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
   - 58 students signed up
   - 2 Guest speakers:
     (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 of our community
• We can help you find the resources you need

• Contact us at: edi.biology@mcgill.ca