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Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

To be an international leader in anatomy and cell biology education and research.

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A Message from the Chair

Happy New Year and best wishes to everyone for a healthy and fulfilling 2015! What better way to start the year than with the introduction of our quarterly newsletter? Each issue will report on the many highlights, initiatives, and events in the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology. With an undergraduate student base of approximately 600 students, along with 30 trainees and some amazing researchers, there is a lot to tell! Our breakout issue puts the spotlight on some of our best news stories of 2014, along with a focus on what is to come in 2015. We hope you enjoy reading our stories as much as we like sharing them with you. All the best,

Craig Mandato, Chairman, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

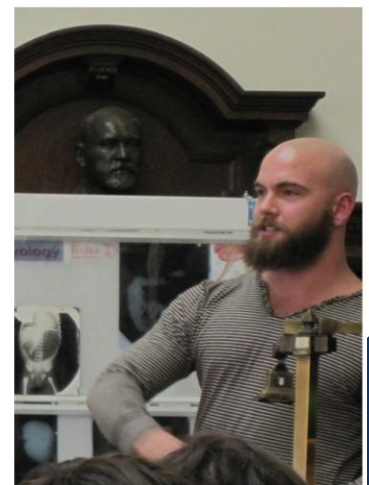
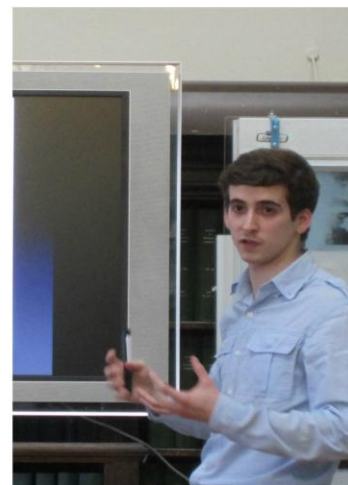


Students Paul Simon and Elliot Byrne present their research.

Memorable Moments from 2014!



Having fun at the Anatomy & Cell Biology Christmas Party, 2014!



Department staff and graduate students, 2014.



Our undergraduates raised over \$1500 for the Heart 4 Heart Charity during the annual Anatomy Bake Sale!



Dr. Yves Clermont, a pioneer in the field of stem cell research and long-time member of the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology, was honoured by McGill on October 18, 2013, as the Strathcona Histology Laboratory was renamed in his honour.

Sadly, Dr. Clermont passed away a year later, on October 10, 2014. We will remember him for his dedication, passion, and kindness.



Dedication ceremony of the Dr. Yves Clermont Histology Laboratory.

Looking Forward to 2015...



The Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology would like to wish a warm welcome to the newest member of its teaching and research team: **Assistant Professor Dr. Khanh Huy Bui**! Dr. Bui comes to us from the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zürich, Switzerland, and his research focuses on the structure, function, and assembly of the eukaryotic flagella. We eagerly look forward to working with you, Dr. Bui!

MACSS

We are proud of our undergraduate student association, the McGill Anatomy & Cell Biology Students' Society (MACSS), which has taken on the initiative of supporting future undergraduate students in their studies! MACSS is creating an endowment that will grant awards recognizing academic excellence in undergraduate studies in Anatomy & Cell Biology. Congratulations, MACSS! These awards will go a long way to help our talented students of the future achieve their academic goals!

Recognitions

We are pleased to announce that the following students earned the title of Doctor of Philosophy in Cell Biology in 2014:

Dr. Elizabeth Lawrence

“Mitochondrial dynamics in mammalian cytokinesis”

Dr. Daniel Oropeza

“Exploring novel mechanisms of pancreatic B-cell development, dysfunction, and survival”

We are delighted by the arrival of **Dr. Geoffroy Noël** (PhD, University of British Columbia) in April, 2014. Dr. Noël has joined us as Director of the Division of Anatomical Sciences, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology. This is a newly created division within the Department, designed to address the expanding and diverse demands on services provided within the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry, as well as external to McGill.



The Future of Our Anatomy Laboratory



Did you know that more than 1,100 McGill students, spanning 4 Faculties and 19 courses, use our Anatomy Laboratory every year? The “Anat Lab,” as it is affectionately called, is at the heart of the historic Strathcona Building, just as it is at the heart of the student experience in Anatomy & Cell Biology.

For many of our students, the experiences they obtain in the Anatomy Lab spark a genuine passion for future careers in medicine and the sciences. It is here that the Faculty of Medicine begins its mission to train professionals who are not only technically competent and possess a deep understanding of the 3-D relationships within the human body, but also emotionally equipped to provide compassionate patient care. It is here, too, that we begin our work of fostering empathy, clinical detachment, team leadership, communication skills, and interdisciplinary team work—qualities that the University has always pledged to develop in the future leaders of the world.

McGill has always been at the forefront of medical research and education, and our commitment to excellence helps the University serve our community as well as attract the most competitive and promising students year after year. In order to make sure that the Anatomy Lab remains relevant to modern

medicine and research, however, **major renovations are needed to modernize the Anatomy Laboratory and ensure our department’s position at the top of medical training programs.**

The Anatomy Laboratory today remains to a great extent structurally unchanged since it first opened its doors in 1909. Similar to the recent Arnold and Blema Steinberg Medical Simulation Center, a remodeled Anatomy Lab would include recreations of surgical suites and procedure room environments. Such an addition would support learning across the continuum of medical education and would allow basic dissection work to be placed in more complex, realistic contexts. The renovation would preserve this dissection-based curriculum with a low student-to-cadaver ratio, which has made McGill University so successful in the past. A modernized space would also have enhanced multimedia capacity, which would enable interaction between students and health professionals, providing networked capability to dynamically share and manipulate media such as imaging and pathology reports. Lastly, a new Anatomy Laboratory would offer a state-of-the-art working environment to continue carrying out research projects to develop innovative biomedical technologies and test new medical and surgical procedures.

Fundraising efforts are currently underway for this exciting project! If you would like to donate and be a part of this important undertaking, please visit us online at www.mcgill.ca/anatomy/support. More information on this renovation, including an architectural rendering of the proposed plans for a modern, state-of-the-art Anatomy Laboratory, will be available in our next issue!

Sincerely,

Geoffroy Noël, PhD

Director of Anatomical Sciences Division
Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology
McGill University