



**OWEN CHEN**, Class of 2027

Education: BSc and MSc (Biochemistry), McGill University

Supervisor(s): Jose Teodoro

Dpt: Biochemistry

Work location: Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute

Project: Characterization of cell cycle gene mutations in cancer pathogenesis and cell cycle dysregulation in cancer

Selected Award(s): Fond de Recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS)

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

For me, this has been always a simple question with a complicated answer. Long story short: I wanted do both medicine and research, and couldn't imagine a future career without either.

Why did you choose to study at McGill University?

I was born and raised in Vancouver. After high school, I chose to do my undergrad at McGill because I thought Montreal was cool and wanted an adventure. And just like that, I never left.

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

Of course, the valuable protected time to really develop my research and critical thinking skills. It also serves as a breather from the fast-pace medical curriculum (not that research requires any less effort) to explore and learn more about myself. I'm looking forward to transitioning to clerkship at the end of my PhD studies. But what I really appreciate about our program is how close-knit everybody is. I am especially close with colleagues in my cohort. We are not that many, and the program is "long", so we get to spend a lot of time together and become very good friends.

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

Keep an open mind, during both the MD and PhD studies.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Swim.