Lijun Wang, Dr. Lui's visiting graduate student. Robbie's presentation was - The effects of American ginseng extracts on streptozocin-induced diabetic sciatic neuropathy in exercised Sprague Dawley rats. Lijun presented her research on - *In vitro* immune-modulation effect of polysaccharide fractions from American ginseng root.

On March 27, Journal Club presentations were given by Farida Akhter from Dr. Charpentier's lab, and Jing Tang from Dr. Feng's lab. Farida presented on - Advanced processing of Ginseng polysaccharides for controlled drug delivery. Jing's presented his research on - North American ginseng protects against cardiac dysfunction in mouse endotoxemia.

Also, on Monday, May 6, 2013, Chike Azike from the Pre-Clinical PTG presented at the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology Seminar Series – American Ginseng Root (*Panax quinquefolius* L.) Modulation of Immune Function and Phytochemical Characterization.

Questions or Comments?



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