



Biology General Assembly

March 19, 2021

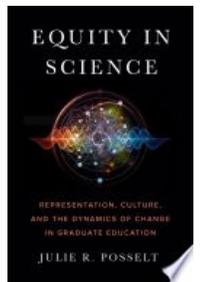
EDI Committee

- Committee struck in September 2020
- Committee mission:

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee seeks to advance a departmental climate that is fair, open, diverse and equitable by disseminating information and promoting awareness of resources to members of its community. The committee acts as a liaison between members of the Biology Department, the Faculty of Science, and the wider McGill community.

Updates (I)

1. Website is up (*thanks Carole!*)
2. **Fall event geared to UGs:** “Everything you wanted to know about grad school, but were afraid to ask” – event to help inform under-represented UG students about grad school
 - Event open to all students
 - **174** students signed up & submitted questions
 - FAQ document created – available on EDI website (good resource for your UGs)
 - Thanks to many colleagues who volunteered at late notice to lead discussion in break-out groups!
3. **Biology EDI Bookclub**
 - Attendees are grad students, postdocs, & faculty from all parts of department (MCD, Neuro & CEEB)



Updates (II)

4. **Spring event geared to UGs(*last night*): BIPOC* in Biology**
 - Event open to all students *Black, indigenous & people of colour
 - 58 students signed up
 - 2 Guest speakers:
 - (i) Sasha McDowell, former Biology Honours UG student. "[Difficult conversations](#)" commentary in Science.
 - (ii) Antoine-Samuel Maufette Alavo, Black Student Affairs liaison @ McGill

5. **Biology Research Awards for Summer 2021**
 - 3 fully-paid full-time 16-week research awards to BIPOC UG students for \$7,500 (as well as additional \$1000 for lab expenses)
 - Non-GPA-based award (***still looking for volunteers for evaluation committee***)
 - Hope to target students who are underrepresented in academia & introduce them to research. Committee will help place students. PIs need to make a commitment to support students, who may have little to no lab experience
 - Mentorship (e.g. lunchtime information seminars) provided during summer, which will be available for all our Summer UG students.
 - *Pilot program*, but hope to solicit funds for continuation in future years (*input is welcome*)

Updates (III)

6. [Picture a Scientist](#) film (Upcoming Spring event geared to grad students & other members of community)
 - Data-driven documentary film highlighting 3 accomplished scientists & the sexism and racism that they have experienced in science
 - Freely available to watch through McGill libraries
 - Faculty of Science will organize panel discussion
 - Biology event in the works (*input is welcome*)

7. Teaching Workshop tailored to Biology (Upcoming event(s) geared to faculty & for TAs in the fall)
 - Equity @ McGill offers workshops that focus on improving teaching & mentorship
 - Examples: Anti-racism in teaching; Mentoring relationships with a focus on equity; Gender Diversity & Inclusive language in classroom.
 - *Custom-made workshops* are available

Got an idea?

- EDI Biology is happy to respond to concerns & help with initiatives organized or suggested by members our community
- We can help you find the resources you need
- Contact us at: edi.biology@mcgill.ca

