



## CHAIR'S CORNER



### A word from the MIMM Chair

Dear MIMMers,

I hope the beginning of 2017 is treating you well at both the professional and personal level. January is already behind us, the Winter term is well on its way and we are only three weeks away from reading week (February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 03<sup>rd</sup>).

The first MIMM annual Milestone Celebration event was held on Friday January 27<sup>th</sup>. Cake and bubbles were

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Alumni Wine & cheese

MISA is organizing a Wine & Cheese with alumni members on **Thursday, March 16th** from 5-8pm in the Bellini Atrium.



### Infection and Immunity Seminar Series

The [Department of Microbiology and Immunology](#) hosts its annual seminar series where prominent scientists are invited from world over to present their research within the scope of infection and immunity.

The objective of this series is to allow

served to highlight important career milestones. Please join me again in congratulating all MIMM members that got recognized for their loyal and hard work at McGill. The people that were celebrated are:

- Dr. Jörg Fritz (was granted tenure)
- Dr. Sylvie Fournier (15 years of Service)
- Dr. Hervé LeMoual (15 years of Service)
- Dr. Benoit Cousineau (15 years of Service)
- Dr. Greg Matlashewski (30 years of Service)
- Ms Aghdas Zamani (30 years of Service)
- Dr. Dalius Briedis (35 years of Service).

The Department of Microbiology & Immunology will participate this year in a fundraising campaign called “McGill-24”. This McGill-wide initiative consists of soliciting potential donors primarily through email messages and social media. Stay tuned for more information as we plan this fundraising campaign for our Department.

Finally, enjoy your MIMM February Newsletter and have a wonderful month.

All the best!

Ben

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## **STUDENT ASSOCIATION UPDATES**

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interaction between undergraduate, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and a worldrenowned investigator in the field of infection and immunity. The forum also provides participants with the unique opportunity to speak with outstanding scientists and colleagues, thus establishing a basis for future career opportunities and collaborations.

Scheduled seminar for the month of February:

February 16 - Dr. Jonathan Spicer

For a list of the winter semester seminars, click [here](#).

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

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Thomassin, J-L., Giannakopoulou, N., Zhu, L., Gross, J., Salmon, K., Leclerc, J-M., Daigle, F., **Le Moual, H.**\* and **Gruenheid, S.**\* (2017). Systematic analysis of two-component systems in *Citrobacter rodentium* reveals positive and negative roles in virulence. *Infection and Immunity* 85:e00654-16. \* Co-corresponding authors.  
[Read this article.](#)

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## **FACE OF THE MONTH**

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## MISA's corner

Hello everyone!

MISA is planning a lot of great activities for this semester. An important one to look out for is our annual alumni Wine & Cheese! Join us on **Thursday, March 16th 5-8pm** in the Bellini Atrium.

In other news, the **annual MIMM Gala will be held on Friday, March 31st at Cabaret Lion d'Or!** Tickets will be sold shortly in the MISA office (room 423).

Lastly, MISA is organizing the sale of more MIMM apparel this semester. We're selling clothing, mugs and stickers! Coffee will also be sold out of the MISA office while supplies last.



## **Year Wars**

This year, MISA organized **Year Wars**, an event created to strengthen the relationship between U1, U2 and U3 students and develop



## Face of the Month: Jasmin Chahal

### **Tell us about yourself**

I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> (almost 3<sup>rd</sup>) year Ph.D. student in Dr. Sagan's lab. My project includes investigating the role of microRNA-122 in the HCV life cycle.

Along with my research, I like to keep myself busy with extracurricular activities. I've been a TA for MIMM 212 for 3 years now and absolutely love it! I'm also one of the four coordinators of the outreach program called Let's Talk Science, which inspires and teaches youth about science using STEM activities.

I also try to be as active as possible. I try to swim and exercise every week. I've been playing soccer since I was four years old and I have no plans of stopping anytime soon!

**What do you like about the**



a sense of community. Three teams have been created and will battle it out all semester through organized group activities. The first event was a Dodgeball match where the U2 team took the win. The winning team will be getting a pizza lunch party and a trophy to commemorate the first annual Year Wars. More pictures can be found on the [MIMM Facebook page](#).



### **Life after your B.Sc.**

On January 25th, MISA organized a career day event tailored to science undergraduate students who wish to pursue careers in science-related fields outside of academia and medicine. A set of 5 guest speakers were invited of various backgrounds and career stages whom have followed diverse paths:

#### **Michael Shapiro, B.Sc., B.Eng:**

Has worked as an independent consultant/project manager for 20+ years. He works with academics and research groups alike (such as the Ontario Institute for Cancer

#### **department/the program?**

I like that I'm given the opportunity to teach. Being a TA in a lab course gives me the experience that I need to further my career in teaching. There are also teaching workshops that Dr. Trottier holds that not only welcome professors but also grad students. I also appreciate how approachable all the students and professors are in this program. Since the department is small, everyone gets to know each other on a more personal level.

#### **How are you involved in the department?**

I feel like we, as grad students, don't have much down time to do other activities and that can take a toll on our mental and physical health. So I try to plan as many social activities as possible. I try to get grad students involved with Let's Talk Science. I also planned pick-up soccer games in the summer with Giustino Carnevale, which was a great success. I try to make myself available for any support students need. I've published articles in Thought Catalog about mental illness and I've tried to be open about my own struggles to aide any other students in need of a friend to talk to. I care about everyone I work with and I want them to have a great experience in grad school!

#### **What is your passion?**

I love teaching! I enjoy working with people and helping in anyway I can. I am interested in bringing awareness to social causes. I've done the Weekend to End All Women's Cancers for two years, which includes raising a minimum of \$2000 and doing a 60-km walk. I also enjoy writing I find it very therapeutic.

I also love chocolate! If there is anything that can brighten up my day, it's a kitkat bar. :)

Research) for large-scale grant applications, etc.

**Adele Marshall, M.Sc.:** Has worked for Novartis for 30+ years in various positions and capacities. She is now a senior manager in the pre-clinical/clinical trials department.

**Glenn Choma, B.Sc., MBA:** Senior Project Manager at Shire Canada, a biopharmaceutical company that works specifically on ADHD, renal and gastrointestinal diseases.

**Brian Mader, M.Sc.:** Has worked at Dawson College for 5+ years as a biology teacher and doubles as the Science Activities Coordinator.

**Rosie Behar, B.Sc.:** Customer service representative for Ashfield Healthcare, an outsourcing pharmaceuticals company. Informs medical clinics across Canada about various pharmaceutical-related payment programs. Graduated from MIMM in 2014.

In total, 70 Students attended the event from the Biochemistry, Physiology, Pharmacology, Cognitive Science, Biology, Anatomy and MIMM departments.

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## SERVICES

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## MILESTONES CELEBRATION



On January 27th, a Milestone Celebration took place at the Duff building to acknowledge MIMM members for their accomplishments and years of contribution to McGill University. The following members were recognized:

- *Dr Jörg Fritz was granted Tenure*
- *Shan Hong Zhang - 10 years of Service*
- *Dr Sylvie Fournier - 15 years of Service*
- *Dr Hervé Le Moual - 15 years of Service*
- *Dr Benoit Cousineau - 15 years of Service*
- *Dr Greg Matlashewski - 30 years of Service*
- *Aghdas Zamani - 30 years of Service*
- *Dr Dalius Briedis - 35 years of Service*

For more pictures of the event, [click here](#).

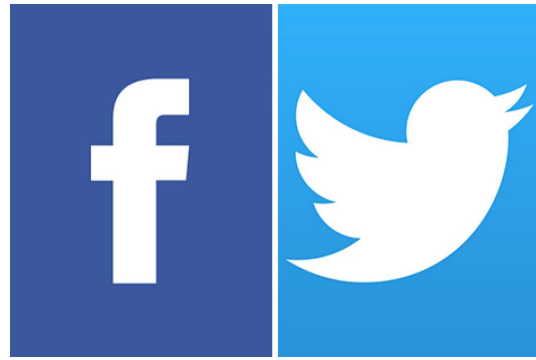
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### [Duff Biobar Updates](#)

The Biobar stocks useful lab supplies including Kleenex, bleach, gloves, and paper towels at competitive prices. BioBar operating hours are from Monday to Friday: 8:00 -12:00 & 1:00 -3:30.

[More information.](#)



### [Connect with us!](#)

Like our official [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#) for regular updates!



### [Jobs Available!](#)

Still looking for a job? Visit the postings available [online](#) or have a look at the job binder located in Room 511 of the [Duff Medical Building](#).



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Want to contribute an item to the MIMM Bites? Here's where to send it: [office.microimm@mcgill.ca](mailto:office.microimm@mcgill.ca)  
Check out the latest updates on our website: [www.mcgill.ca/microimm](http://www.mcgill.ca/microimm)

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