



FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

Dear MIMMers,

I would like to start this newsletter wishing you all a very Happy 2016! May we see in the year ahead many inspiring academic achievements, exciting discoveries, and invigorating developments.

I believe that the short term looks prosperous. The change in federal government coincides with a much louder talk on commitment to invest in research and innovation. And the opportunities to see some action on this talk are around the corner. Let's hope that we see increased budget allocation to CIHR and allied research agencies and organizations in the new government's budget.

We will be going through the first CIHR Project competition and the second CIHR Foundation competition, as well as a new CFI call (CFI-9) in the coming months. I would like to wish every member of the department participating in these competitions my full support and the best of luck. Let me emphasize the importance of preparing these applications ahead of time, and of going through internal peer review. The latter can be coordinated not only at the faculty level but also at the departmental level. Let me know if you need any help.

Last, we are nearing the end of my first term as Chair of the Department. I would appreciate that you participate in the review process by providing Dr. Mara Ludwig, Vice-Dean of Academic Affairs, your feedback on my leadership at mara.ludwig@mcgill.ca. I truly thank you in advance for doing so. It means a lot to me as we continue to make our Department a reference of academic excellence and administrative fairness and transparency.

Without further due, let 2016 begin!

Yours in service,
Quim



RESEARCH

Publications

1. Alshafiq N, Ding S, Richard J, Markle T, Brassard N, Walker B, Lewis GK, Kaufmann DE, Brockman MA, Finzi A. [Nef proteins from HIV-1 elite controllers are inefficient at preventing ADCC](#). *J Virol*. 2015 Dec 30. pii: JI.02973-15. [Epub ahead of print]
2. Atayde VD, Aslan H, Townsend S, Hassani K, Kamhawi S, Olivier M. [Exosome Secretion by the Parasitic Protozoan Leishmania within the Sand Fly Midgut](#). *Cell Rep*. 2015 Nov 3;13(5):957-67. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2015.09.058. Epub 2015 Oct 22.
3. Ding S, Veillette M, Coutu M1, Prévost J, Scharf L, Bjorkman PJ, Ferrari G, Robinson JE, Stürzel C, Hahn BH, Sauter D, Kirchhoff F, Lewis GK, Pazgier M, Finzi A. [A Highly-Conserved Residue of the HIV-1 gp120 Inner Domain is Important for ADCC Responses Mediated by Anti-Cluster A Antibodies](#). *J Virol*. 2015 Dec 4. pii: JI.02779-15. [Epub ahead of print]



4. Duerr CU, McCarthy CD, Mindt BC, Rubio M, Meli AP, Pothlichet J, Eva MM, Gauchat JF, Qureshi ST, Mazer BD, Mossman KL, Malo D, Gamero AM, Vidal SM, King IL, Sarfati M, Fritz JH. [Type I interferon restricts type 2 immunopathology through the regulation of group 2 innate lymphoid cells.](#) Nat Immunol. 2015 Nov 23. doi: 10.1038/ni.3308. [Epub ahead of print].
5. Lee WS, Richard J, Lichtfuss M, Smith AB 3rd, Park J, Courter JR, Melillo BN, Sodroski JG, Kaufmann DE, Finzi A, Parsons MS, Kent SJ. [Antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity against reactivated HIV-1-infected cells.](#) J Virol. 2015 Dec 9. pii: JI.02717-15. [Epub ahead of print]
6. Memari B, Bouttier M, Dimitrov V, Ouellette M, Behr MA, Fritz JH, White JH. [Engagement of the Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor in Mycobacterium tuberculosis-Infected Macrophages Has Pleiotropic Effects on Innate Immune Signaling.](#) J Immunol. 2015 Nov 1;195(9):4479-91. doi: 10.4049/jimmunol.1501141. Epub 2015 Sep 28.
7. Monat C, Cousineau B. [Circularization pathway of a bacterial group II intron.](#) Nucleic Acids Res. 2015 Dec 15. pii: gkv1381. [Epub ahead of print]
8. Skeldon AM, Morizot A, Douglas T, Santoro N, Kursawe R, Kozlitina J, Caprio S, Mehal WZ, Saleh M. [Caspase-12, but Not Caspase-11, Inhibits Obesity and Insulin Resistance.](#) J Immunol. 2015 Nov 18. pii: 1501529. [Epub ahead of print].
9. Shourian M, Flaczyk A, Angers I, Mindt BC, Fritz JH, Qureshi ST. [The Ones2 Locus on Mouse Chromosome 17 Regulates Host Defense against Cryptococcal Infection through Pleiotropic Effects on Host Immunity.](#) Infect Immun. 2015 Dec;83(12):4541-54. doi: 10.1128/IAI.00697-15. Epub 2015 Sep 14.



Fanny Guimont-Desrochers, Postdoctoral fellow

How long have you been with the Department?

I have been in the Department since April 2014.

What is your job description?

I finished my bachelor's degree and a PhD while at a University of Montreal in Microbiology and Immunology. I worked on the genetic and functional characterization of NK cells and dendritic cells. Afterwards, I spent a year in the USA at the National Institutes of Health to study the role of dietary metabolites in the regulation of immune cells. In 2014, I started my postdoctoral studies at McGill University in Dr Connie Krawczyk's laboratory. My project focuses on the role of Notch receptors on dendritic cell activation and function. I design, perform and analyze experiments. I also train younger lab members on various techniques and give them feedback on their projects.



What do you look forward to when you come to work every day?

I look forward to see my colleagues because I really enjoy working with them. I also really like designing new experiments and trying them out. Working in a lab is amazing because you are always busy and never get bored!

