



**MARK SORIN**, Class of 2027

Education: HonBSc (Pharmacology), McGill University

Supervisor(s): Logan Walsh, Jonathan Spicer

Dpt: Human Genetics

Work location: Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute

Project: Identifying mechanisms of immunotherapy potentiation in mouse models of non-small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC)

Selected Award(s): Vanier Scholarship, Fond de Recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS), Human Genetics Excellence Award

Research Description:

My research focuses on the role of the tumor immune microenvironment in the context of lung cancer. We investigate how to improve the anti-tumor immune response in lung cancer patients receiving immunotherapy. Using preclinical models, we test novel treatment combinations that may synergize with existing immunotherapy regimens.

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

My decision to pursue both MDCM and PhD degrees stemmed from my experience with Dr. Parameswaran Nair at McMaster University. Dr. Nair cared for patients with severe asthma, led international clinical trials and had a basic science laboratory where he answered fundamental questions related to asthma. This ecosystem of care attracted me to the clinician-scientist career path and motivated me to pursue both MDCM and PhD degrees. My current career aspirations are to become a principal investigator and medical oncologist, leading a laboratory focused on immuno-oncology, performing impactful research and treating patients with cancer.

Why did you choose to study at McGill University?

I chose to study at McGill due to its excellence in both medicine and cancer research.

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

The ability to be so close to what we are researching in terms of later caring for the patients whose disease we spent our PhD studying. I also really enjoy the sense of community within the McGill MD-PhD Program and the ability to interact with and learn from my brilliant peers.

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

My advice is to prioritize your research environment over your research topic. Pick a laboratory where you know you will receive quality mentorship from your supervisor which will lead to you becoming a better scientist.