



MICHAEL LUO, Class of 2028

Education: BSc (Life Sciences), Queen's University, MSc (Pathology and Molecular Medicine), Queen's University

Supervisor(s): Dr. Kevin Petrecca, Dr. Charles Couturier

Dpt: Neurology and Neurosurgery

Work location: Brain Tumour Research Center, The Neuro (Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital)

Project: Characterizing the human subventricular zone with organoid models

Selected Award(s): Fond de Recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS), William and Laura Victor Memorial Award

Research Description:

I am doing my PhD in the Integrated Program in Neuroscience, under Dr. Petrecca's supervision. My research investigates the origin of glioblastoma using tissue culture techniques and single cell sequencing.

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

Modern medicine is advancing very rapidly with the emergence of AI and other methodologies for big data. I felt that the MDCM-PhD program would prepare me well to take on a leadership role spearheading collaborations between the medical and scientific communities. I will be better equipped to take on the challenge of harnessing big data to contribute to medical advances.

Why did you choose to study at McGill University?

I chose McGill because it offers high quality medical training and the Integrated Program in Neuroscience is one of the top training programs in its field. Furthermore, McGill's MDCM-PhD program offers plenty of support and resources for its student and there is a lively and welcoming student community.

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

The aspect I enjoy the most is the supportive culture among the student community. There is always someone willing to lending a helping hand.

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

Collaboration is important because no one is an expert in everything; be open to working with others! McGill's MD-PhD program has a supportive culture so don't be shy to ask for help.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

When I am not in the lab, I can be found jogging around Angrignon park, practising archery, playing frisbee, or trying out new stir-fry recipes at home!