



MESSAGE FROM YOUR MIMM CHAIRS

We are coming up to one full year since COVID started to impact our lives. While there is a lot to be hopeful about, it is important to acknowledge that it is a challenging time for many of us with new restrictions such as the curfew and the winter weather being less conducive to outside activities. We are fortunate to have a department with a strong sense of community and support, and we hope to see you all at the upcoming February Departmental meeting for some “face” time.

With that in mind, we are excited to announce a few initiatives that we hope will help us stay connected with each other. [Sam Packer](#) has organized casual drop in “coffee



2020-2021 Infection & Immunity

Seminar Series

Dr. Lisa Osborne
University of British Columbia
Title: *Host and environmental regulation of intestinal immunity and inflammation*
Thursday, February 11 2021
11:00am-12:00pm
Host: Dr. Irah King
Zoom Link:

breaks” for admin, staff, and faculty on Monday mornings at 9:30am and “Move, Stretch and Laugh” on Wednesdays at 11:00am. We hope you will stop by and say hi!

The department will also be rolling out a more extensive use of the [Office 365 suite](#) to facilitate chats, file sharing etc. The MIMM administrative team has been using this for a while with great success, and faculty should have received an invite to join the group. Stay tuned for more details at the February departmental meeting.

[MIGSA and MISA](#) are also planning community building and mental health initiatives in the coming month. MIGSA’s mental health month initiative this month will include wellness activities, a seminar for graduate students on promoting mental health during grad school and a seminar open to everyone in the department from a clinical psychologist on anxiety and depression in academia. More details will follow soon.

Encouraged by the interest on the sign-up sheet, we are still planning for the optional, in person lab activities for our undergraduate students, if public health conditions and government and university regulations allow (fingers crossed!). If you are interested and have not had a chance to sign up for these, please contact your favorite [MISA rep](#) and sign up by February 5th. Priority will be given to students who took MIMM212 or 384 in Fall 2020 and those currently registered in MIMM385.

To end on a high note, we wanted to highlight the recent data coming from Israel that suggests that their

<https://mcgill.zoom.us/j/86418083035>



Summer 2021 Update

Summer 2021 teaching and learning activities will be delivered primarily through remote platforms. Essential in person Tier 1 activities, however, will be implemented in the same way as during Fall 2020 and Winter 2021

[Ashwin H, Sadlova J, Vojtkova B, Becvar T, Lypaczewski P, Schwartz E, Greensted E, Van Bocxlaer K, Pasin M, Lipinski KS, Parkash V, Matlashewski G, Layton AM, Lacey CJ, Jaffe CL, Volf P, Kaye PM. Characterization of a new *Leishmania major* strain for use in a controlled human infection model. Nat Commun. 2021 Jan 11;12\(1\):215. doi: 10.1038/s41467-020-20569-3. PMID: 33431825; PMCID: PMC7801518.](#)

[Barazandeh AF, Mou Z, Ikeogu N, Mejia EM, Edechi CA, Zhang WW, Alizadeh J, Hatch GM, Ghavami S, Matlashewski G, Marshall AJ, Uzonna JE. The Phosphoenolpyruvate Carboxykinase Is a Key Metabolic Enzyme and Critical Virulence Factor of *Leishmania major*. J Immunol. 2021 Jan 18;ji2000517. doi: 10.4049/jimmunol.2000517. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33462138.](#)

[Barnard TR, Abram QH, Lin QF, Wang AB, Sagan SM. Molecular Determinants of Flavivirus Virion Assembly. Trends Biochem Sci. 2021 Jan 7:S0968-0004\(20\)30315-7. doi: 10.1016/j.tibs.2020.12.007.](#)

vaccine rollout has had a dramatic effect on case numbers and hospitalizations - real world data supporting the power of vaccination and that there really is a light at the end of the tunnel!

Have a great month,

Don and Sam



[Health and well-being resources](#)

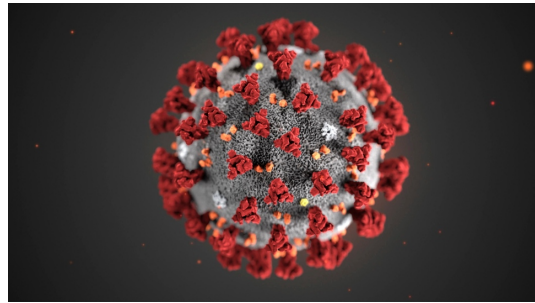
[Bell Let's Talk Day](#) was on, **January 28**, and is a great reminder that we need to take care of our physical and mental health to get through these challenging times together.

Visit McGill HR's [Health and Well-Being page](#) for Wellness Resources During COVID-19 as well as [Mental Health](#) and [Physical Well-Being Resources](#).

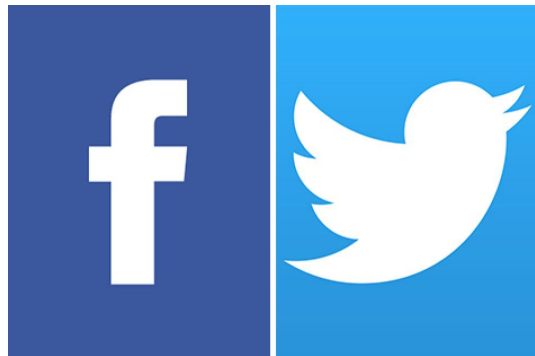
[Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33423940.](#)

[Park J, Pandya VR, Ezekiel SJ, Berghuis AM. Phosphonate and Bisphosphonate Inhibitors of Farnesyl Pyrophosphate Synthases: A Structure-Guided Perspective. Front Chem. 2021 Jan 6;8:612728. doi: 10.3389/fchem.2020.612728. PMID: 33490038; PMCID: PMC7815940.](#)

[Ralph B, Sheppard DC. A Murine Model for Chronic A. fumigatus Airway Infections. Methods Mol Biol. 2021;2260:215-224. doi: 10.1007/978-1-0716-1182-1_15. PMID: 33405041.](#)



Stay updated on the latest COVID-19 news by visiting the [McGill COVID-19 page](#).



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Department of Microbiology and Immunology - McGill University · 3775 University Street · Montreal, QC H3A 2B4 · Canada

