



Dear members of the Department,

WELCOME

Welcome to November 2013. After passing the Equator of the Fall Term, we are getting ready for the Holidays in less than 8 weeks! Before that, finals, reports, papers, some grant deadlines, and other exciting stuff.

This month, I would like to share with you two stories. The first one is that we have seen the (re)-opening of the Duff cafeteria. The wait for this re-opening was well worth because the quality of the offerings in the new Cafeteria is amazing! The Cafeteria is run by Dominique and Crystal, who always greet us with a smile. The operation is a franchise of Fabergé (a well-known Plateau restaurant) and the Roux food truck. If you have not tried it yet, I strongly encourage you to do so. The options are sophisticated.



Picture: Dominique at the Duff Cafeteria

The other story that I would like to bring to your attention is the Duff Biobar. This initiative started one year ago. Tom Ringer has been running it very skillfully. The Biobar provides a tremendous opportunity to obtain rapid access to tools and reagents for our research. But this is not the only thing it provides. The Biobar also provides our Department with some income. This income goes into supporting our seminar series and other departmental academic initiatives. With this in mind, I would like to encourage every member of the department (and colleagues beyond) to use the Biobar. If you are a trainee, talk to your supervisor and explore the opportunity to use the Biobar. It helps each one of us to accelerate our research, and it also helps us all to maintain the excellent academic opportunities that our department can and wants to provide.

These two units, Cafeteria and Biobar, are just two of the initiatives that improve the quality of our working environment. Do not hesitate to share with me any other initiatives that could do so. Count on our commitment to make our department a better place.

Without further due, enjoy our November 2013 Newsletter.

Yours in service,

Quim

RESEARCH

Publications of the Month

Clerzius G, Shaw E, Daher A, Burugu S, Gélinas JF, Ear T, Sinck L, Routy JP, Mouland AJ, Patel RC, Gatignol A. The PKR activator, PACT, becomes a PKR inhibitor during HIV-1 replication. *Retrovirology*. 2013 Sep 11;10(1):96.

Identification of multimolecular complexes and supercomplexes in compartment-selective membrane microdomains. Mitsopoulos P, Madrenas J. *Methods Cell Biol*. 2013;117:411-31. doi: 10.1016/B978-0-12-408143-7.00022-0.



MIMM BITES

A NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL'S MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER 2013

RNAi, Antiviral after all. Sagan SM and Sarnow P. *Science*. 2013. Oct. 11;342(6155):207-208.

Enhancement of hepatitis C viral RNA abundance by precursor miR-122 molecules. Cox EM, Sagan SM, Mortimer SA, Doudna JA, and Sarnow P. *RNA*. 2013. Oct 8 [Epub ahead of print].

Evolving bacterial envelopes and plasticity of TLR2-dependent responses: basic research and translational opportunities. J Li, D S W Lee and J Madrenas. *Frontiers in Immunology*. Oct 28, 2013.

Doi:10.3389/fimmu.2013.00347

TEACHING

Our department was well represented at the Faculty of Science's ninth annual Undergraduate Research Conference this year. Four students in our program (Natalia Giannakopoulou, Daegan Sit, An Qi Xu, Joseph Yang) participated in the conference and did very well, making their supervisors (Drs. Gruenheid, Ausubel and Kirienko, Madrenas and Allman) and all the department proud. Good job. Daegan Sit and Joseph Yang won 2nd prize in the categories of Cellular and Molecular Biology and Medical Sciences. Congratulations! I would also like to thank Drs. Herve Le Moual for coordinating our participation and judging at the event, and Dr. Claire Trottier, also a judge.

SERVICE

Duff Biobar

BioBar Hours

The operating hours for the BioBar this fall, will be between 8-12 and 1-4.

If you would like to get a list of products available at the BioBar, please contact Tom Ringer at tom.ringer@mcgill.ca.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

In October, **Dr. Matlashewski** was inducted as a fellow into the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, which recognizes excellence in research in the Health Sciences.

This month we have to say goodbye to Claudia, who has been replacing Elisa for the past year. Claudia, It has been a real pleasure working with you and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

It is my pleasure to share with you that our colleague and friend Michel Tremblay, associate member of our department, was awarded the 2013 Prix Armand-Frappier du Québec. On behalf of all the members of the MIMM department, congratulations Michel! It is a pleasure to count you as a member of our department. Our wishes for many more to come.

MISA would like to cordially invite you to the Annual MISA Student Professor Wine & Cheese happening Friday, November 15, 2013 starting at 4 PM. The focus of this event will be to create a forum to facilitate undergraduate student communication with the department. All departmental members are welcome!



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Fall Office Hours!

For the fall semester, the MIMM Administrative Office will have the following office hours: **8:30am-5:00pm**, Monday to Friday. The office will remain closed during the lunch hour period of 12pm-1:30pm and will only be accessible via authorized card access.

Our **Student Affairs department** will be available as follows:

Ireini Ghobri 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday to Friday

Jennifer Dimassimo 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday to Friday

UPCOMING

Symposium Pre-Announcement: Stress-Associated RNA Granules in Human Disease and Viral Infection (Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 6-8, 2014). Organizers: Craig McCormick (Dalhousie), Bruce Banfield (Queen's) & Andrew Mouland (McGill). This conference will cover the rapidly evolving field of RNA granule biology and how it impacts human disease. RNA granules can take many forms and perform numerous functions, but are generally large dynamic complexes found within cells that have been characterized to harbour factors that are important for gene expression, cellular metabolism, cell growth and survival. This conference will be relevant for infectious disease, cancer and neuropathologies.

You are all encouraged to submit any news, grants, papers, awards, 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 office.microimm@mcgill.ca.