From the Chair’s Desk

Dear Microbiology and Immunology Members,

Welcome to the 2014-15 Academic year! I hope that you have had a relaxing and invigorating summer, and that you are looking forward to this Fall Semester. At the departmental level, activity did not stop during the summer though, and great news came our way.

The last CIHR open competition brought to us successful applications from Dr. Selena Sagan and Dr. Don Sheppard (primary members of our department), and from Drs. Marcel Behr, Anne Gatignol and Antonis Koromilas (associate members of our department). To all of them, our sincere congratulations. Keep up the good work!

Our members did very well at the Meeting of the International Union of Microbiological Societies, from organization to awards for some of our trainees. Again, congratulations!

The MDTC was successful in receiving funding from the Faculty of Medicine. This funding will contribute to keep up the research operation of its members at a time of very competitive opportunities.

Last, but not least, we completed our 2014 round of recruitment with formal acceptance of offers by Drs. Corinne Maurice and Martin Richer, both as Tenure-track assistant professors. In addition, Ms. Monica Toribio, Student Affairs Coordinator, and Mr. Patrick Ritchie, Senior Administrative Coordinator will be joining our administrative staff. We are very excited to welcome them to our department.

Together, we move forward into 2014-15 to excel at fulfilling our academic mission that, paraphrasing Lord Tennyson’s words in the Ulysses poem, is “To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield”.

Yours in service,

Quim


Mesplede T and Wainberg MA. Is Resistance to Dolutegravir Possible When This Drug Is Used in First-Line Therapy? *Viruses* 2014, 6(9), 3377-3385.


Scarborough, R.J., Lévesque, M. V., Boudrias-Dalle, E., Chute, I. C., Daniels, S. M., Ouellette, R. J., Perreault, J.-P. and Gatignon, A. A conserved target site in HIV-1 Gag RNA is accessible to both HDV ribozyme and short hairpin RNA activities. *Mol. Ther. Nuc. Acids*. 2014. 3:e178. (RJ Scarborough is a PhD student of the department; E. Boudrias-Dalle is a former undergraduate and SM Daniels is a former graduate student from the department.)


MIMM212 Small World Initiative

We are excited to announce that our very own MIMM212 class is the first Canadian and one of the first international partners in “The Small World Initiative”. This innovative undergraduate research collective is aimed at addressing a worldwide need in infectious disease which is approaching a crisis. Bacterial diseases that have been successfully treated with antibiotics for decades are now posing a threat to human health due to antibiotic resistance. Additionally, there are very few new antibiotics under development in pharmaceutical companies because most of the major companies abandoned antibiotic discovery in the 1980s and ‘90s, when many chose to invest in chronic diseases. Through the Small World Initiative,

MIMM212 students and their colleagues at over 50 other partner institutions, will develop their scientific inquiry, problem solving, and critical thinking skills all while searching for new antibiotic producing bacteria to address this critical threat.

Dr Gregory T. Marczynski

How long have you been with the Department?

Since Jan 1996 or 18.5 years.

What is your job description (short biography)?

I did not know I had a job description! After a PhD in Biochemistry on yeast mRNA transcription, I decided to work on something potentially easier so I did post-doctoral work on how bacteria grow and differentiate. I was fortunate to get a job at McGill and I am still teaching and researching how bacteria work.

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

Besides Coffee, talking to my students and other people in the department.
**SERVICE**

Duff Biobar Updates

BioBar Hours
The operating hours for the BioBar this fall, will be between 8-12 and 1-4.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- At the annual meeting of the International Union of Microbiological Societies, held in Montreal on July 27-Aug 1st, Sacha Sverzhinsky (Dr. Coulton’s lab) won the Cedarlane CSM student symposium prize for his oral presentation: “Coordinated Rearrangements between Cytoplasmic and Periplasmic Domains of the Membrane Protein Complex ExbB–ExbD of *Escherichia coli.*” Congratulations Sacha!

- M.Sc. student, Maria Gentile (Dr. King’s lab) received the Internal Studentship competition from the Faculty of Medicine. Congratulations Maria!

- A new award: [2014 CUBIST-ICAAC](#).

- Seminar Series starts September 11, 2014 at 11:30am in the Amphitheater.


- Ms. Elisa Torres, Administrative Coordinator, will be on Maternity Leave starting September 12, 2014.
For the fall 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:

Student Affairs Advising  
Jennifer DiMassimo Office Hours

- Mondays 2 -4 p.m.  
- Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
- By appointment.

UPCOMING

Look out for information on the annual welcome back BBQ!!

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.