



# MIMM BITES

A NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL'S MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER 2012

Dear Microbiology and Immunology members,

The year of 2012 is close to end, finals are around the corner, and holiday time is approaching; time to relax and enjoy the season with family and friends. Here are updates on some of new and ongoing initiatives for the upcoming month.

## RESEARCH

### MDTC

The proposal to establish the Microbiome and Disease Tolerance Centre (MDTC) at McGill is moving forward. In advance to the final stage of the Senate approval, a presentation to McGill's Research Advisory Council is planned for January 9, 2013.

MDTC provides a framework for cutting edge collaborative, multidisciplinary, and trans-sectorial research activities. This approach is more than semantics: it enhances our research base while ensuring our readiness to compete for upcoming funding opportunities.

### Recruitment

Dr. Diego Miranda-Saavedra, a candidate for the third tenure-track position is coming for a visit on December 13-14, 2012. He will be presenting his research in Bioinformatics and anti-inflammatory response networks in a formal seminar and a chalk talk on December 13/2012. Following these presentations, he will be meeting with faculty, staff and trainees from our department and other departments. If you wish to meet with Dr. Miranda-Saavedra, please contact Ms. Ireini Ghobri ([ireini.ghobri@mcgill.ca](mailto:ireini.ghobri@mcgill.ca)).

### Publication of the month

Enterohemorrhagic and enteropathogenic Escherichia coli evolved different strategies to resist antimicrobial peptides. J. Thomassin, J. Brannon, J. Kaiser, S. Gruenheid, H. Le Moulal. *Gut Microbes*. 2012; 3:556-61

## TEACHING

### Undergraduate Program

As indicated in the November Newsletter, a full redevelopment of our undergraduate education program in Microbiology and Immunology is underway. Led by Dr. Claire Trottier and Dr. James Coulton, chair of the Undergraduate Education Committee of our department, this process will result in a redefined program that is expected to be a leader in education innovation, to serve as a reference in education at McGill and beyond. The initiative is known as TUMIE: Transforming Undergraduate Microbiology and Immunology Education. Keep posted!

## SERVICE

### The Duff Biobar



The Duff Biobar is a partnership between our department and commercial suppliers to facilitate research by providing timely reagents and supplies. This partnership also supports our research by providing financial support to our Infection and Immunity Seminar Series. Currently, there are 7 suppliers available at the Duff Biobar center; *BD Biosciences*, *BioBasic*, *Bio-Rad*, *eBiosciences*, *Diamed*, *Fisher Scientific*, and *Sarstedt*. The Biobar center is expanding day after another. Three more suppliers have approached us to participate in this initiative. Final agreements are underway (we will keep you posted!).

## PICTURE OF THE MONTH



*The winning pumpkin at MIMM's Halloween Party. Good job to teams of Gotte & Matlashewski's labs.*



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The Biobar center is accessible 5 days a week at Duff Building, room 514. For more information, please contact Mr. Tom Ringer at [tom.ringer@mcgill.ca](mailto:tom.ringer@mcgill.ca) or ext: 3920.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Call for papers** (from Dr. Peter C.K. Lau): The Journal of Microbiological Methods is proposing a special issue on Genomics, Microbiomes, Single Cell Analysis and Next-generation sequencing. For topics of interest and submission guidelines, please visit <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-microbiological-methods/> . Submission Deadline: June 2013



**MIMM's Annual Holiday Party** will be on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at *Spaggios* Restaurant. Cocktails will be at 5:00 PM and dinner will be served at 6:00PM. Come and join us for the celebration of Christmas and New Year. Few tickets are still available. To get your ticket, please see Ms. Claudia Lopez De Castilla, room 511.

**MIMM's Office Hours:** Please note that the office will be closed for Christmas Holiday from December 24 to January 1<sup>st</sup> (inclusively). The office will reopen on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013.

## OTHER

### Congratulations to:

- Dr. Jörg Fritz for his 3 years reappointment as a tenure-track assistant professor in our department. Dr. Fritz has been very successful in establishing a productive research program, securing external funding, and starting to build a rewarding teaching and service dossier. It is a pleasure and honour to count him as a member of our department.
- Mr. Justin Deme, from Coulton's lab, for being selected by the 5eme Colloque, Groupe recherché axe sur la structure des protéines to deliver an oral presentation, and for being awarded the top prize for best presentation.
- Ms. Sarah McCuaig for being awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. Sarah is an Immunology student and one of the most decorated student-athletes at McGill University. She will be travelling to Oxford as McGill's 134th Rhodes Scholar. Congratulations Sarah!
- Ms. Ajitha Thanabalasuriar, from Gruenheid's lab, for being awarded McGill MedStar Award for her publication entitled "*Sec24 interaction is essential for localization and virulence-associated function of the bacterial effector protein NleA*", and for the excellent research she carried out in the Faculty of Medicine.



### Condolences to:

- Dr. Robert Murgita for the loss of his mother who passed away on November 15, 2012. On behalf of all MIMM's departmental members we extend our deepest sympathies for him and for his family.

I wish you and your families a wonderful Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Joaquin (Quim) Madrenas

You are all encouraged to submit any news, pictures, or items that you want to include to our monthly newsletter. We will be happy to share them with the rest of the department. You can email them to Ms. Ireini Ghobri at [ireini.ghobri@mcgill.ca](mailto:ireini.ghobri@mcgill.ca)