



STEPHANIE TOTTEN, Class 2023

Education: BSc (Life Sciences), MSc (Experimental Medicine), McGill University

Supervisor(s): Josie Ursini-Siegel

Dpt: Experimental Medicine

Work location: Lady Davis Institute, Jewish General Hospital

Project: Oxidative Stress as a targetable vulnerability that sensitizes breast cancer models to phenformin and other mitochondrial complex I inhibitors

Selected Award(s): CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship – Doctoral (CGS-D), Graduate Excellence Award, Fond de Recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS)

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

I envision a career in academic medicine, with opportunities to contribute directly to patient care and to our understanding of disease, with the ultimate goal of effecting change in patient outcomes. I felt that the combined MD-PhD program would best prepare me to effectively contribute as both a physician and research team member that "speaks and understands" clinical and basic science research languages, and offers unique perspectives on research questions and ways to address them.

Why did you choose to study at McGill University?

Fantastic and collaborative cancer research network and Medical curriculum structure

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

The friendships and support from colleagues in the program

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

Develop your own strategies for staying on track, set project and learning goals and adjust as needed, practice self-compassion!

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Spend time catching up with friends and family, play basketball, practice yoga.