



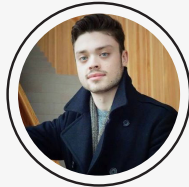
McGill MDCM-PhD

The latest student news, announcements, and opportunities

MEET THE TEAM



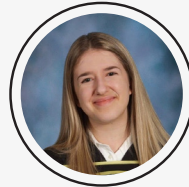
President
Julia Luo



VP Student Affairs
Jamie Magrill



VP Internal Affairs
Aline Atallah



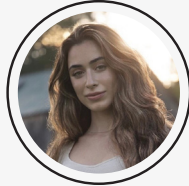
VP External Affairs
Ella Sahlas



VP Communications
Nicole Zhang



VP Finance
Nik Kalashnikov



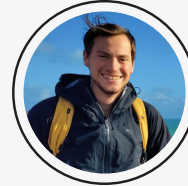
VP Social
Francesca del Giorgio



First Year Rep
Yigu Zhou



First Year Rep
Liam Wilson



MD-PhD/MSS Rep
Daniel Mendelson

SOCIETY NEWS

Meet the Team

Annual elections for the Society's Executive Committee were held this summer and we would like to welcome all new and returning members of the team for 2023-2024! A special thanks to all exiting members for their contributions to the program and student society.

President's Address

Hello everyone!

In the past year, the Society has successfully advocated to amend the UGME leaves & absences policy, increased our online media presence, and organized several events including a large fundraising campaign, the annual retreat, and the Open House. On behalf of the new Society, we look forward to continuing this work to support our amazing community.

I would like to welcome in our new cohort - Yigu, Malik, Francesca, Daniel, Alize, Liam - and wish everyone a great start to the school year! If you have any questions or suggestions about the MD-PhD student experience please feel free to reach out to me or the Society.

Best regards,

Julia Luo | President, McGill MD-PhD Student Society

THIS ISSUE

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ANNUAL RETREAT

On **August 27**, we hosted our second MD-PhD Retreat, held in Montreal and featured presentations from program director Dr. Eisenberg, incoming students, and the student society, as well as a Q&A session with senior students in the program. We then held a team-building and networking event at the Ceramics Cafe. Thank you to our outgoing VP social, **Ella Sahlas**, for organizing such an amazing retreat. Sponsored by #McGillAlumni



Group photo of the program



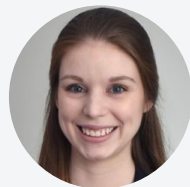
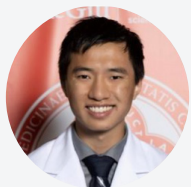
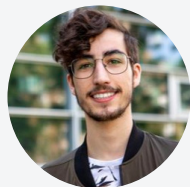
Q&A with upper years Lashanda, Sarah, Heather, Joan

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As always, MD-PhD students accomplishments fill us with pride. This year, six of our students received the Vanier award!

We had the greatest number of awardees compared to all other MD-PhD programs in Canada!!

2023 Vanier Scholars: **Zaid Al-Azzawi, Mimosa Luigi, Julia Luo, Michael Luo, Etienne Maes, Sarah Maritan**



Additionally, we would like to congratulate:

Joan Miguel Romero for his 1st-author publication in Nature Partner Journals Precision Oncology and for receiving the 2023 BD Biosciences Single-Cell Multiomics Investigator Sponsored Study Grant for his project [\[link\]](#).

Mackenzie Michell-Robinson for his 1st-author publication in Brain. Check out the press release [\[link\]](#).

FALL '23 SEMINAR SERIES

Sept 7th 2023	Science Speed Date	Student Talks	Thomson House
Sept 21st 2023	Open House	Keynote: Dr. Rhian Touyz	Virtual
Oct 5th 2023	3 Minute Thesis	Judges: Atia Amin, Dr. Ryan. Dr. Eisenberg	Thomson House
Oct 19th 2023	Clinical Trials Talk #1	Speaker: Dr. Atul Verma	Virtual
Nov 2nd 2023	Meta Analysis	Student Presentations	Thomson House
Nov 10th 2023	Clinical Trials Talk #2	Speaker: Dr. Ojisto Horn	Thomson House

RESOURCES

Writing Resources

An FYI that all students have access to writing and professional development resources at McGill! A couple include:

Graphos workshops - funding application review, manuscript and thesis writing/review

SKILLSETS - Individual Development Planning: leadership, collaboration, communication, problem solving, expertise, wellness, career planning

McGill Writing Centre - writing courses (academic, scicomm, etc)

Student Handbook

As we embark on this new academic year, we would like to remind students that they all have access to our [Student Handbook](#), which is meant to assist trainees in all years of the program through their search for research opportunities, medical studies, and the many transitions of the program.

Wellness Support

Another reminder that MD-PhD students in all years have access to the **Office of Medical Learner Affairs** (previously known as the **Well Office**).



MEET OUR NEW STUDENTS!



ALIZE ECE GUNAY

Lab/research interests: My research interests are in maternal health, immigrant and refugee health, and obstetrics and gynecology. For my Ph.D. research, I am interested in understanding immigrant and refugee women's experiences accessing perinatal care across different provincial health systems and maternity care models. I am planning to work under the supervision of Dr. Kathleen Rice of the Department of Family Medicine.

Alma Mater: I have a B.Sc. in Microbiology and Immunology and an M.Sc. in Family Medicine, specializing in Bioethics, both from McGill University.

Hobbies and interests: I love going on hikes with my dog, Olive. I also enjoy cooking for my friends, baking desserts, and learning about sustainable farming!



LIAM WILSON

Lab/research interests: I am primarily interested in tumor immunology research, with a specific emphasis on brain tumors. I will be studying bone-marrow derived macrophages in the context of glioblastoma under the supervision of Dr. Daniela Quail at the Goodman Cancer Institute for my PhD!

Alma Mater: I did my undergraduate degree here at McGill studying Physiology, where I did a year-long undergraduate research project in Dr. Quail's lab, studying glioblastoma.

Hobbies and interests: I spend my free time doing Brazilian jiu-jitsu and have been trying to learn how to play the guitar for the last year!



DANIEL MENDELSON

Hi, I'm Daniel and I'll be starting my MD-PhD journey at McGill this fall! In addition to the medical training, I'm very excited to work on machine learning techniques for improving our understanding and care of severe mental illness. This expands on previous research I did during my BSc in Honours Psychology at McGill where I did clinical research on severe mental illnesses like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. When not studying, I love cooking, sharing meals with friends, and travelling.



FRANCESCA DEL GIORGINO

Lab/research interests: Under the supervision of Dr. Seungmi Yang in the department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, I will be investigating the potential causal role of severe maternal illnesses during pregnancy on neurodevelopmental disorders in children using a regional birth cohort dataset from Ontario. We also plan to model geographical patterns in diagnosis of neurodevelopmental disorders as they make relate to social factors and access to care.

Alma mater: I completed my undergraduate degree in Anthropology at Concordia University after which I went on complete my master's degree and one year of the PhD program in Epidemiology at McGill University before being offered the opportunity to join the MD-PhD program.

Hobbies and interests: When I am not coding in R, I enjoy playing violin with my local orchestra, doing ballet, or running!



YIGU ZHOU

Lab/research interests: Lab: Multimodal Imaging and Connectome Analysis lab, Montreal Neurological Institute. Research: Structure-function relationships in epilepsy via neuroimaging

Alma mater: McGill University

Hobbies and interests: My name is Yigu (pronounced ee-goo, she/her). I was born in the south of China, and traveled all around the country with my mother before we moved to Montreal in 2011, and have been living here since. I completed a BSc in Neuroscience with a minor in Pharmacology at McGill, during which I worked in neuroimaging research at the Montreal Neuro. I am an amateur runner, hobby cellist, über-avid literature & cinema enjoyer, and portrait artist. These personal interests made me a huge believer in the synergy between arts and science in shaping the way we understand each other and the world.



MALIK AFFAR

Hey there! My name is Malik Affar. I'm a first year MD-PhD student at McGill University. My research interests lie primarily in understanding the molecular mechanism underlying pathologies in the brain using methods of cell biology and biochemistry. Also, I'm a fan of basketball and I'm passionate about music, playing both the piano and the guitar.

KEY DATES

Funding Deadlines

OCT FRQ, CGS-D

MD-PhD Seminars

OCT 5 3MT
*Atia Amin, Dr. Aimee Ryan,
Dr. Mark Eisenberg*

OCT 19 Clinical Trials
Dr. Atul Verma

NOV 2 Meta Analysis

NOV 10 Clinical Trials
Dr. Ojisto Horn