



# Department of Biology Newsletter

January 11, 2016

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

## Congratulations Dr. Rossi Marx



Congratulations to Dr. Rossi Marx, who has accepted the position of Board Member on the Science Fair Foundation BC.

The post came as a result of Dr. Marx's involvement with the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair (VIRSF) since 1989, where she served as judge for 15 years, before becoming co-chair in 2004 and chair since 2005.

Every year, VIRSF brings 215 to 230 participants from grades 4-12 from public and private schools, as well as home-school children, from as far north as Nanaimo. Dr. Marx feels lucky to have had the opportunity to work with a group of very dedicated volunteers, who all strive to make the fairs a success year after year.

Dr. Marx's involvement with the fair and her dedication to the students, teachers and parents have played a role in her being awarded the University of Victoria President's Distinguished Service Award in 2014 and the Youth Science Canada Distinguished Service Award in 2015. Dr. Rossi also became a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International in 2015.

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## Upcoming Seminars. Everyone Welcome!

### Chemistry

**Francoise Winnik**  
University of Montreal

"Tailor-cut polymer colloids and interfaces: from design to applications"

Friday, January 14, 2016  
at 11:30 pm ECS 116

### Biochemistry & Microbiology

**Dr. Angelika Niemz,**  
Keck Graduate Institute,  
Claremont CA

"Point of care nucleic acid testing for infectious disease diagnosis in low resource settings"

Friday, January 15, 2016  
at 1:30 pm ECS 124

### Division of Medical Sciences

**Dr. Austen Milnerwood**  
UBC

"Shaking things up; etiological modelling, redefining Parkinson's Disease and hope for neuroprotection"

Friday, January 22, 2016  
at 2:30 pm MSB 150

### Biology

**Dr. George Rose**  
Memorial University

"A brief history and new insights into the great Northern Cod stock off Newfoundland and Labrador"

Friday, January 29, 2016  
at 2:30 pm MSB 150

## Calendar

### Important Dates:

**Thursday, January 14**

**Sunday, January 17**

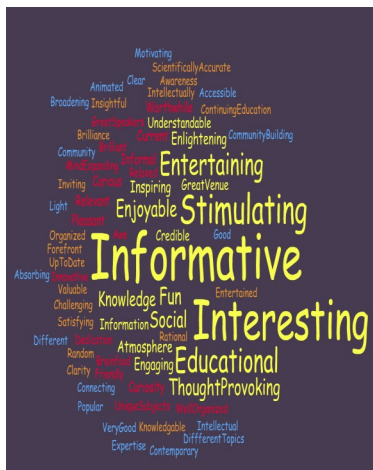
**Wednesday, January 20**

**Sunday, January 31**

Last day for course changes for Faculty of Law  
Last day for 100% reduction of second-term fees for standard courses. 50% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date  
Last day for adding courses that begin in the second term  
Last day for paying second-term fees without penalties



## Café Scientifique



### Café Scientifique Faculty of Science

Presenter: Dr. Tom Reimchen, Department of Biology, UVic

“A Global Super-Predator”

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 6:30 pm

This is a free event hosted by the Faculty of Science, Seating is limited so please reserve at:

<http://www.astro.uvic.ca/~pritchet/CafeSci/>

### Café Scientifique Centre for Biomedical Research

Presenter: Dr. Patrick Walter, Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Biology, UVic and Children's Hospital, Oakland Ca.

“Iron Overload: Why too much of a good thing can be bad”

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 6:30 pm

For more information contact: [cfbr@uvic.ca](mailto:cfbr@uvic.ca) or call 250-472-4067

or visit: <http://cbr.uvic.ca/science-and-society/cafe-scientifique>



All Café Scientifique take place at Hermann's Jazz Club 753 View Street

For all Café Scientifique Series visit: <http://www.uvic.ca/research/learnabout/home/news/cafe/>

## Mock Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)

UVic Career Services is once again offering the very popular Mock Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) sessions on January 15, 29 and February 26, 2016. These practice sessions help UVic students and alumni who have been invited to interview for medical schools, physiotherapy, pharmacy, and other health related programs that use the MMI format for assessing applicants.

- UVic Students and Alumni who have received a letter/email inviting them to a MMI style interview are eligible to participate
- There are no charges for these sessions
- It may be possible to arrange an individual practice sessions (one-on-one Mock MMI questions) if the group sessions are full or have already taken place



To register for a Mock MMI, eligible students and alumni can contact UVic Career Services: [careers@uvic.ca](mailto:careers@uvic.ca) or 250.721.8421.

For more information visit:

<https://www.uvic.ca/coopandcareer/assets/docs/coretool/MMIs.pdf>

## UVic Events

### **Diversity Research Forum 2016**

Critical Conversations: Reconciliation and Resurgence.

Using the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report as a springboard, this year's conference explores our diverse and intersecting connections with each other as settlers, immigrants and Indigenous peoples. Engage in interactive sessions on mental health, decolonization, allyship, and global and Indigenous perspectives.



#### Featuring:

\*Keynote speaker Chancellor Shelagh Rogers

\*Plenary speakers include Paulette Regan, Director of Research (TRC) and Aimée Craft, University of Manitoba

\*Victoria premiere of documentary short *Mia* with special guests filmmakers Amanda Strong and Bracken Hanuse Corlett

\*Display of artwork by residential school survivors

\*Presentations by Diversity Writing Awards and Spoken Word Contest winners

When: January 21 and 22, 2016

Where: First Peoples House and Student Union Building

Everyone welcome: Students, faculty, staff and community members. FREE registration.

Sponsors: Campus Security, Human Resources, Office of Research Services and Student Affairs

Register now!

For more information visit: <http://www.uvic.ca/diversityforum/>

### **Islands in the Sky. Tales of exploration from place of many floors**

Join Dr. Neville Winchester for a Celebration of Ancient forests Biodiversity.

For fifteen years, University of Victoria entomologist Dr. Neville Winchester and a team of graduate students, conducted ground-breaking research into the unknown ancient forest canopy ecosystems of the Walbran valley, unveiling a unique world of biodiversity found nowhere else on earth.

Where: Student Union Building Upper Lounge

When: Friday, January 29 at 6:30 pm

All are welcome. Admission by Donation.

Co-sponsored by Friends of Carmanah/Walbran and UVic Biology Undergraduate Society (BUGS)



Did you know the UVic Retirees Association puts out a quarterly newsletter? Visit their link below for more information

<http://web.uvic.ca/retirees/newsletters.html>



## NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA)

### NSERC Applications

The NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) are intended to stimulate students' interest in research and to encourage them to consider graduate studies and pursue a career in research. The USRA has a value of \$4500 plus supervisor's contribution (minimum \$1125). Students must complete a 16 week consecutive term. The start dates are May 1, September 1 or January 1. The USRA can count as a co-op work term. **The Application deadline to apply is February 1 of each year.**

For more information about application procedures and frequently asked questions visit:

<http://www.uvic.ca/science/biology/assets/documents/Awards/USRA%20info%20sheet%2015%20for%20website.pdf>

## Science Undergraduate Research Awards (SURA)

### SURA Applications

Summer research can be an important and enjoyable part of an undergraduate experience, and can also be helpful in deciding whether to pursue research as a career. A fund initiated and sustained by an endowment provided by the estate of the late Eva Moody allows the Faculty of Science to provide a number of competitive awards each year to undergraduate students who want to do research in the summer.

The award is directed at undergraduate students who wish to carry out a research project during the summer under the supervision of a Faculty member in Science at UVic. **The Application deadline to apply is February 15 of each year.**

For more information, a complete description of the award and procedures visit:

<http://www.uvic.ca/science/assets/docs/SURA-application.pdf>

## Graduate Student Opportunity

### Vancouver Island University, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and University of Victoria

Vancouver Island University, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the University of Victoria are conducting a collaborative project to investigate microplastics in British Columbia's coastal ecosystem. This project will determine the presence, types and extent of microplastics in shellfish and their surrounding environment and investigate the impacts of microplastics on animal health and function.

The student will have the opportunity to work with the shellfish industry, non-profit, government and university researchers in a range of disciplines including ecology, contaminants, genomics and aquaculture. We are looking for an enthusiastic, self-motivated student that is organized, conscientious and has experience working in both field and lab settings and is keen to work with multiple stakeholder groups. Experience and/or knowledge in shellfish biology, contaminants, aquaculture and GIS would be an asset. Prospective candidates should be competitive for NSERC scholarships. The successful applicant would start in January 2016.

If you are interested in applying, please send a single document that combines:

1. A cover letter outlining your research interests, relevant experience and your interest in this project,
2. CV and
3. University transcript copies to Dr. Sarah Dudas at [Sarah.Dudas@viu.ca](mailto:Sarah.Dudas@viu.ca)

Please ensure that your family name is at the start of the file name (as in Smith\_John.docx). Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. <http://www.ecologicalinteractions.com/>



If you have an event or story you would like to share in the Biology Newsletter, please e-mail: [biology@uvic.ca](mailto:biology@uvic.ca) or [bioclerk@uvic.ca](mailto:bioclerk@uvic.ca)

## 2016 IUBMB Conference

### IUBMB Conference (International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)

Signalling Pathways in Development, disease and aging.

#### **Conference July 17 to 21, 2016, Vancouver, BC**

The IUBMB unites biochemists and molecular biologists in 77 countries. Aims to promote research and education in biochemistry and molecular biology world-wide, especially in areas where the subject is still in its early development.

The IUBMB seeks to advance the international molecular life sciences community by:

- \*Promoting interactions across the diversity of endeavours in the molecular life sciences.
- \*Creating networks that transcend barriers of ethnicity, culture, gender and economic status.
- \*Creating pathways for young scientists to fulfill their potential.
- \*Providing evidence-based advice on public policy.
- \*Promoting the values, standards and ethics of science and the free and unhampered movement of scientists of all nations.



Registration and Accommodations: on-going  
Abstract Submission deadline: March 4, 2016  
Abstract Notifications deadline: April 1, 2016  
Early Registration deadline: April 15, 2016  
Regular Registration deadline: May 27, 2016  
Late Breaking Abstract Submission deadline: May 27, 2016  
For more information visit: [IUBMB2016.ORG](http://IUBMB2016.ORG)

## Other Universities

### University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta

The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is recruiting Graduate Students to become the next generation of cutting-edge researchers. Research projects available in: Infection, Bioinformatics, Cancer Biology, Organ Regeneration, Cardiovascular Disease.

Apply now for the 2016 Entrance competition, shortlisted candidates win a free trip to Calgary for interview in March 2016.

[ucalgary.ca/bmb/recruits](http://ucalgary.ca/bmb/recruits) Deadline of this special Competition: January 31, 2016



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### University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC



The Michael Smith Labs present their MOLECULAR BIOLOGY WORKSHOP, 2016 Spring Session, at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

One week version—Molecular Biology Workshop, April 4 to 8, 2016 (\$1500)

This intense 5 day workshop will focus on a myriad of different techniques used in the molecular manipulation of DNA, RNA and protein, as well as inclusion of lectures of high throughput genomic techniques. Primarily aimed at researchers who are new to the area, familiar but require a quick updating, or would like more practical bench training.

<http://www.bioteach.ubc.ca/portfolio/professional-courses/>

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