Greetings from the PIR Ivey Research Chair...

I hope you all had a great summer and were able to take some time to relax and refuel! The PIR Administration team has been busy in planning mode. We are still working with our Advisory Committee to complete the PIR Strategic Plan. As you know, we want to ensure that this plan fully and accurately encompasses the needs and direction of PIR. I’d like to thank the Advisory Committee for working closely with us to make sure this is the case. We’re hoping to have the plan finalized in the fall.

Since last year’s PIR Open House was such an overwhelming success, we’ve decided to host another one. On November 30th, 2018 we will welcome researchers, staff, clinicians, patients and family, and members of the public to join us and learn a little more about the incredible research being conducted at Parkwood Institute. The planning committee for this event will begin meeting at the end of this month.

Given the generous feedback provided to us after our PIR Research Half Day in April, we’ll be increasing the event to a full day in April 2019. Planning for this event has already begun and we’re very excited to announce the theme of next year’s Research Day will be Mind, Body, Spirit.

Lastly, we’re in the early stages of planning a series of public events to increase the profile of our institute among the patients and family members we serve. These events will be conversational and interactive. We greatly appreciate the topic ideas many of you have already provided. Keep your eyes and ears open for an announcement regarding when these events will begin. If you’re interested in joining any of the planning committees for these events please let Julie Walsh, PIR Research Facilitator, Julie.walsh@lawsonresearch.com know as soon as possible.

All the best,
Cheryl
Welcome to all New Research Personnel!

Kevin Ojha will be joining Dr. Akshya Vasudev’s research team this September. Kevin will be completing a Master’s program in Neuroscience at Western University under the supervision of Dr. Akshya Vasudev and Dr. Lena Palaniyappan.

Riddhi Lakhani graduated from Western University with a Bachelor of Medical Sciences, Honors Specialization in Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences and a minor in Psychology. Over the next year Riddhi completed course work for a Clinical Trials Management diploma program offered by Western. As part of this program she joined Dr. Kamini Vasudev’s research team in June of this year to complete a practicum position. At Parkwood Mental Health Riddhi had an opportunity to work on several research projects lead by Dr. Kamini Vasudev or Dr. Akshya Vasudev. She will be completing her practicum at the end of September but hopes to return as a volunteer to continue learning about the field of clinical trials under the supervision of Dr. Vasudev.

Siddhi Lakhani will soon complete her practicum position with Dr. Akshya Vasudev and his research team as part of her diploma program in clinical trials management. She graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Medical Sciences degree from Western University in June 2017. As part of Dr. Vasudev’s team Siddhi has assisted with the study Alternative Treatments to Help Late-Life Depression. Through this practicum placement, Siddhi has been able to get a better understanding of the clinical trials process and wishes to further explore this field in the future.

Joel Mahon has recently completed an Honours Bachelor of Health Sciences degree with specialization in Biology from Western University. He was also the successful recipient of a Canada Summer Jobs Program grant for summer 2018, where he contributed to the lab and gained experience as a Research Assistant. Joel’s duties included supervising the SYNERGIC Trial’s weekly exercise intervention sessions at Western campus, as well as project support at Parkwood Institute for various ongoing research projects. In September, he will begin his MSc. candidacy in the Department of Kinesiology at Western, under the supervision of Dr. Montero-Odasso. Throughout Joel’s studies and his volunteer work with the SYNERGIC Trial, he has become interested in the relationship between physical and cognitive impairments in older adults, as well as how exercise affects this relationship. Over the course of his MSc. studies, he hopes to explore how mood and anxiety symptoms are affected by exercise interventions in older adults.
Erica Figgins will begin her MSc. candidacy in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Western University, co-supervised by Dr. Montero-Odasso and Dr. Mark Speechley. She recently completed her Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Behaviour Cognition and Neuroscience at the University of Windsor (2018). Through her participation in undergraduate research investigating treatments for Parkinson’s disease and her volunteer work with the Windsor-Essex Community Health Center’s Chronic Disease Management program, she became interested in how individuals are impacted by chronic diseases both physically and mentally. While her Master’s project has not yet been decided, Erica hopes to explore the epidemiological methods applied to explore the relationship between motor control and cognitive functioning in adult populations. Additionally, Erica is a successful applicant of the Ontario Graduate Scholarship for fall 2018.

Victoria Garay Airaghi
Victoria is a medical resident visiting the Gait and Brain Lab from Madrid, Spain as a medical observer, particularly, to improve her skills in medical research. Victoria’s rotation at the lab is for the month of August 2018, where she will be accompanying Dr. Montero-Odasso to observe patient management in the Canadian healthcare system and the links to current geriatric research. With this, Victoria will be investigating the associations between the ApoE4 genotype and falls in older adults with mild cognitive impairment.

Timothy Wong, MD is a Geriatric Research Assistant who is part of an on-going study on the Acute Care of the Elderly unit at Victoria Hospital. The research team under Dr. Niamh O’Regan is investigating a screening tool for the detection of delirium in older medical inpatients. He previously received his bachelor’s degree from Cornell University and his medical degree from Ross University. He hopes to obtain residency training and practice clinical medicine in the near future.

Welcome also to:

Andrea Lee, is a student at Western Health Sciences and worked as a summer research student; this is her third summer with us.
Danielle Vanderlaan, graduated from Western Health Sciences and is entering her second year of Respiratory Technology at Conestoga College in Kitchener. She worked as a summer research student; this is her second summer with us.
Nicholas Vanin is a medical student who worked with us as a summer research student. Nik was a key member of the Vanier Cup winning Western football student.
Mitchell Longval is a graduate student completing his Masters in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Having previously volunteered at Parkwood for 3 years, he is now working as a Research Assistant helping with clinical trials and the stroke evidence-based review.
Dr. Sarah Caughlin completed her PhD in Neurobiology from the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at Western in 2018. She started working as a summer research student in June and has since become a Research Associate coordinating clinical trials and studies.
Congratulations on these Notable Accomplishments...

Dr. Arlene MacDougall was selected to participate in the 2018 InterAcademy Partnership for Health Young Physician Leaders (YPL) Programme taking place in Berlin, Germany this October (11-16th). The YPL Programme occurs in partnership with the World Health Summit.

Dr. Robert Teasell has surpassed 10,000 citations on SCOPUS.

Deena Lala successfully defended her PhD ‘Defense from Evidence to Practice: A Systematic Approach to Implementing Electrical Stimulation Therapy for Treating Pressure Injuries in Community Dwelling Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury’. She is also the successful candidate to be granted the Parkwood Institute Research Award: Mary Elizabeth Horney Fellowship in Rehabilitation Research for 2018.

Stephanie Marrocco is the successful candidate to be granted the Parkwood Institute Research Award: Siskinds Studentship in Spinal Cord Injury for 2018.

Marilyn Ott, Casual Officer in charge at the Southwest Center for Forensic Mental Health, received her Doctor of Education (Leadership) from Western University in June 2018.

Laura Diachun received the 2018 Canadian Geriatrics Society (CGS) 2018 Peter McCracken Physician Innovator in Education Award. The award recognizes the accomplishment of a physician in geriatric medicine or care of the elderly and was presented to Dr. Laura Diachun at the 2018 Canadian Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting.

Shay Nejim, Research Coordinator at the Gait and Brain Lab, successfully passed her SOCRA examination and earned her CCRP designation.

Stephanie Cullen, first year MSc. candidate under Dr. Montero-Odasso’s supervision, who has been an undergraduate volunteer at the Gait and Brain Lab since 2016, was awarded the 2018-2019 Alzheimer Society London and Middlesex Master's Scholarship. The project submitted is in collaboration with Dr. Michael Borrie, using gait and cognitive assessments in the memory clinic. The applications were reviewed and the candidates were ranked based on relevance of their research to Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, academic achievement, and the written recommendations of referees.

Anish Naidu (Meds Class of 2019, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry) and SRTP awardee at the Gait and Brain Lab, was successful in the Annual Dr. Greta T. Swart Essay Competition, which is available to both undergraduate medical students and postgraduate medical residents at Western University. In his essay, titled, “I guess there is light at the end of the tunnel…”, he described an experience of his managing a patient with a developmental disability in the hospital system.

Nick Bray Gait and Brain PhD student, was awarded Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) for his doctoral thesis project. This project analyzes resting state brain MRI in participants who are enrolled in the interventional CCNA SYNERGIC Trial and is titled, “Can a multimodal intervention improve brain functional connectivity in older adults with mild cognitive impairment (MCI)? Results from the SYNERGIC Trial.”
Josh Titus
Second year MSc. candidate under Dr. Montero-Odasso’s supervision, was the successful awardee of The Joseph A. Scott Studentship in Mobility and Aging from the Parkwood Institute Research Student Endowments (PIRSE). Josh submitted his project, which examines blood biomarker in the CCNA SYNERGIC Trial participants, both pre- and post- five months of cognitive training and progressive resistance training combined with Vitamin D.

Dr. Hassan Haddad, one of our post-doctoral fellows at the Gait and Brain Lab, who is co-supervised by Dr. Rob Bartha, received the PIR-SE Research Fellowship in Care of Older Adults. The successful application was awarded for his project entitled, “Predicting Increased Fall Risk in Older Adults Combining Gait Performance and Structural Magnetic Resonance Neuroimaging”, which analyzes brain imaging in the Gait and Brain Study in older adult with MCI.

Joshua Wiener, who is a research assistant with the CORRE research group was accepted into graduate school for a Master of Science in epidemiology at Western University.

Dr. Dalton Wolfe, at the June 6th Faculty of Health Science Awards, Dr. Wolfe was recognized for his Excellence in Teaching. Over the last 7 years, Dr. Wolfe along with many clinicians (Dr. Laura Graham, also shown here, has been instrumental in this work) and patients have developed unique, applied learning experiences for students across the Western Schools of Health Studies and Kinesiology as well as students within the Physical and Occupational Therapy programs. A key method has been the explicit integration of teaching with clinical and research activities within Parkwood Institute where practice-based research and implementation science are in use. Students are exposed to research to practice (R2P) methodologies in which participatory, inclusive approaches are employed as a means to promote rehabilitation innovations that improve patient outcomes while enhancing clinical practice.

Also in the news:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

As many of you know, it can be challenging to receive approval from Western’s Research Ethics Board in a timely manner. In an attempt to remedy this issue, the PIR Advisory Committee has suggested that it may be helpful to have members of our institute serve on the board, ensuring the expertise necessary to review the type of research conducted at PIR is available. Please let Julie Walsh, PIR Research Facilitator (Julie.walsh@lawsonresearch.com) know if you are interested in serving on the board, as she will be forwarding a list of potential volunteers on to Research Western.
Gait and Brain Seminar: Special Topic Presentation with Dr. Michele Callisaya

The Gait and Brain Lab welcomed Dr. Michelle Callisaya from the University of Tasmania (Australia) for a special topic presentation on Monday July 16, 2018. She presented her talk “Falls in older people – don’t let the brain trip you up” in a full auditorium, which was followed by a lively discussion.

Left to Right: Alanna Black, Shay Nejim, Dr. Yanina Sarquis-Adamson, Stephanie Cullen, Josh Titus, Dr. Manuel Montero-Odasso, Dr. Michele Callisaya (guest speaker), Dr. Susan Muir-Hunter, Nick Bray, Korbin Blue, Dr. Frederico Faria.

“BIIGAJISKAAN: INDIGENOUS PATHWAY TO MENTAL WELLNESS”
Promoting intergenerational healing for Indigenous peoples and their families

Indigenous peoples in Canada have experienced a long history of institutional harms, initiated through the residential school systems, and later with Indian hospitals and Inuit Sanatoria serve as important examples. To redress these institutional harms, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada has called on healthcare institutions specifically to build culturally safe care, and offer traditional healing services for Indigenous patients as an ‘act of reconciliation,’ wherein “collective efforts from all peoples are necessary to revitalize the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and Canadian society” (TRC Report, 2015, p.1). Through The Journey Together, Ontario has partnered with Indigenous communities to address the legacy of residential schools, close gaps and remove barriers, support Indigenous culture, and reconcile relationships with Indigenous peoples. Through this partnership, an new initiative has evolved between St. Joseph Healthcare London’s Parkwood Institute Mental Health site and the Wulaawusiikaa Healing Lodge to provide Indigenous communities with mental health and wellness care using a broad range of treatment models, including mobile and community-based to support treatment for mental health and/or addictions issues, using a combination of Traditional Healing and clinical care. This program will be developed with leadership from the Indigenous communities in London and surrounding area over the next year, and has been identified as the Biigajiiskaan (pronounced bee-jah-geese-kaan) Indigenous Pathway to Mental Wellness. Over the next three years, it is anticipated that this program will expand the hospitals mental health model of care through enhanced access to culturally safe care spaces within and outside of Parkwood Institute Mental Health and through the addition of traditional healing options for Indigenous peoples and their families throughout their journey towards mental wellness.
While the Biigajiiskaan Program is under development, a traditional healing space is being created on F2 of the Parkwood Institute Mental Health building, and can be viewed by contacting the Program Lead Bill Hill at (519) 455-5110 Ext 47554, or by email at bill.hill@sjhc.london.on.ca. It is anticipated that there will be a soft launch of this program in the late fall 2018.

This is the structure used for a Sweatlodge ceremony – one of the most important ceremonies used by many Indigenous peoples as part of Traditional Healing

OPERATIONAL STRESS INJURY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTRE

We are celebrating this new opening! Congratulations and welcome to following people will be working in this new Innovative Centre!

*Scientific Director*: J Don Richardson, MD, FRCPC
*Research Associate*: Callista Forchuk, Msc
*Advance Research Associate*: Kate St. Cyr, Msc
*Research Associate*: Renee Hunt
*Administrative Assistant*: Nicole Snake
Grants & Research Funding

Principal Investigator: Teasell R.
Study Title: Stroke Rehabilitation Evidence-Based Review. Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery
Year: 2018 - 2019
Amount: $75,000

Principal Investigator: Teasell R.
Study Title: The Rehabilitation Evidence to Knowledge Project III (REKAP 3). Lawson Internal Research Fund Pilot Study
Year: 2018 - 2019
Amount: $15,000

Principal Investigator: Dr. Cheryl Forchuk
Study Title: No Fixed Address Version 2 Expansion (NFA v.2x)
Year: 2018-2019
Amount: $223,572

Co-Investigator: Dr. Montero-Odasso
Study Title: Effect of medication, dual-tasking and asymmetry on the cortical brain activity during gait in older people with Parkinson's disease.
Year: 2018-2020
Amount: The São Paulo Research Foundation – FAPESP. Funded for $12,500 USD

Principal Investigator: Dr. Laura Diachun
Study Title: How Residents Perceive and Enact Goals of Caring and Curing in Older Medical Patients.
Year: 2017 - 2018
Amount: Margaret Banks Grant - Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Total: 5,000

Principal Investigator: Dr. Laura Diachun
Study Title: “Curing Vs. Caring: How do residents manage expectations of caring and curing when looking after older adults”
Year: 2017 - 2018
Amount: 9,000

Principal Investigator: M. Borrie
Study Title: Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroimaging Initiative-3 (ADNI-3)
Year: 2018 – 2021
Amount: 300,000
Need seed funding for your project?

Applications are now being accepted for Lawson’s Fall 2018 Internal Research Fund Competition. 

**The IRF Pilot Study Competition** supports new and experienced scientists with:

1. Startup operating funds to obtain preliminary data.
2. Bridge funding or as a means to get your research back on track.
3. Pursuing a novel research direction, leading to an application to an external funding agency.


Guidelines and application forms are available on Lawson’s intranet website.

Deadline is October 15, 2018

For more information or if you have questions, email internalresearchfund@lawsonresearch.com.

**Presentations/Invited Lectures**

**LAST QUARTER**


JUNE


Sharma, V. Assessment and Treatment of Bipolar Disorders. London Clinical Psychology Residency Consortium, London, ON June 6, 2018


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-LAW64QAJc&list=PL6RT4kOfme0vyKRcPVbnc77pLrc7mOmU


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeiDqBbG17U


Teasell R. Lessons learned from CPSR telerehabilitation projects. Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery Annual Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, June 12, 2018


JULY


Akshya Vasudev - Invited Lecturer, Role of meditative practices in well-being, Windsor Essex Economic Development Council, Presenters, July 9, 2018 Oldcastle, Ontario, Canada

Forchuk C. Smart Technologies for Mental Health Management. ICoNS of Scarf 2018, Chennai, India. August 30 – September 1, 2018


PUBLICATIONS


Pieruccini-Faria F, Sarquis-Adamson Y, **Montero-Odasso M.** Mild Cognitive Impairment Affects Obstacle Negotiation in Older Adults: Results from "Gait & Brain Study". *Journal of Gerontology.* 2018 (In press)


Sakurai R, Bartha R, **Montero-Odasso M.** Entorhinal cortex volume is associated with dual-task gait cost among older adults with MCI: Results from the Gait and Brain Study. *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences.* 2018 May 15. doi: 10.1093/gerona/gly084. [Epub ahead of print]


*Contributed equally as first author.


**Sharma V.** Al-Farayedhi M, Doobay M, Baczynski C. Should all women with postpartum depression be screened for bipolar disorder? Med Hypotheses 2018 Sep; 118: 26-28. (Epub June 20, 2018)

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS


MEDIA

Expert, Invited by CBC Radio to present on the role of meditation and meditation applications. Program was aired between end of May and June 2018 on 30 channels across the country, CBC Radio, Presenters: Akshya Vasudev, 2018 May 23, London, Ontario, Canada

Laura Diachun – Interview - CTV Television Segment Interview, Age sensitivity suit. Healthcare professionals experience what it’s like to be an elderly person living with age related diseases. @CelineMoreauCTV reports https://london.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1338336

Dr. Montero-Odasso was featured in the St. Joseph’s Health Care Imprint (Vol 19, Issue 4), highlighting his reception of the “Dr. Gilbert Research Contribution of the Year Award” at the Lawson Impact Awards, celebrated on April 18 at the London Convention Centre.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12th Annual Accessible/Modified Vehicles Show & Pizza Social

Happening Soon!
Mark your calendar for the 12th Annual Accessible/Modified Vehicles Show & Pizza Social at Parkwood Institute on Wed, Sept 12th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. On display will be modified vehicles from both local vendors as well as individuals/consumers in the community.
Contact information:
Michael Genereaux
Phone: (519) 685-4292 ext 42121
Email: michael.genereaux@sjhc.london.on.ca

Save the date for the next installment of our seminar series: The 12th annual Gait and Brain Seminar will be hosted at the Mental Health Auditorium (Parkwood Institute, London ON; OTN #88848824) on Tuesday October 16th, 2018 at 2PM. The guest speaker will be Dr. Richard Camicioli, Professor and Director of the Cognitive Neurology Program at the University of Alberta, and he will present his talk entitled “Gait and Cognition: Cause, Effect, Both or Neither”.

Please watch for information on registering for next year’s FULL DAY PIR Research Day – Friday, April 26, 2019!
This year’s theme is Mind, Body, Spirit.

Mark your calendars for London Health Research Day 2019!!
London Health Research Day (LHRD) provides a forum for learners to showcase their innovative work and engage in networking opportunities with peers, faculty and industry leaders. A special keynote lecture presented by a world-class scientist will also take place as part of The Lucille & Norton Wolf Health Research Lecture Series.
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2019