



## CHAIR'S CORNER



### A word from the MIMM Chair

Dear MIMMers,

The first month of the 2017-2018 academic year is behind us and the midterm season will start very soon. The month of September went by very fast with all of the excitement and adrenaline rush caused by the return of the Undergraduate Students on Campus. Important events not to be missed in October include the next Staff meeting (October 10<sup>th</sup>, Duff Building, Sheldon room, 9h00), MIMM Homecoming Wine and Cheese (October 13<sup>th</sup>, Strathcona Building, room 221, 5h00) and the visit of

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Fellowship & Award

Christian Dove, our new PhD student, was awarded The Friends of McGill Fellowship as well as the the Max Stern Recruitment Award. Congratulations!



### A selfie with Justin Trudeau

Aghdas Zamani, lab superintendent at the MIMM department, became

Dean Eidelman to discuss the future of MIMM (November 08<sup>th</sup>, Duff Building, Sheldon room, 4h00).

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, we held the 2017 MIMM Teaching Retreat at “La Citadelle” where we discussed the ongoing redevelopment of both our Undergraduate Curriculum (9h00-12h30) and our Graduate program (1h30-5h00). The great participation and amazing engagement of all attendees that included Professors, Student representatives and our Academic Affairs Staff members led to the identification of significant action items focused on the improvement of our programs and the student experience in MIMM. Attendees were unanimous that this key Departmental event was a great success. I would like to give a big thank you to everyone who was involved in the organization and all who participated in making this important Departmental event such a success. Special recognition goes to the hard work and dedication of our Education Specialist, Dr Claire Trottier, without whom this event would not have been possible. We should all be proud to be part of such a collegial and dynamic academic environment. It is now of outmost importance that we all stand behind and support the implementation of the identified improvements.

I was happy to swap my jacket for an apron for a couple of hours on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Several MIMMers braved the cold and windy weather to attend our Annual MIMM Welcome back BBQ. This ongoing tradition showed to be very popular once again. Thanks to all who organized this event and helped me cook and serve the hamburgers and hot dogs.

Please join me in welcoming two new

the focus of the photographer as she was taking a selfie with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Mr. Trudeau was visiting the McGill campus on September 15 for a [Facebook announcement on Artificial Intelligence](#). The picture was taken by [Adam Scotti](#), photographer to Prime Minister Trudeau.

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#### RNA Society Poster Awards at RNA 2017

RNA Society Poster Awards were given to the following individuals at RNA 2017 based on their presentation of their data to a group of volunteer judges at the meeting. All awardees received \$250. (shown left to right)



Felix LaRoche Johnston, #594, McGill University; Erik Hartwick, #427, University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine; Y. Grace Chen, #250, Stanford University; Sezen Meydan, #688, University of Illinois at Chicago; Petra Bezmoskova, #673, Institute of Microbiology of the CAS; Evelina Tutucci, #491, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Maxim Mogilevsky, #645, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Alexis Antour, #168, CNRS; Fabian Poetz, #484, University of Heidelberg; Eliska Svobodova, #166, Institute of Molecular Genetics; Olivia I. Paisley, #627, University of Strathclyde; Zhaoming Su, #444, Baylor College of Medicine; Julia Batki, #234, Institute of Molecular Biotechnology; Tina Lence, #354, Institute of Molecular Biology; Jessica Willi, #336, University of Bern

### Poster Award

Felix LaRoche-Johnston, from the Cousineau lab, has received a poster award at the [2017 RNA Society International Meeting](#) in Prague, Czech Republic. The title of his poster was *Capture of mRNA fragments and genic trans-splicing mediated by a bacterial group II intron during circularization*.

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### MIMM & Leonard Cohen

Dr. Peter C K Lau, ardent Leonard Cohen fan, will be featured as one of the 18 other 65-year or older fans in a [Candice Breitz multi-channel video installation of I'm Your Man](#) (A Portrait of Leonard Cohen) at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal.

The exhibit opens to the public on

members to the MIMM Community. Dr Thibault Mesplede from the LDI accepted a three-year appointment as Assistant Professor (Contract Academic Staff (CAS)) in MIMM. Dr Mesplede is a virologist that trained as a PDF in the lab of the late Dr Mark Wainberg. He is scheduled to present a seminar on February 01<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and will meet with everyone from our Community. AEC#2 was also successful in recruiting Ms Valeria Kochkina as the new Academic Affairs Administrator replacing Ms Inna Roo that resigned from McGill to move to Ontario. Valeria and Thibault: welcome to our MIMM Community.

The 1-year contract I signed last year to serve our Department as the Interim Chair has ended on October 01<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The past year was an important transition period for our Department and I invested myself to keep our momentum and make this transition as smooth as possible. I would like to warmly thank everybody that supported me during that period. However, as you all know, the search of a permanent Chair for MIMM is unfortunately still ongoing. I have thus accepted to extend my contract as the MIMM Interim Chair for a period of three months (October 01<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>).

All the best,

Ben

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**STUDENT ASSOCIATION**  
**UPDATES**

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Nov 9, 2017 until April 9, 2018. [Click here to watch the trailer.](#)

### **Remedium AI is expanding**

**Remedium AI**, a company devoted to commercialize the research performed in Dr. Murgita's laboratory since 2010, has closed a 3M\$ seed round financing. The company will expand a unique software platform that is capable of rapidly identifying new potential drug candidates that will be cheaper to manufacture, with a special focus on oral deliverables. The technology developed in Dr. Murgita's lab employs a branch of artificial intelligence called machine learning. The company is exploring locations for its head office and intends to offer internships to McGill students with some bioinformatics knowledge through the MITACS Accelerate program in cooperation with two senior professors in the McGill Computer Science department. **Remedium AI** is the fourth startup company originating from Dr. Murgita's research at McGill.





## MISA's Corner

Hi everyone,

First things first, the MISA office is finally open! Come by room 423 to pick up your NTCs and order your MIMM branded clothes. October 12th is the last day to buy clothes, so get to the office soon!

Please RSVP to the MIMM Homecoming Wine and Cheese. It's a great time to chat with faculty and other students in the department! [Sign up here.](#)

Please send us your thoughts from our welcome back BBQ! [Fill out this google doc.](#) We want your feedback.

For those of looking to improve your skills at reading and writing scientific papers, there'll be a Literature Analysis Workshop on October 13th 1-2:30 pm in 507/509 (Duff Building), mark your calendars!

Finally, there is still time to sign up for the MIMMtorship program.

[If you are looking for a mentor, click here.](#)

[If you are looking to mentor, click here.](#)

-MISA Council 2017-2018

[misa.sus.mcgill.ca](http://misa.sus.mcgill.ca)

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## SERVICES

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Seminar Series

**Dr. Christopher Rudd**

Professor Université de Montréal

*New signaling pathways in T-cell biology*

**October 5 2017**

**11:30-12:30**

**Amphitheatre, Duff Building**

Host: Dr. Jorg Fritz

**Dr. Kristi Baker**

Assistant Professor, Experimental Oncology, Department of Oncology, University of Alberta, Cross Cancer Institute

*Control of anti-tumor immunity by DNA repair defects in colorectal cancer*

**October 19 2017**

**11:30-12:30**

**Amphitheatre, Duff Building**

Host: Dr. Martin Richer

McGill  
DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY  
*Infection and Immunity Seminar Series*

**Dr. Christopher Rudd**  
Professor of Medicine at Université de Montréal

**New signaling pathways in T-cell biology**  
Thursday, October 5 2017 11:30am - 12:30pm  
Duff Amphitheater, Duff Medical Building, 3775 University Street, H3A 2B4  
Broadcasted live at the Glen Hospital room EM0.2225

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McGill  
DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY  
*Infection & Immunity Seminar Series*

**Dr. Kristi Baker**  
Assistant Professor, University of Alberta,  
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

**Control of anti-tumor immunity by DNA repair defects in colorectal cancer**  
Hosted by: Dr. Martin Richer  
Thursday, October 19 2017 at 11:30 - 12:30pm  
Amphitheater, Duff Medical Building, 3775 University Street, H3A 2B4  
Broadcasted live at the Glen Hospital room EM0.2225

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### Duff Biobar Updates

The Biobar stocks useful lab supplies including Kleenex, bleach, gloves, and paper towels at competitive prices.

Operating hours:

Monday to Friday

8:00 -12:00 & 1:00 -3:30.

[More information](#)



### 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](#).



### Connect with us!

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



### MIMM Homecoming Wine & Cheese

MIMMers, current members and alumni, are cordially invited to the Homecoming Wine & Cheese. The evening will take place on Friday, October 13th 5-7pm at the Strathcona Medical Building, room 221.

**Complementary, [registration mandatory](#).**

### Career Day for Graduate Students

Not sure what to do after grad school? Come and listen to our panel of experts as they describe their experience in a variety of career paths.

**Thursday, October 26 2017**

**9:00AM**

**Duff Amphitheatre**

### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### INTERNATIONAL • SCIENTIFIC • SYMPOSIUM

The challenge of emerging complex and resistant infections: celebrating a hero

*In memory of Dr. Mark Wainberg*

**NOV.02.2017**

JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MONTREAL



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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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