Special COVID-19 Research Town Hall
April 8, 2020
Presentation Key Takeaways

**Martha Crago, PhD, Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) (Opening Remarks)**

- We know the situation is very difficult and very frustrating.
- How do we keep supporting the excellent work you do?
- Report on research submitted to Senate yesterday.
- Faculty of Medicine research is extremely impressive.
- Everyone is trying to put health first and foremost.
- We have some answers to your questions, but not for others – yet.
- Some of the answers are not what we had hoped, e.g., spring CIHR competition cancellation.
- The agencies are addressing the situation differently.
- We don’t know what they are doing re Bantings and Vaniers yet.
- Many answers must first receive government approval.
- There is a resoluteness across the country.
- Many are trying to pitch in to do important research on COVID-19, resulting in some open labs.
- Safety is key: for the people working in them and in the handling of the material.
- EHS, etc, are paying close attention.
- We have the MI4 research go through the OSR checklist to ensure everyone is careful handling material with which they are not familiar.
- For more info, please see the FAQs on the Research and Innovation site.
- **Josephine Nalbantoglu**, Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, can answer questions, too.
- **Contact me** anytime.

**Shari Baum, PhD, Vice Dean, Research**

- Thank you for being here. Today’s Town Hall is to share questions and concerns.
- Hopefully, we will also share some strategies for coping and remaining productive too.
- Emergency committees are meeting daily in most cases.
- There are some solutions we can implement quickly, locally.
- Others need approval, to ensure alignment with government directives.
- We appreciate everyone’s collaboration in staying off campus.
- No one should feel obligated to go to a lab if they are uncomfortable; we are here to mitigate any issues.
Aimee Ryan, PhD, Associate Dean, Biomedical BSc, Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs

• A heartfelt thank you to all who have shut down your research programs.
• Thank you to all who have already been involved in COVID-19 research, or are now taking it up to help.
• I am aware that some are still trying to do non-essential research.
• Students are asking if I can be more specific about what is meant by non-essential.
• Their peers are being affected, they are stressed, and they are feeling pressured in some cases to break rules set by the government.
• This is unethical.
• There is a power differential (between students and their PIs).
• It is our responsibility to keep these people safe.
• We are asking all of you who are trying to move non-essential research forward to stop.
• I know it’s driven by the passion you have for your science.
• I ask that you send your people home if you are not conducting essential research.
• When we do ramp up, we need these people to be healthy, physically and mentally, too.
• If they are able to be home and working, they should do that.
• But remember the challenges many face, juggling work, children, etc.
• They want to be busy. Encourage them, but be considerate of those who must also address these other pressing needs.
• For more information, please see the Research and Graduate Studies’ COVID-19 FAQs.

IMPORTANT: Because the situation continues to evolve daily, information captured here may change; it is important you stay up-to-date by frequently consulting the sources available:

• Research and Graduate Studies’ COVID-19 webpage

Other Faculty and University sources of information:

• McGill Faculty of Medicine COVID-19 Updates, including links to schools’ and units.
• McGill Coronavirus Updates, including University-wide FAQs

External:

• Santé Québec
• Info-Santé
• Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
• Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) – COVID-19 for Health Professionals
• World Health Organization (WHO)