



## FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

Dear MIMMers,

Academic life involves research, discoveries, publications, teaching and service.

But enjoying academic life involves much more: conversation over a cup of coffee, sharing the excitement of an experiment, a welcoming remark to start the day... These and many other "little things" have a big impact in our experience of a fulfilling life. And our students drive many of these.

For the last year and a half, we have had a MIMM lounge at the Duff used by departmental members to have a bite or a cup of coffee or just a break from the daily routine. Have you noticed that the lounge has gourmet coffee? Or that you can have specialty popcorn? There is even a waffle-making machine and sweet treats from time to time. We also had seasonal decorations including a fully decorated, natural Christmas tree.

Patrick Lypaczewski from the Matlashewski lab is quietly behind these developments, making our life much better. He is always ready when we ("departmental we") need a hand. Please, next time you see Patrick, let him know how much you enjoy it. Or just smile at him... you may get a great cup of coffee! Thank you Patrick!



Another initiative started by one of our students has to do with Media and Public Education. Ali Mohammed is very much interested in Science, and Community Outreach. He felt in love with the theme of Infection and Immunity and this led to the Podcast series called Y (the name based on the sound "why" and on the shape of antibodies). Several episodes have already been recorded and are now posted in the McGill Podcast webpage as well as in our departmental webpage. Great initiative to bring science to the public and emphasize the importance of academic research. If you have any idea for topics, please let Lana at the office know. Thank you Ali!

Just two examples out of many that make academic life such an enjoyable experience.

Last, I would like to end this section by wishing the best to Patrick Ritchie (from the office). Patrick has been with us for over a year and a half, a time that has seen a very significant renewal of the department. Patrick's readiness to help has only been matched by his positive attitude day after day. We will miss him but rejoice in his promotion to become a manager in VP Di Grappa's office. Congratulations Patrick and all the best in your new job! Lana Kobeici has joined our Office team last week. She brings experience and broad expertise that will be very helpful to the Department. Welcome Lana!

Without further ado, enjoy the February 2016 Newsletter!

Yours in service,

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