



JAMIE MAGRILL, Class of 2028

Education: HonBSc (Biology), University of British Columbia, MSc (Biomedical Sciences), Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Supervisor(s): Ian Watson

Dpt: Human Genetics

Work location: Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute

Project: Melanoma immune checkpoint blockade research

Selected Award(s): Thérèse & David Bohbot Scholarship – JCF, HUJI Graduate Student Scholarship, Israel Graduate Student Program Scholarship & International Graduate Student Scholarship, CFHU Einstein Legacy Scholar

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

In 2010 a close family member experienced a recurrence of metastatic ovarian cancer, which pushed me to better understand the molecular and genetic underpinnings of cancer. In pursuit of this goal, over the last eight years I have conducted research as a BSc and MSc student, served as a STEM educator for rural, Indigenous and low-income students across BC with Let's Talk Science UBC and Genome BC, and volunteered with LGBTQ2A+ HIV/AIDS-positive palliative care patients at the Dr. Peter Centre in Vancouver. As a researcher, I am particularly proud of my contributions to the ProMisE study, which aims to enable earlier informed decision-making for women with endometrial cancer, my 1st author paper on rare ovarian tumor classification (Magrill et al., 2018), and my 2nd-author paper from the Johnson Lab at the UBC LSI on the insulin-cancer axis (Zhang et al., 2019) which was published in Cell Metabolism and has over 16,000 reads on BioRxiv. My goal in becoming a clinician-scientist is to leverage the power of genetics to improve treatment outcomes and discover new prognostic markers for cancer patients as a pathologist and clinician-scientist, bridging bench-to bedside by connecting the rapid advancements in sequencing and single-cell resolution technology with clinical outcomes for patients around the world.

Why did you choose to study at McGill University?

McGill has one of the best medical schools and research environments in Canada and worldwide, and I was particularly excited by the technology available at the Goodman Cancer Research Centre.

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

I am most excited for the opportunity to focus my skills and learn new techniques during the PhD portion (I am currently still in the MDCM curriculum!)

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

Be sure you really enjoy the ups and downs of research - that will be key when balancing your research career with your clinical duties.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Rock climb, ski, scuba, hike, and (now that I live in Montreal), maybe ice climbing!