



# MIMM BITES

A NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL'S MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

MAY 2013

Dear Microbiology and Immunology members,

As Teale said, "All things seem possible in May". Indeed, this time of the year is a time to celebrate achievement. True to the word, see below for the many kudos to our departmental members that continue to aim at the highest levels of accomplishment. Also, make sure that you buy your tickets for the Second Annual Gala of our Department. Details are below.

To promote our research mission and foster collaborations and networking, both key features of today's research environment, the department is investing in organizing the Second Annual Graduate Research Day and a Research Retreat for the Microbiome and Disease Tolerance Centre and other departmental members. See below for details and make sure that you stay tuned for further information.

May has also brought to us opportunities to outreach the community. This is an integral part of McGill's mission of being a research-intensive, student centered university that measures to the highest international standards of academic excellence and with a public purpose. Keep an eye on our webpage where very soon you will be able to see a short video on the community outreach that the department has been embarked on.

With all this in mind, please accept my sincere welcome to our May Newsletter.

Sincerely,

Joaquin (Quim) Madrenas

## RESEARCH

### Publication of the Month

Identification of potentially diarrheagenic atypical enteropathogenic Escherichia coli strains present in Canadian food animals at slaughter and in retail meats. Comery R, Thanabalasuriar A, Garneau P, Portt A, Boerlin P, Reid-Smith R, Harel J, Manges AR, Gruenheid S. Appl Environ Microbiol. 2013 Apr 12. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 23584785.

## TEACHING

### Undergraduate Teaching Redevelopment Updates

The redevelopment of the Immunology component of the MIMM386 lab class is in full swing. The redesigned class will give students the opportunity to propose their own hypothesis and design their own experiment. Some of the new experiments will be tested over the summer. We will keep you informed with new updates. Stay tuned!

### PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Service Award Reception, April 9

from left: J. DiMassimo, N. Crouteau, A. Zamani & L. Franchi





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## Honours Student Research Day Updates

On April 29, 15 honours undergraduates celebrated their splendid research accomplishments after 8-months of lab-based activity in Independent Studies in Microbiology and Immunology, MIMM 501/502. Each student delivered a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation that demonstrated both top science and importantly, life-long skills of communication that they honed during the course, mentored by Justin Deme, TA, and by J.H. Fritz and J.W. Coulton, course coordinators. Book prizes provided by the Canadian Society

of Microbiologists (CSM) were awarded to *Alex Geller, Sheppard lab*, and to *Mathieu Mancini, Vidal lab*. Students celebrated their end-of-course achievements with a festive luncheon mid-day and with a semi-formal dinner party the same evening, also sponsored by CSM.

## Successful PhD Examinations

*Ajitha Thanabalasuriar* has successfully defended on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Her thesis title was "Functional characterization of the bacterial virulence factor NleA". Congratulations Ajitha!



## 2<sup>nd</sup> MIMM Graduate Student Research Day, May 23

The department of Microbiology and Immunology is organizing its Second Annual Graduate Student Research Day on May 23 at the McIntyre Building 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Amphitheater 504. The keynote speaker is Dr. Andrew D. Wells from University of Pennsylvania. The organizing committee wishes to thank the sponsors of the day:



## SERVICE

### Duff Biobar Updates

A new supplier Roche has joined the Duff Biobar. For the list of available Roche products, you can contact Tom Ringer at [tom.ringer@mcgill.ca](mailto:tom.ringer@mcgill.ca)

## Community Outreach Activities

### Grade 3 students' visit to MIMM, April 19



On April 19 at noon we welcomed 30 students from F.A.C.E. school. The visit started off with a historical overview tour of the building followed by an interesting talk about "Microbes and Human Health" given by Dr. J. Madrenas. The Kids had the opportunity to take part in child-oriented lab activities. This visit is part of an initiative aimed at reaching out to our community and getting young people interested and excited about science. Special thanks to all the volunteers who facilitated this visit: T. Abray, R. Arthur, M. Babiak, I. Ghobri, A. Rainone, A. Zamani & S. Zhang.

