



**ALINE ATALLAH**, Class of 2030

Education: HonBSc (Life Sciences - Cancer Stream), MSc (Microbes, Immunity, and Inflammation - Cancer Specialization), Queen's University

Supervisor(s): Daniela Quail

Dpt: To be determined

Work location: Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute

Project: Cancer immunology and the tumour immune microenvironment

Selected Award(s): CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship – Master's (CGS-M), Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), Ontario Institute for Cancer Research Rising Stars Award

Why did you decide to pursue both MDCM and PhD degrees? What are your career aspirations?

I believe research and medicine go hand-in-hand and an important aspect of biomedical research is utilizing the knowledge acquired in the lab to improve medical practices. Therefore, I wanted to pursue a career that allows me to combine my interest in basic science research with my passion for medicine, and this program was the best opportunity to do so. I aspire to become a clinician scientist capable of bridging the gap between research and medicine, with the ultimate goal of improving patient outcomes.

Why did you choose to study at McGill University?

McGill is a state-of-art institution and one of the leading universities and research facilities in the world. However, what I believe is very important is the sense of community and support that McGill provides which was an important factor in my decision making.

What aspect of the MD-PhD program do you enjoy the most or are looking forward to?

I am looking forward to meeting students from various research background and academic years, learning from them, and becoming part of the MD-PhD family.

What advice do you have for incoming MDCM-PhD students?

As an incoming student, I still do not have great tips. However, something that I found very helpful is making sure the MD-PhD career path is the right path for you and that being a clinician-scientist is what you truly want.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy travelling, exploring new places, and dancing especially Salsa.