Dear MIMM members,

All of a sudden, we are in December with its end of the year connotations. 2013 has certainly been an exciting year. By now, we have a well-installed McGill Principal, Professor Suzanne Fortier. We are very happy to welcome her back to McGill and look forward to working with her.

I would like to call your attention to our webpage. Ireini and Beatrice have been working very hard on our communications strategy and it shows. Take a look at the amazing McGill in 80 seconds video on our home page! And guess our “cyberspace outreach” ranking... Email me your guess for a nice treat! The answer will be in the next Newsletter. It will be a reason to celebrate!

We are also getting ready for season celebrations. Do not miss the Departmental Holiday party on Friday December 13, 2013, at 6pm in Thomson House. It will be a Potluck dinner and plenty of Holiday Cheer and Spirit.

And, of course, on behalf of all my family, I would like to wish you and your families a very joyful and rewarding Holiday Season. May 2014 bring us all plenty of exciting opportunities and health and energy to fulfill them.

Yours in service,

Quim Madrenas

Publications of the Month


TEACHING

Dr. Sylvie Fournier and Dr. Claire Trottier are putting the final touches on the new Immunology lab course. This course will use a novel approach to allow students to create an experimental plan and carry out their own experiment with a set of available reagents and materials. It will be a very exciting semester!

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. 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.

For the holiday period, the Biobar will be closed from December 24th-January 2nd. Many companies have limited operation hours and therefore it is important that you place your order before December 16th to ensure the delivery is received by Tom. The Biobar has a promotion from December 4th – December 16th, if you place an order for $150 or more at the Biobar, you will receive a free box of chocolates.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drs. Andrew Mouland, Anne Gatignol and Mark Wainberg are part of a team of collaborators, who were awarded a $8.7 million project from CIHR. This is a national research project to cure HIV. The project is led by Dr. Éric A. Cohen, who is a researcher at the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal (IRCM). Congratulations!

Dr. Sophie Fougeray a Post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Martin Olivier’s lab received the Laureate des prix solennels de la Chancellerie des Universités de Paris pour l’année 2013. Congratulations! Félicitations Sophie!
On November 6th, Mathieu Gigoux successfully defended his PhD thesis, entitled “The role of inducible costimulator-mediated phosphoinositide 3-kinase activation in the differentiation and function of follicular helper T cells”. Félicitations Mathieu!

Sylvanne Daniels has successfully defended her PhD thesis on November 8th. The title of her PhD thesis was “TRBP as a target for HIV-1 mediated suppression of RNA interference”. Congratulations Sylvanne!

Jenny-Lee Thomassin successfully defended her PhD thesis on November 27th. The title of her thesis was “Antimicrobial peptide resistance mechanisms used by the Enteropathogenic and Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli”.

Holiday Office Hours!
The MIMM Administrative office will be closed from December 24th to January 2nd, inclusively.

Winter Office Hours!
For the winter semester, the MIMM Administrative Office will have the following office hours: 8:30 am-5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. The office will remain closed during the lunch hour period of 12 pm-1:30 pm 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
The Department Christmas Party will take place on Friday, December 13th at Thomson House. It is a Potluck dinner and will take place from 6-10PM. Please register online and don’t forget to add what you will be bringing.

IUMS - International Union of Microbiological Societies - Montréal, 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/.

Symposium Pre-Announcement: Stress-Associated RNA Granules in Human Disease and Viral Infection (Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 6-8, 2014). 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.