

## Vision and Plan for BIRC

1. First and foremost, to be a champion of city-wide collaborative research and training. BIRC should work to catalyze innovative and unique collaborations between Imaging and other research groups at Western and Lawson. We need to identify departments/faculties with which to forge closer ties and initiate collaborations. We can use our existing partners to bring more departments and faculties into BIRC through memberships. The following groups are part of BIRC and are comprised of various departments (outside of Medical Biophysics), as listed:
  - Brain and Mind: Psychology, Computer Science, Biology, Physics, Anatomy/Cell Biology, Physiology/Pharmacology, Psychiatry, Clinical Neurological Sciences
  - Molecular Imaging: Biochemistry, Chemistry, Anatomy/Cell Biology, Pathology, Micro/Immuno
  - Bone and Joint: Engineering, Social Science, Health Science, Business
  - Engineering: Biomedical, Electrical & Computer, Mechanical and Material
  - The Directors/Chairs of each of these programs will be tasked to recruit new members, and to invite speakers from other faculties to give talks and discuss collaborative opportunities.
  - We will actively promote new Imaging faculty members to the Grand Rounds of clinical departments
  
2. To actively and equally promote all Imaging research teams/programs in London, Ontario. We need to establish a presence on social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram for visibility, and develop a communication strategy that includes science advocacy and public engagement.
  - We can use the speaker series to promote Imaging research equally across all research teams across the city. One idea to promote teams of researchers would be to do a “team talk”, with collaborators each presenting their work in the same time slot.
  - We desperately need to update the website and we absolutely need a social media presence to recruit young people (students and scientists), to promote our research and activities, and to strongly advocate for science. We need to use Twitter to promote our science to our colleagues and to the public. We should not be shy to use our expertise to call out pseudoscience and to actively advocate for evidence-based policymaking. We will strongly encourage all BIRC members to keep lobbying the federal and provincial governments for support for fundamental scientific research.
  - Using the CIHR’s “Café Scientifique” as a model, BIRC should hold 1-2 public lectures per year in the London community.
  
3. To be a Canadian and global leader in the promotion, adoption and integration of principles of equity, diversity and inclusiveness into the strategic plans of our Imaging programs. I will lead BIRC to:
  - Work with the co-director and executive director of BrainsCan and the directors of Lawson Imaging and Robarts Imaging in implementing the [AthenaSWAN](#) charter into our

Nominee: Savita Dhanvantari

strategic plans. “We acknowledge that academia cannot reach its full potential unless it can benefit from the talents of **all**.”

- - Co-sponsor the Inspiring Young Women in STEM conference
  - Develop a database of female Imaging scientists and promote this database to regional, national and international conferences. Many international societies are developing these databases, such as American Society for Cell Biology, World Molecular Imaging Congress, Society for Neuroscience, Cell Symposia, Academia.net, 500womenscientists
  - Develop a relationship with Indigenous Services at Western and encourage Indigenous students to enroll in our Imaging research programs. Integrate an Acknowledgment of Traditional Territories into all BIRC-sponsored activities
  - Collaborate with Lawson in having imaging patients and people with lived experience providing input for research and share their stories
  - Develop a conference code of conduct for BIRC-sponsored conferences, and help integrate training in equity, diversity and inclusion into the core competencies in our affiliated graduate programs
4. To train and educate the next generation of Imaging scientists in state-of-the-art imaging technologies.
- Make the Collaborative Graduate Program in Molecular Imaging the signature graduate education program of BIRC. It is one of the most successful Collaborative programs at Western and BIRC would be its natural home.
  - Use BIRC, Molecular Imaging, MSK and other programs as recruitment tools to attract the best and brightest students
  - Continue to hold and sponsor educational workshops. We will make this more of an open process. At regular intervals of the year, a Call for Workshop Proposals will be sent to all BIRC members
  - Assist the Chair of Medical Imaging in the organization of London Imaging Discovery Day as a forum to present both clinical and basic science research in Imaging
  - Have a student exchange program where students from BIRC can go to another lab in North America or Europe to work and learn, and their student counterparts can come to London and work and learn
5. To generate revenue and plan budgets.
- In response to Dean Strong’s letter of 3 May 2017, I will work with the Dean to consolidate the Schulich contribution to BIRC at \$30K, and ask Drs. David Hill and Frank Prato to contribute \$30K from Lawson. Additionally, BIRC should be receiving contributions from Engineering which should be equivalent to that from Schulich and Lawson if they want to be an equal partner. I would like to see more involvement from other Schulich departments, but that will be a challenge since budget allocations to BIRC from other departments do not exist, and there were no increases to the base departmental budgets for 2018-19.
  - As per Dean Strong’s letter, the next budget cycle will be for a 5-year term (2019-2024).
  - I will draft budget guidelines for BIRC-sponsored workshops, conferences, and speakers