From the Chair’s Desk

Dear MIMM members,

April is here and with it, the hope that the “neverendum” winter will go away!

Also here is the end of the 2013-14 Academic Winter Term, with Final Exams around the corner and Convocation soon after.

This month, allow me to use these few lines to praise our undergraduate students. We are very fortunate to have such an amazing group of bright and driven students in our department. They project the excellence of our department not only locally but abroad in laboratories in Germany or USA, or in the field in Africa or South East Asia. And with them, our work covers a new dimension. To all of the undergraduate students in Microbiology and Immunology, our sincere thanks.

I also would like to recognize the work that the Microbiology and Immunology Undergraduate Student Association, MISA, is doing to promote and nurture the departmental spirit, through many different activities. Our sincere thanks go to the executive MISA.

Finally, don’t forget to buy your tickets for the 3rd Annual MIMM GALA, this coming Friday, April 4/2014 at 6pm in the Faculty Club. More attendees than ever before and more to celebrate than ever before!

Yours in service,

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RESEARCH

Publications of the Month

PMID:24639298, [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]


**Faces of Excellence**

**Ms. Ireini Ghobri – Student Affairs Coordinator**

*What do you look forward to when you come to work every day?*

My job as a Student Affairs Coordinator entails different motivational factors that bring joy to me every day. I greatly value my daily interactions with people (students, faculty and colleagues). It is so rewarding to be given the opportunity to help others and make the students’ experiences throughout their university years as positive as possible. Tackling complicated and challenging issues is another motivational element for me. I find joy to be able to provide assistance and guidance to students throughout some of the university’s complicated processes.

*How long have you been with the Department?*

2 years and 7 month

**Service**

**Duff Biobar**

**BioBar Hours**

The Biobar has launched on our website and you can now place your Biobar orders online. The link to the Biobar order form can be found here: [http://www.mcgill.ca/microimm/research/duff-biobar/order-form](http://www.mcgill.ca/microimm/research/duff-biobar/order-form). If you have inquiries about products, an order you placed or about to place, do not hesitate to contact Mr. Tom Ringer at tom.ringer@mcgill.ca or at 514-398-3920. The Biobar website will be updated regularly with
new information, so please check it regularly.

The operating hours for the BioBar this winter term, will be between 9-12 and 1:30-4.

If you would like to get a list of products available at the BioBar, please contact Tom Ringer at tom.ringer@mcgill.ca.

Dr. Brian Ward received the following awards:

March 2014 - CIHR-Industry award ($197K/year for 3 years or $591K total)

Understanding the unusual effectiveness of plant-made VLP vaccines

April 2014 - MFEQ award ($3.1 million/year for 4 years or $12.3 million total)

Vaccins fabriqués dans les plantes pour protéger les personnes âgées contre les pneumonies virales

Ms. Shurley Sun, undergraduate student in our Department has been accepted into the RISE internship program in Germany this summer. Congratulations Shurley!

Ms. Annie Bernier from Dr. Selena Sagan’s lab received a 4-year Ph.D. Fellowship from the National CIHR Research Training Program in Hepatitis C (NCRTP-HepC). Congratulations Annie!

April 4th, 2014 - MIMM Annual Gala- We would like to inform you that our Annual MIMM Gala will take place on Friday, April 4th at the Faculty Club. Tickets are available for purchase in the MIMM main office, room 511 and the MISA office, room 423.

Winter Office Hours!
For the winter semester, the MIMM Administrative Office will have the following office hours: 8:30am-5:00pm, Monday to Friday. The office will remain closed during the lunch hour period of 12pm-1:30pm and will only be accessible via authorized card access.

Our Student Affairs department will be available as follows:
Ireini Ghobri  8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday to Friday
Jennifer Dimassimo  9:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday to Friday
IUMS- INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MICROBIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES- MONTREAL, QC- JULY 27-AUGUST 1, 2014

The International Union of Microbiological Societies will hold its three International Congresses (XIVth International Congress of Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology, International Congress of Mycology, International Congress of Virology) concurrently and will cover a wide range of information on microbiology. The deadline for submission of abstracts is January 30, 2014. To register or for more information about this conference, please visit http://www.montrealiums2014.org/.


Organizers: Craig McCormick (Dalhousie), Bruce Banfield (Queen’s) & Andrew Mouland (McGill). This conference will cover the rapidly evolving field of RNA granule biology and how it impacts human disease.

RNA granules can take many forms and perform numerous functions, but are generally large dynamic complexes found within cells that have been characterized to harbour factors that are important for gene expression, cellular metabolism, cell growth and survival. This conference will be relevant for infectious disease, cancer and neuropathologies.

You are all encouraged to submit any news, grants, papers, awards, pictures, or items that you want to include to our monthly newsletter. We will be happy to share them with the rest of the department. You can email them to office.microimm@mcgill.ca.