Message from the Chair

As the warm days beckon us out of doors, and another academic season draws to a close, we reflect on an exciting year in our Department and look forward to the many new activities and initiatives awaiting us in the coming months. With an active academic recruitment process well underway, the continued developments for renovations in our Anatomy Laboratory, and the myriad of new faces in the halls of the Strathcona Building, it has been a year of change and continued success. To our graduating class, I would like to congratulate the 115 outstanding students leaving the department this year and embarking on the next chapters of their lives. Thank you for your hard work, your friendly smiles, and your time with us in Anatomy and Cell Biology. To all members and friends of the Department, I wish you a happy and productive summer.  

Craig Mandato, PhD

Celebrating Our Graduates: Convocation Wine & Cheese

This year’s undergraduates of Anatomy & Cell Biology will receive their hard-earned diplomas at the Faculty of Science Convocation, to be held on June 6th at 10:00 am (Lower Campus). Immediately following the ceremony and beginning at 12:00 pm, all students are invited along with their families, friends, and loved ones to the annual reception hosted in honor of our successful graduates. Cocktail food and wine will be served—come one and all!

Body Donor Program: Annual Commemorative Service

The Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology and the Faculty of Medicine are indebted to the generosity of the individuals who choose to make the invaluable contribution of body donation for the advancement of medical study and research. In honor of this gift, the Department hosts an annual Commemorative Service for the loved ones of the donors, featuring reflections and readings composed and presented by first-year Medicine students. This year’s Commemorative Service and reception will be held on Wednesday, June 15, at 2:30 pm in Redpath Hall. The Department would also like to take this opportunity to thank our administrative and technical team for their year-round efforts toward the coordination and administration of the Body Donor Program, in addition to their invaluable assistance with the Commemorative Service. We also wish to recognize Emerita Professor Dr. Sandra C. Miller for her many years of dedication to the organization of this important event, for this will be Dr. Miller’s final year coordinating the ceremony.

Academic Membership

Many members have joined the Department over the course of the winter semester, and we are pleased to welcome them to the family! Dr. Nicole Ventura (PhD, Queen’s) has been appointed as Assistant Professor/CAS, after joining the Department as an Academic Associate in 2015 (picture left). Additionally, Drs. Patrick Freud, Gregor Andelfinger, and Philippe Campeau have been appointed as Adjunct Professors.
A Growing Family: Faculty Recruitment
The Department is pleased to announce that the recruitment process for two new academic positions—one senior, and one junior—will be finalized in the coming weeks. Interviews were conducted over the past semester for associate professor and assistant professor positions affiliated with department’s Facility for Electron Microscopy (FEMR). Many highly-qualified candidates were interviewed from within Canada and the United States, and the Department is presently in negotiations with two shortlisted recruits. A third recruitment initiative, also in conjunction with FEMR, will be launched over the summer months.

Getting Some Fresh Air: Our Annual Research Retreat
The Department is delighted to once again host a research retreat for faculty members, graduate students, and select undergraduates, to be held this year on June 22-23 at Mont-Gabriel Hotel, set in the natural splendor of Ste-Adèle, Québec. This two-day event, packed with discussion and poster presentations, is a great opportunity for our graduate students to share their research and receive feedback from their peers and mentors. The McGill Anatomy & Cell Biology Graduate Students’ Society is pleased to announce that this year’s keynote speaker for the retreat will be Dr. Jean-Claude Lacaille of the Department of Neuroscience at the University of Montreal. We especially wish to thank graduate students Kimberley Gauthier and Icten Meras for their tireless contributions to the organization of this anticipated retreat.

Passing the Torch: Anatomy for Surgeons
2016 marks Dr. Dennis G. Osmond’s 40th year of instruction—and the 16th year as Emeritus Professor—of the Anatomy for Surgeons course. This highly-regarded course, which provides a basis in practical human anatomy for surgical practice, will henceforth be taught by Dr. Geoffroy Noel, Director of the Division of Anatomical Sciences. We thank Dr. Osmond for the decades of outstanding instruction he has provided to hundreds of clinicians.

Awards & Distinctions
The Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology congratulates the following faculty members and students:

- ETH Zurich 2016 Medal for Outstanding Doctoral Theses, FRQS (Fonds de recherche du Québec) Postdoctoral Fellowship, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Fellowship: Dr. Dawei Sun (Rouiller Lab, picture left)
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) 2016 Grants: Dr. Huy Bui, Dr. Craig Mandato
- Louis Hermo Undergraduate Award for outstanding academic performance at the undergraduate level in Systemic Human Anatomy (ANAT 214): Halima Schede
- Hershey Warshawsky Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Histology: Alfiya Mukharyamova
- John Bergeron Scholarship: Noreen Mohsin (picture left)