



OGIRC Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring 2012

Recent Events

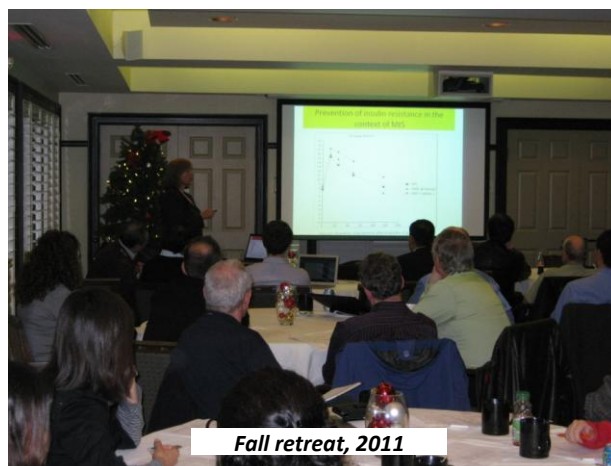
2011 Autumn Retreat

The OGIRC 2011 Autumn Retreat was held on 27 and 28 November at Windermere Manor in London, Ontario. The Retreat was well attended with all Platform Technology Groups represented by researchers, trainees and technicians. We were pleased to have many undergraduate and exchange students with us, as well as several proud parents.

As the project is in its fourth year, the Retreat focused on up-dates from the Platform Technology Groups giving a real sense of what has been accomplished, and what will be achieved by the end of Year 5.

Sunday's session consisted of presentations from researchers in the Pre-Clinical, Plant Biotechnology and Agriculture groups. A poster session featuring ten trainees wrapped up the afternoon and took attendees into the evening's reception.

Safety, Phytochemistry and Advanced Processing presentations started off Monday's sessions. The Annual General Meeting was held just prior to lunch and provided participants with an overview and highlights of Year 3. Outreach, education, financials and governance were all covered in the AGM.



Fall retreat, 2011

Monday afternoon offered an opportunity to hear presentations from three of our private-sector partners: OMAFRA, Jamieson Laboratories and A&L Laboratories.

A second poster session featuring nine students followed our private-sector partner presentations, and led into an informal Question & Answer session ably facilitated by Dr Marica Bakovic. Trainees gave short summaries of their research, and the group engaged in lively debate following the summaries.

The full retreat program is available at: <http://www.uwo.ca/physpharm/ogirc/docs/Agenda2011.pdf>

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The first meeting of ISO/TC249/WG-1 was hosted by the Institute of Chinese Materia Medica (ICMM) of the China Academy of Chinese Medicinal Science (CACMS) on

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December 12 and 13 in Beijing, China. Seven national member bodies participated with 18 delegates and 20 observers which comprised the ginseng project members and TC249 Secretariat. Dr Lui represented the Standards Council of Canada¹ as an expert on ginseng. He has submitted a status report on American ginseng in Canada to the WG-1 and was invited for a presentation at the meeting.

The scope of the work was defined as follows:

The Scope of WG-1 should be the standardization of materials and processes related to the quality and safety of raw materials used in TCM. The materials include plant, animal and mineral ingredients at any stage up to and including harvest of a plant ingredient and collection of an animal or mineral ingredient. The processes include seeding, cultivation, collection, processing, transportation, grading, packaging, labelling, marker compound testing, and contamination and toxin testing. The goal of WG-1 is to produce formal international standards for materials and processes related to the quality and safety of raw materials used in TCM. WG-1 should also be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and development of the standards.



Some of the top priorities are:

- Seed and seedling of Panax ginseng (Part I) and Panax quinquefolius (Part II)
- Standard for Panax ginseng, including dried and processed Panax ginseng
- Standard for Panax quinquefolius, including dried and processed Panax quinquefolius.

The work on panax ginseng (Part I) has already been initiated by the teams from China and Korea. Ed Lui will take the lead on Panax quinquefolis (Part II), which will undergo further discussion at the next plenary meeting in May 2012 in Korea. The leadership of Canada in

establishing the standards for American seed and seedlings will have a significant impact on Canadian ginseng growers, exporters, producers of NHPs and the user sector.

Note¹: The Standards Council of Canada represents Canada's interests globally as a member of two organizations that develop voluntary international standards: International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). SCC's membership in these organizations helps Canada stay connected with the international standards development community.

Outreach: Royal Agricultural Winter Fair – Toronto

With the assistance of the Ontario Ginseng Growers' Association (OGGA), the OGIRC exhibited at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair for the third year in a row in November 2011. The 2011 display was located in the Emerging Science booth in the Journey to Your Good Health section and was staffed by students from the University of Guelph. The ginseng exhibit featured a number of posters, pictures and hand-outs to provide fairgoers with an overview of the interdisciplinary nature of the project and ginseng agriculture in Ontario. Dr Ed Lui was on hand at the booth on Sunday, November 13 to provide interested fairgoers with additional insights and information.

News & Announcements OGIRC in the News!

In January 2012, a local CTV news feature focused on Ontario's decision to cancel rounds six and seven of the Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence program, as well as the special round for the Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities. Research funding from the Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence program will be reduced by \$42 million over the next four years.

Ed Lui and Dan Sinai, Western's acting associate vice-president (research), discussed the impact this decision would have on research in general and on Western in particular. Some of the savings generated from the cuts will be reallocated to the recently announced

Southwestern Ontario Economic Development Fund, as well as the older Eastern Ontario Economic Development Fund.

International Relations

In December 2011, a group of investors from China toured Western to learn more about Canada, Western and the possibilities for successful Chinese-Canadian collaboration in many fields. As part of the information package presented, the group were provided with details on the OGIRC, its research projects and North American ginseng, as well as samples of ginseng tea and Jamieson Laboratories' ginseng products.

Annual Progress Report

We wanted to provide a quick reminder that we will be requesting Annual Progress Reports from all researchers and trainees this month. Templates and instructions will be coming to you by email as well as posted to the OGIRC website. The ORF annual report is submitted each year to the OGIRC Governance Committee for recommendation and endorsement prior to the final submission to the Ministry of Research and Innovation in May.

What's Up with Us!

Best wishes for every future success to:

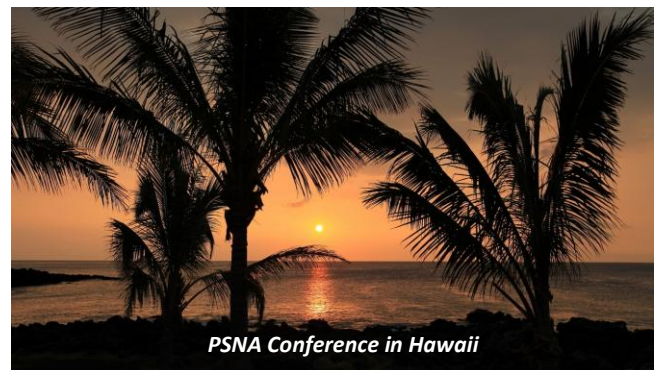
- Misagh Alipour, supervised by Dr Suntres at NOSM, who successfully defended his PhD thesis in January 2012. He is currently working on his postdoc at the University of Alberta researching the relationship between inflammatory bowel diseases and bacterial pathogens;
- Melissa Moey, supervised by Dr Karmazyn, who successfully defended her PhD thesis in November 2011. She is currently studying medicine at the Saba University School of Medicine in the Caribbean;
- Mehrbod Estaki, supervised by Dr Noble, who successfully defended his Master's thesis in January 2012. Mehrbod plans to continue with PhD study in Western Canada.

Joining the OGIRC team is Fatemeh Amirahmadi, a post-doctoral fellow, who will start work on the ginseng project with Dr Feng in April. We also will be welcoming Bryan Wong, a volunteer in Dr Lui's lab over the summer term.

Dr Ed Lui was selected to act as a professor-mentor for Kelly Lovell under the Scholar's Electives Program. This program demands students exercise initiative and innovation through research with a faculty member over the academic year. Kelly will be following Ed's research and shadowing him in the lab, conferences and meetings to build her research skill sets. Kelly hopes the current literature search into the anti-aging effects of ginseng will lead to a testable hypothesis and future thesis on the subject.

Conference News

The Phytochemical Society of North America (PSNA) held their 50th anniversary conference in Hawaii from December 10 to 15, 2011. The OGIRC was well represented at the conference by Ed Lui, John Arnason, Misagh Alipour, and Mao Jiang. Several hundred people from Asia, Europe and North American attended the conference which included 13 concurrent sessions and two poster sessions over the 6-day conference. Real interest was shown for the research being conducted by the OGIRC on North American ginseng, and the conference offered a tremendous opportunity to engage with other investigators in the field of natural product research.



Awards & Recognition

Congratulations to Megan Migchels (J. Ciriello) on her second place prize in the Cardiovascular-Pulmonary category at the 2011 Physiology & Pharmacology Poster Day on November 8, 2011.

Upcoming Events

International Conference: Cultivating Natural Bioactives for Health & Disease

The OGIRC is pleased to host an international conference this coming summer in London, Ontario, from July 8 to 11. The conference will focus on the cultivation and development of functional foods, therapeutics and health supplements from ginseng, Chinese medicines and other medicinal herbs, discoveries and cutting edge technologies

Questions or Comments?

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as well as strategies for standardization, globalization and safety. Initial details on the conference are included in the newsletter insert. Look for the conference website and full details coming soon!

Journal Club

We're looking forward to the Spring 2012 Journal Club sessions featuring presentations from OGIRC members that are sure to prove interesting and informative. All Journal Club sessions begin at 3:00 pm, and are held in the Physiology & Pharmacology Boardroom, MSB 212 A/B.

Friday February 17, 2012	Hoda Moazzen Pre-Clinical Dr Feng	Ganjian Zhao Pre-Clinical Dr Karmazyn
Wednesday April 11, 2012	Megan Migchels Pre-Clinical Dr Ciriello	Subhrojit Sen Pre-Clinical Dr Chakrabarti
Tuesday May 15, 2012	Danyka Belanger Safety Drs Feyles & Watson	Di Wu Plant Biotechnology Dr Brown
Monday June 11, 2012	Farida Akhter Advanced Processing Dr Charpentier	Robbie Li Pre-Clinical Dr Noble

Presentations

Megan J. Migchels, Waseem Iqbal, Jason M. Moreau, Scott. A. Messenger and John Ciriello.	Program No. 717.10/WW37. 2011 Neuroscience Meeting Planner. Washington, DC: Society for Neuroscience, 2011. Online.	Chronic North American Ginseng treatment following diet induced obesity alters the expression of Fos-related proteins in medullary cardiovascular areas.
Megan J. Migchels, Waseem Iqbal, Jason M. Moreau and John Ciriello.	Exp Biol, Washington, DC, 2011. FASEB J 2011 25:853.8.	Ingestion of North American Ginseng Decreases Circulating Levels of Leptin and Insulin.
Misagh Alipour, Abdelwahab Omri and Zacharias E. Suntres	Phytochemical Society of North America (PSNA)Conference, Hawaii, 2011 Dec 10-15	Synergistic effects between an aqueous extract of <i>Panax Quinquefolius</i> and tobramycin against <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> in a rat model of lung infection.
Mao Jiang, Edmund Lui and Earl G. Noble	Phytochemical Society of North America (PSNA)Conference, Hawaii, 2011 Dec 10-15	American ginseng acutely regulates contractile function of rat heart.
John T. Arnason	Phytochemical Society of North America (PSNA)Conference, Hawaii, 2011 Dec 10-15	Anti-diabetic potentials of ethanol and water extracts of 17 plants used by the Eeyou Istchee Cree first nations of Northern Quebec
Edmund Lui, Takeo Sakuma, Suma Ramagiri, Tom Moy and Carmai Seto	Phytochemical Society of North America (PSNA), Hilo, Hawaii, 2011 Dec 10-15	Study of North American ginseng metabolism in rats by LC-MS/MS
Mehrbod Estaki and Earl G. Noble	Canadian Society of Exercise Physiology (CSEP) Conference, Quebec City, October 2011	Differences in alcohol versus aqueous extracts of North American Ginseng in protecting against eccentric exercise-induced muscle damage in rats