

## Monthly Report to the Provost – Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science (FoS) has the following to report for the months of **June-August 2023**:

### Engaging Learners

**Drs. Lauren Erland** and **Renee Prasad** are collaborating with BC Ministry of Agriculture on a 2-year project to examine susceptibility of new blueberry varieties to blueberry scorch virus. The project has engaged four current students in the Agriculture Technology Diploma or BAS degree (**Alan Kelly, Caitlin Smits, Stephanie Laframboise, and Thomas Johnson**). Data collected from the project can also be used for teaching AGRI 203 and AGRI 323.

**Dr. Golfam Ghafourifar** and seven of her research students (**Rajan Deol, Dario Jereb, Harmanpreet Kaur, Maor Arad, Zach Nestman, Manjot Benning, Ronald Balagtas**) attended/presented at the Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition (CSC 2023) held in June in Vancouver. **Zach Nestman** won an award for honorable mention in the analytical chemistry division's undergraduate competition. This is the third year in a row we won the analytical poster presentation for undergraduate students. **Maor Arad** won the annual Undergraduate Research Excellence Award at UFV earlier this year and **Manjot Benning** won the first-ever UFV Alumni Association's Outstanding Student Leader award. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2023/08/17/the-ghafourifar-lab/>

**Dr. Lucy Lee** and three of her research assistants (**Ryan Goldbach, Mari Austadt** (visiting PhD student from Norway) and **Daylan Pritchard**) attended/presented at the Society for In Vitro Biology meeting (SIVB) held in June in Norfolk, Virginia. **Ryan Goldbach** won an SIVB travel award and Mari Austadt placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Student Oral Presentation competition for the in vitro animal section (IVACS). See list of presentations below for details.

Science Rocks! Summer camp 2023 <https://ufv.ca/science/science-in-the-community/science-rocks/> saw our best attendance yet! This was the first year since we began that all 6 camps were full. In fact, we increased our numbers from 24/camp to 26 due to a record number on our waitlist. A huge thank you to our Team Leaders **Mary Ann Thomas, Semir Hasic, and Cole Zaniol**. Our leaders were brand new this year and really put their hearts into it. Thanks to **Sirjan Singh** and **Dario Jereb** who volunteered throughout the summer. Each week we had a Faculty on Call to assist the leaders and welcome the campers and their parents. Special thanks to the following faculty members for volunteering their time over the summer:

- **Dr. Robin Endelman**, Math & Stats Associate Professor and Science Rocks Coordinator was on hand for her week as Faculty on Call but also oversaw the entire summer program. He also stepped in as Faculty on Call for two weeks. He also assisted with the campers at both the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses every week.
  - **Dr. Jeff Chizma**, Physics
  - **Dr. Longlong Huang**, Math & Stats
  - **Dr. Ruwan Karunanayaka**, Math & Stats

In May, **Dr. Stefania Pizzirani**, Associate Professor Planning, Geography & Environmental Studies program participated in a school-

## Transforming Lives

The FoS had a record number of new hires including our new **Dean of Science, Dr. Michael Hitch**  
<https://blogs.uflv.ca/science/2023/07/19/faculty-of-science-is-pleased-to-welcome-our-new-dean-dr-michael-hitch/>

- **BIOLOGY:** Assistant Professors **Drs. Yvonne Dzal, Mitra Tabatabaee, and Marina Tourlakis** | Lab Instructors **Natallia Varankovich and Jennifer Barrett.**
- **MATH & STATS:** Assistant Professors **Drs. Almaz Butaev and Serhii Myroshnychenko.**

The Equine Media Awards recognized **Shelagh Niblock's** article on "**Practical Nutrition for Donkeys**" with an award for third place in the Horse Care category. Shelagh covers this and other equine related topics in AGRI 238. Congratulations Shelagh! <https://www.horsejournals.com/horse-care/feed-nutrition/practical-nutrition-donkeys>

Congratulations to the following faculty

On June 20, **Dr. Renee Prasad** (Agriculture) gave a presentation to the PoCo Garden Club entitled **Know Your Allies: Beneficial Critters in your Garden**. The PoCo Garden Club has been a supporter of the horticulture portion of the Agriculture Technology Dept since 2001. They donate 50% of the profits of their annual garden club plant sale to the dept. <https://pocogardenclub.wordpress.com/current-events/upcoming-events/>

**Drs. Javad Hadian** and **Renee Prasad**, along with current students **Alan Kelly**, **Stephanie Laframboise** and **Caitlin Smits**, and Agriculture Technology diploma grad **Gabriel Camparmo** participated

Bols, N., Lee, L.E.J., and Dowd, G. 2023. Distinguishing between ante factum and post factum properties of animal cell lines and demonstrating their use in grouping ray-finned fish cell lines into invitromes. *In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology-Animal* 59:41-62. Selected as journal highlight in the *In Vitro Report* April-June 2023 <https://www.sivb.org/InVitroReport/issue-57-2-april-june-2023/journal-highlights-22/>

Bols, N., Lee, L.E.J., and Dowd, G. 2023. Delineating Ante Factum and Post Factum Properties of Animal Cell Lines and Using Them to Organize Fish Cell Lines into Invitromes. Invited talk. Society for In Vitro Biology annual meeting. Norfolk, Virginia, June 10-14, 2023