



MIMM BITES

A NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL'S MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

JANUARY 2013

Dear Microbiology and Immunology members,

As we start a new year, it is always good to look back at past year's challenges and accomplishments and to look forward for a new year to strategically plan for the success of our research and teaching programs and to work together to advance our department to become one of the top of Microbiology and Immunology departments in the world. I wish you all a prosperous and successful new year. As things slow down during Holidays, here is a short newsletter for the month of January 2013.

RESEARCH

MDTC Updates (Brown Bag Lunch with Intelgenx)

On Wednesday, January 30, 2013, representatives from Intelgenx, an R&D pharmaceutical company, based on Montreal, will be attending our monthly Brown Bag Lunch meeting to explore collaboration possibilities. Intelgenx's research area is focused on formulation of solid dosage forms of drug administration. They are currently exploring the possibility of developing oral films for the delivery of vaccines through the buccal mucosa, and are therefore very interested in combining their new technology with our expertise in the area of immunology and vaccine development. For more information, please contact Dr. Joaquin Madrenas (joaquin.madrenas@mcgill.ca).

Publication of the Month

A conserved C-Terminal Domain of the *Aspergillus fumigatus* Developmental Regulator MedA Is Required for Nuclear Localization, Adhesion and Virulence. Q. Al Abdallah, S. Choe, P. Campoli, S. Baptista, F. Gravelat, M. Lee, D. Sheppard. *PLoS ONE*. 2012; 7(11):e49959.

TEACHING

New Course MIMM 214

A new course MIMM 214 Introductory Immunology: Elements of Immunity coordinated by Dr. Joaquin Madrenas is to start on January 7th, 2013. The course is an introductory course providing an entry-level exposure to Immunology to a broad range of students from those in a general science program to those going into Microbiology and Immunology as field of specialization. This course will provide the required basis to tackle subsequent more advanced courses in Immunology. For more information, visit <https://www.mcgill.ca/microim/students/undergraduate/courses/mimm-214>.

Immunology Lab Re-design Project

Dr. Claire Trottier was featured in the SALTISE yearly newsletter (December 2012 issue) in recognition for her significant role along with Dr. James Coulton, Dr. Sylvie Fournier, and Dr. Joaquin Madrenas to re-design the immunology section of the undergraduate lab course in our department. The goals of this project is to modernize the scientific component of the Undergraduate courses and to introduce active learning strategies and problem-based learning. For more information on SALTISE, please visit <http://www.saltise.ca/>.

SERVICE

Administrative Officer (Ms. Petra Gaiser)

Ms. Petra Gaiser, our Administrative officer will be leaving her current position at the department of Microbiology and Immunology to take on a new professional challenge, into the position of Associate Director of Operations at McGill's Goodman Cancer Centre. Petra's last day is Friday, January 11, 2013. Petra's outstanding performance has been an asset to our department. We have benefitted from her decisive administration role during her four years of service at MIMM's department. We wish her all the best in pursuing her career dreams. Good Luck Petra!

PICTURE OF THE MONTH

RECORD SNOWFALL ON MONTREAL
DECEMBER 27 2012



Source: Washington Post News



Source: Independent Television Network News



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New Administrative Officer (Ms. Maria Babiak)

The recruitment process of a new Administrative Officer has been completed. As a result of a wide search, Ms. Maria Babiak has been identified as the selected candidate. Ms. Babiak's official start date is January 14, 2013. Before joining McGill, Maria has been a Director of an English and French Second language School. Maria has a Bachelor's degree from Queen's University in Sociology and minor in Biology, and brings expertise in administration, management, marketing and organizational development. Please join me in welcoming Maria to our department!

Biobar Center Updates (New Supplier)



It our pleasure to announce the addition of a new supplier (*New England Biolabs*) to the Duff Biobar Center. For more information on the available products, please contact Mr. Tom Ringer at tom.ringer@mcgill.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Movember Campaign Updates (From Anthony Rainone): After all the moustache growing and fundraising, the departmental Movember team, MIMM Moustaches raised a total of \$283! Thank you everyone who supported the cause and great job Team! The moustaches were exquisite.



Petra's Farwell Party

In appreciation to all the efforts and the outstanding service throughout her four years of service at MIMM's department, we are planning a Farwell party for Petra on *Friday, January 11, 2013 at 3:00 PM in room 507-509*. Everyone is welcome! To RSVP, please email office.microimm@mcgill.ca.

Congratulations to:

- Dr. James Coulton for being awarded "The sponsorship of a student symposium" by the Canadian Society of Microbiologists, which will be held on June 17-20, 2013 in Carleton University, Ottawa.
- Dr. Sidi Mehdi Belgnaoui, from the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research, for being awarded the Étudiants-chercheurs étoiles from Fonds Santé Québec for his article titled "*Linear ubiquitination of NEMO negatively regulates the interferon antiviral response through disruption of the MAVS-TRAF3 complex*".



I wish you and your families 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