



Dear Microbiology and Immunology members,

Already April! Finals are just around the corner, graduation is close for our senior students, the \$ for some of the successful new grants have arrived and the research and discoveries have started to be realized. All in all, exciting times for all.

The last few weeks have also been very intense and challenging. After a comprehensive round of consultation with all the members of the McGill community, a central plan to tackle the financial cuts has emerged. Our priorities will be to maintain research and educational excellence and the people who sustain it.

Having said that, our department has led an important community outreach campaign to ask the provincial government for cancelation of the cuts. Close to 2000 signatures were collected. Although below the number we would have liked, it was a sufficient number to catch the attention of the community. Our petition is read in the National Assembly and a letter is going to Premier Marois. I have personally invited her to visit us and get a sense of the academic reality. You will certainly hear if she accepts to visit us...

Let me finish this introduction by reiterating how I am amazed at the commitment of everyone in the department to outstanding scholarship. The proof is that, despite the challenging current times, we have plenty of successful initiatives to report as outlined below.

Enjoy the Newsletter... and the arrival of spring!

Sincerely,

Joaquin (Quim) Madrenas

PICTURE OF THE MONTH

From Coulton Lab

From left: Calvin Liang, Honors student & Justin Deme, PhD student.



RESEARCH

Publications of the Month

- Time-Dependent Effects of Localized Inflammation on Peripheral Clock Gene Expression in Rats. S. Westfall, A. Aguilar-Valles, V. Mongrain, G. N. Luheshi, and N. Cermakian. PLOS-ONE. March 2013-Volume 8- issue 3
- Viral fitness cost prevents HIV-1 from evading dolutegravir drug pressure. T. Mesplède, P. K. Quashie, N. Osman, Y. Han, D. N. Singhroy, Y. Lie, C. J. Petropoulos, W. Huang and M. A. Wainberg. Retrovirology 2013; 10:22.
- Fibroblast growth factor-23 and calcium phosphate product in young chronic kidney disease patients: a cross-sectional study. Yasin A, Liu D, Chau L, Madrenas J, Filler G. BMC Nephrol. 2013;14:39.

