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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

Congratulations to all on our recently completed semester! I hope that this year was a fruitful one both academically and personally. The department is heading into some exciting times with the renovation of the anatomy labs, which includes the purchase of brand new dissection tables. This year we also undertook an exciting new initiative, bringing science into elementary school classrooms. Two of our professors earned faculty awards, and Dr. Miller was given a commemorative brick in honor of her professional career. Finally, as we say goodbye to some familiar faces, we welcome a new faculty member: Dr. Nicole Ventura will be joining us as an Anatomist/Academic Associate.

Craig Mandato, Chairman, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology



Robert L'Heureux reaches his twentieth year with the department of Anatomy and Cell Biology!

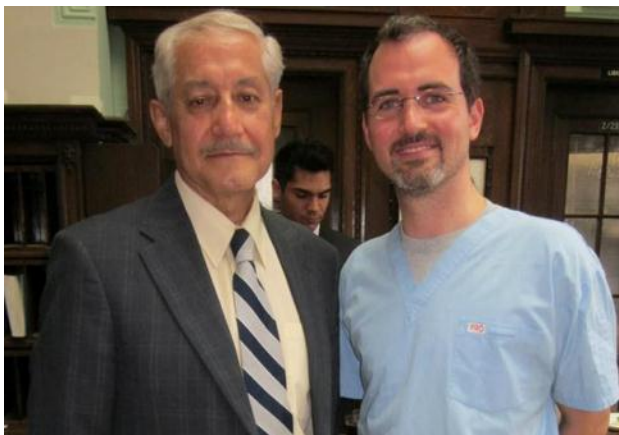
Memorable Moments from 2015!



Students attend a talk by Dr. Raghu Kalluri, this year's student-invited speaker.



(Below) Award winners Dr. Morales, and Dr. Noël pose for a photo at the convocation wine and cheese.



(Below) Dr. Morales receives the Leo Yaffe Award for excellence in teaching.



This year, 130 students graduated from Anatomy and Cell Biology in the Honors, Major, or Liberal Anatomy programs. Subsequent to the convocation ceremony, students and their parents were invited to attend a wine and cheese on the second floor of the Strathcona building.

The wine and cheese was exceptionally well attended this year. The families of students were given an opportunity to meet professors, while the students had a chance to say goodbye to their colleagues and academic mentors within the department.

During the ceremony, Dr. Mandato honored two of the professors who received awards this year. Dr. Noël received the *Sir William Osler award*, granted to the professor who has made the greatest impact on the careers of final-year medical students. Dr. Morales received the *Leo Yaffe Award* for excellence in teaching!

(Above) Graduating students attend the convocation wine and cheese.

The end of an era...



The 2014-2015 academic year was Dr. Miller's last year teaching in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. After completing her graduate studies at McGill, Dr. Miller joined the faculty in 1978, where, over the course of her career she would win five major awards: the *Osler*, *C.A.M.E.*, and *Faculty of Medicine Honors List* awards for teaching, and the *Murray L. Barr*, and *J.C.B. Grant Senior Scientist* awards for research. In her 37th year teaching here, she wound up her pedagogical stint instructing students in Respiriology and Cardiology. However, Dr. Miller will continue to be a presence in the Strathcona building, where she became the first woman in the history of the department to have a commemorative brick installed in her honor. Of her 37 years on staff, Dr. Miller did not spend a single one without research funding. Her latest studies involved immunity enhancement research, specifically in terms of battling cancer. This body of work has given her, *inter alia*, four filed patents. Some of her recent research has also gone to clinical trials in the United States. Working tirelessly, Dr. Miller will not let her emeritus status slow her down: she continues to write up her research five days a week, as you'll see if you stop by her office on the ground floor of the Strathcona!

One of the cardinal ways in which Dr. Miller continues to contribute to the Department is through organizing the Annual Commemorative Service for families and friends of those who generously give their bodies for studies in health science at McGill. This year's ceremony took place on Wednesday June 17th in Redpath Hall.

Recognitions

We are pleased to announce that the following students earned the title of Doctor of Philosophy in Cell Biology in 2015:

Dr. Shahrzad Rafiei,

“The Intimate Interplay between Prostate Cancer and Bone “

Dr. Dominic Maier,

“Uncovering the roles of G-protein-coupled kinase 2 in the Drosophila Hedgehog (Hh) signaling pathway”

Anatomy Lab News



We are delighted to announce that a proposal put forth by the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology to secure funds from McGill's TLS-Teaching and Learning Services, has proven successful! TLS is funding the purchase of 58 state-of-the-art dissection tables, at a cost of approximately \$500,000. The new dissection tables will no doubt enhance the lab experience for our students and medical residents through an improved dissection environment.

Delivery and installation of the dissection tables will take place through the summer 2015, in time for the academic year. Many thanks go out to TLS and to Drs. Daniels and Noël for their dedication to this project!

Plans are also in the works for having the scaffolding in the Anatomy lab removed. This has been long overdue and will be a welcome improvement to the flow and lighting in the lab.

To learn more about this, read [Dr. Mandato's interview](#) from the Faculty of Science Alumni Newsletter!

To make a contribution to the renovations please consult the following [web page](#).

unFROGettable

Our teaching mission reaches beyond post-secondary education! This spring, Dr. Mandato and his Research Assistant, Eric Boucher, visited a grade 2 class at a local elementary school to give a workshop on frogs. The visit included some very special guests: 5 of Dr. Mandato's *South African clawed frogs*, which he uses as part of his research program. Not only did the students give us a warm welcome (especially to the frogs!), they also astounded us with their knowledge of our amphibian friends. After learning a bit of how Dr. Mandato uses his frogs in his research, the students had a chance to get up close and personal with the frogs. And, in appreciation, make some fantastic 'thank you' notes to both the researchers and the frogs!

If you are interested in educational outreach opportunities with the Department, please don't hesitate to contact us at anatomysec.med@mcgill.ca

