



GUIDO GUBERMAN, Class of 2023

Education: BA & Sc (Cognitive Science), McGill University

Supervisor(s): Alain Ptito, Sheilagh Hodgins

Dpt: Neurology and Neurosurgery

Work location: The Neuro (Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital)

Project: Novel diffusion MRI and advanced statistical modelling to improve diagnostic and prognostic criteria of pediatric concussions

Selected Award(s): Vanier scholarship, Fond de Recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS), Tomlinson Graduate Scholarship

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

I decided to pursue both degrees because I believe that clinician-scientists can achieve a level of synergy that can help identify clinically-relevant questions which can propel the field of medicine forward. To achieve this synergy, I believe it is necessary to have dedicated training in both medicine and research.

Why did you choose to study at McGill University?

McGill's MD-PhD program offers dedicated time in both medicine and research. By incorporating the PhD between the two halves of medical school, we never spend too much time away from each domain of training, which ensures a smoother integration between the clinical and scientific worlds.

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

I enjoy the longitudinal seminars, where we get to learn from established clinician-scientists or practice skills that will be useful in our careers. I am now nearing the end of the program, so I look forward to getting the chance to put these skills into practice during my residency.

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

One piece of advice I have is to optimize the time spent during the PhD portion of the program by fully committing to it and avoiding taking time away for clinical duties. Integrating research into medicine is important, but this will be the underlying skill you will spend your career perfecting. The PhD portion will be one of the few times - or perhaps the only one - where you will get entirely dedicated time to learn about research. I suggest taking advantage of this, go into those rabbit holes of research that you won't have time for later. You will get the chance to learn clinical skills and solidify (or relearn) clinical knowledge all throughout your clerkship and residency. The PhD is really the time to become a strong researcher and develop expertise that will set you apart.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy spending time with my family and playing guitar.