

# OCTOBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

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Dear members of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology,

A new academic year is starting, and with it comes the excitement about opportunities and challenges ahead. It is essential for all of us to remain informed. Thus, I decided to start a **monthly newsletter** to all the members of the department that will provide you with the news and updates of the department. Please, feel free to send me any academic news item that you would like to share with your colleague trainees, admin and technical staff and faculty, to be included in the newsletter.

Here is our first newsletter:

## **DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION:**

1. **WEBPAGE:** Our webpage has been redesigned thanks to the work of Ireini Ghobri, our webmaster. The page is becoming a useful entry point to the web: you can find out what is going on in the department, what's coming up in the literature, and also what's happening around town (pretty soon). In addition, through the webpage, you will be able to access research services (for example FACS and cell sorting booking) and soon, the biobar inventory. Check it out now: <http://www.mcgill.ca/microimm/> Keep checking the webpage periodically to be informed. Coming up are videos on the research and services provided.
2. **EMAIL:** We have generic email lists to reach specific groups of colleagues within the department. [MIMMFaculty@campus.mcgill.ca](mailto:MIMMFaculty@campus.mcgill.ca) will go to all the primary members of the department, [MIMMAssociates@campus.mcgill.ca](mailto:MIMMAssociates@campus.mcgill.ca) will go to all the associate members of the department, [MIMMAdmin&Techician@campus.mcgill.ca](mailto:MIMMAdmin&Techician@campus.mcgill.ca) will go to all the administrative and technical teaching staff of the department, and [MIMMTrainees&Postdocs@campus.mcgill.ca](mailto:MIMMTrainees&Postdocs@campus.mcgill.ca) will go to graduate students and postdocs in the department. Please, use of these lists to communicate with your colleagues.
3. **FACEBOOK AND TWITTER:** We have joined the world of social network!!! We are on Facebook and Twitter, both tools that our youngest generation is using extensively! Check us out at <http://www.facebook.com/microimm> and [https://twitter.com/MIMM\\_McGill](https://twitter.com/MIMM_McGill)
4. **DEPARTMENTAL WALL OF FAME:** Keep sending us items to be posted on the Wall of Fame. Our students love it!

## **DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH SERVICES:**

1. **DISHWASHING AND AUTOCLAVING SERVICE:** This service of picking up the glassware to wash and the contaminated and dried goods to be autoclaved, from the lab on a daily basis, **free** to all the departmental labs in the Duff, has been implemented and has been functioning for the last 3 months under the care of Tom Ringer. This initiative provides more time to technical and trainee personal to do the actual research, which should result into more discoveries, more papers, and more grant \$!!!
2. **DUFF CONSOLIDATED BIOBAR:** As of September 1/12, we have a **multi-supplier biobar** in the department. This biobar services the McGill community and includes products from Fisher/Fermentas, eBiosciences, Bio-rad, Ultident, Diamed, and Bio-Basic. The service is open daily during working hours in Duff room 514. The biobar supplies list will be available in our webpage

shortly. The biobar sales result into a much needed support for scholarly activities including seminars to the department. Please, spread the word among the members of your lab and your colleagues for the use of this helpful initiative. A formal opening of the biobar, in the form of a product show with all the suppliers on site, is planned for October 18, 2012.

3. **FLOW CYTOMETRY AND CELL SORTING FACILITY:** This core facility is preparing for a **new arrival: a brand new FACS Aria III 11 colour cell sorter!!** This has been made possible through a successful CFI grant attached to my CRC. The availability of this unit makes our facility a top core on McGill campus and provides us with much needed and timely access to state of the art cell sorting. In addition, Dr. Fournier and Ms. Camille Stegen have been working hard to set up the **FACS website in our departmental webpage.** It now includes an electronic calendar that allows electronic booking from anywhere in the world! Billing will be linked to this booking. Please talk to Camille Stegen ([camille.stegen@mcgill.ca](mailto:camille.stegen@mcgill.ca)) if you need further information and access codes.
4. **CONFOCAL FACILITY:** Our newest member, Dr. Irah King, has started also as new director of the confocal microscope core facility, taking the baton from Dr. Don Sheppard (thanks Don for all your work on it).

### **AND COMING UP...**

1. **WINE & CHEESE Reception on October 3/12 at 3pm in the Sheldon Conference Room:** to congratulate Dr. Briedis for 30 years of service to McGill, Dr. Gruenheid for promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure and Dr. King for joining us.
2. **LAB WARMING PARTY:** I have been told (!?) that our newest kid in the block (Dr. Irah King) is planning a lab warming party soon. Please, keep posted by stopping by his lab and saying hello to him, introduce yourselves, talk science and let him know about the amazing department/university/city we live in.
3. Upcoming **TOWN HALL on November 7, 2012 in Duff room 507/509 at 3:30pm.**

Let me use this opportunity to once more express my gratitude to all of you for the pleasure and honour to chair this department.