



MIMM BITES

A NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL'S MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY 2013

Dear Microbiology and Immunology members,

February is starting with great news. As you will read below, the performance of our department at the last CIHR open grant competition was stellar, with a success rate well above the national average. This success rate is further enhanced when counting the grants awarded to some of our associate members. These indicators can certainly change from one competition to another. However, it is important that we recognize and celebrate the success when it comes! So, to all the awardees associated to the department, our most sincere congratulations.

Talking about the CIHR, please keep in mind the meetings with Drs. Beaudet (president of CIHR) and Aubin (VP Research) on March 20, 2013. This meeting will be an open Town Hall providing an opportunity to give feedback and voice concerns regarding the proposed changes to the open competition program.

Last, talking about promotion of research, please take a look at a closer to home initiative to promote and ensure provincial government support for research. Look at <http://www.jesuismichele.com/j-ecris-au-ministre.html>

Hope you continue to have a great winter, with opportunities to enjoy family and friends in this beautiful season.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Ms. Gaiser Farewell Party – Jan 11, 2013



RESEARCH

Exciting News from CIHR Open Grant Competition

The Department of Microbiology and Immunology had a success rate of 87.5% in the recent CIHR open grant competition. Seven applications from our department were granted. This result weighs well to the National average of 17.2%. Congratulations to all PIs for their outstanding achievements and for their commitment to the academic excellence.



List of Awardees

- Gotte, Matthias for his grant entitled "*Interactions between components of the HCV replication complex*". Grant amount \$684,000
- Gotte, Matthias for his grant entitled "*Molecular mechanisms involved in resistance to different classes of HIV RT inhibitors*". Grant amount \$665,000
- Krawczyk, Connie for her grant entitled "*Molecular Regulation of Dendritic Cell Function*" Grant amount \$790,890
- Madrenas, Joaquin for his grant entitled "*Regulation of T cell Activation by Stomatin-Like Protein 2*". Grant amount \$741,685
- Madrenas, Joaquin for his co-application with Dr. Alain Gagnon, Université de Montreal entitled "*Mortality risks in later life from exposure to pandemic influenza in early life: the 1890 and 1918 influenza pandemics in Canada*". Grant amount \$272,567
- Marczyński, Greg for his grant entitled "*Bacterial chromosome replication control by novel proteins*". Grant amount \$688,560
- Matlashewski, Greg for his grant entitled "*Control of Leishmania Pathogenesis*". Grant amount \$734,485



MDTC Updates

During this month, there will be two initial meetings with R&D pharmaceutical companies to explore possible research collaborations. For more information, please contact Dr. Joaquin Madrenas Joaquin.madrenas@mcgill.ca

Meeting with AbbVie- February 6, 2013

On Wednesday, February 6, 2013 there will be a meeting between members of MDTC and representatives from AbbVie, a global R&D biopharmaceutical company to explore potential partnership. To learn more about AbbVie, you can visit <http://www.abbvie.com>

Meeting with Micropharma- February 13, 2013

On Wednesday, February 13, 2013 representatives from Micropharm, an R&D pharmaceutical company, located in Montreal will be meeting with members from MDTC to discuss possible collaborations. Micropharma is an R&D company that specializes on probiotics. Their research is focused on developing biotherapeutics for metabolic disease including for heart disease, cholesterol, and diabetes (<http://www.micropharma.net/>).

Publication of the Month

The broad landscape of immune interactions with *Staphylococcus aureus*: From commensalism to lethal infections. Peres AG, Madrenas J. *Burns*. 2013 Jan 10. doi:pii: S0305-4179(12)00400-7. 10.1016/j.burns.2012.12.008.

TEACHING

The Canadian Society of Microbiologists (CSM) Award to support MIMM's Undergraduate Research Day (April 29, 2012)

A new program of the Canadian Society of Microbiologists [www.csm-scm.org] supports events that promote undergraduate scientific achievements in microbiology. On behalf of honours undergraduates who are enrolled in MIMM 501/502, an application was submitted by Dr. James Coulton, McGill representative to CSM. Our celebration of undergraduate microbiology research at Student Research Day (April 29, 2013) for honours students stands as a landmark annual event for the department, the culmination of splendid achievements by our trainees. The CSM's recently announced award will underwrite costs of student prizes and the mid-day luncheon for all who attend. Mark the date on your calendar.

Attention all Faculty members!

Mark **March 8th** in your agendas for the MIMM's Teaching Retreat, 2013. This year's focus is on "*Program outcomes*". See you all there!

SERVICE

McGill's FBI initiative

McGill is proceeding with the Financial and Budget integration initiative, the **FBI** initiative (great acronym!). This will consolidate Finances with budgeting with an extended timeline. The initiative is under developing and further information will be provided as available.



Travel Awards - Graduate Students

Please take note of the upcoming meetings of The 26th Annual Canadian Society of Immunology Conference (April 5-8, 2013- Whistler, BC <http://www.csi-sci.ca/scientificmeeting.aspx>), and the 15th International Congress of Immunology (August 22-27, 2013 Milan, Italy <http://www.ici2013.org/home/>). These are great opportunities to present exciting research. Graduate students are encouraged to apply to Immunology Montreal for Travel Awards. Immunology Montreal assists graduate students with travel awards that give them the opportunity to go to annual conferences, congresses or meetings. The recipients are selected on the basis of career progress and the submission of a first-author abstract. For more information, please visit <http://www.immunologymontreal.ca/scientists.html#travel>



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ANNOUNCEMENTS



MIMM on Social Media

To create an active Social Media community within the department, McGill and beyond, the department has created an official page on Facebook and Twitter. Our goal is to increase our network and to promote our success to the outside world. Help us build an online community by being part of this initiative. Your role can be simply by "like" our page <https://www.facebook.com/microimm> and follow us @ https://twitter.com/MIMM_McGill. You are also encouraged to share and post interesting and relevant topics, photos, and videos.

From King's Lab

A new M.Sc. student Alexandre Meli from Concordia University has joined the lab of Dr. Irah King. Welcome Alex!



Save-the-Date MIMM's Annual Gala

Please save the date of May 25, 2013 on your calendars for MIMM's Second Annual Gala. More details to follow. Stay tuned!

Sincerely,

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