



CHAIR'S CORNER



Summer holidays!

Dear MIMMers,

Welcome to the last MIMM Bites of the 2015-16 academic year. This is the 38th issue of our newsletter. Because it coincides with the last newsletter of my first term as Chair of the Department, I thought that it would be a good time to pause and briefly look back at where we are.

The Newsletters from over 3.5 years reflect the life of the department and its evolution. We have gone through

PUBLICATIONS



Decreasing mortality in Malaria patients

Malaria is a severe threat to global health with an estimated 300-500 million cases annually and 2 million deaths. The clinical symptoms of malaria occur at the blood stage when parasites rapidly replicate and lyse red blood cells (RBCs) leading to anemia and high fever. In addition, parasitized RBCs can become trapped and cause lesions in brain capillaries resulting in cerebral malaria (CM), the most lethal form of the disease. Neda Moradi, a Ph.D. candidate, found that combination of Cys with arte misinin can significantly improve condition during initial blood stage. In addition, potentiating effect of Cys is broad and improves activity of several arte misinin

challenging times but we have come out stronger and invigorated. Over the last 5 years, our primary faculty has grown by 25%. Our department now includes more CRCs than any other MIMM department in Canada. Our peer reviewed funding has increased by 61% and our publication output has increased by 17%. Our department has the second largest undergraduate program in Microbiology and Immunology in Canada, and enrollment is increasing steadily. And these are just a few examples.

This month's MIMM Bites is no exception as it contains more examples of departmental successes, including Dr. Albert Berghuis' appointment as Chair of Biochemistry at McGill, and Dr. Jörg Fritz' promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure. Congrats Albert and Jörg!

I know... there are still some challenges. But I'm convinced that we can tackle them and tackle them successfully.

As we look at the summer break, I invite you to enjoy the time with your family, with your friends and with your colleagues. Do so with the inner peace that comes from the realization of a job well done. Each and every one of you, academic and non-academic staff, trainees and students, have made of our department a better place. And for this, I sincerely thank you.

Yours in service,
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ACHIEVEMENTS

derivatives used for clinical treatment of malaria in humans. [Read this publication.](#)



Understanding the Cell response in cancer and chronic infections

Cells communicate with each other through the production and secretion of cytokines (proteins) in response to an infection. Stefanie E. Valbon, a UBC student, found that these proteins influence the critical immune cells that play an important role in the control and elimination of intracellular pathogens. Her research provides the interplay between cytokines and memory cell functions that will impact the development of vaccines while helping in understanding the cell responses in cancer and chronic infections. [Read this publication.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Importance of Canadian

