



CHAIR'S CORNER



A New Beginning!

Dear MIMMers,

This is supposed to be my last paragraph for MIMM Bites before I move on into a new position. I am writing these few lines from sunny California with a barrage of feelings. Homesick for Montreal bagels, for smoked meat, and for many restaurants in the Plateau and Mile-End. Sad to leave behind the many friendships forged over the years in our department, at McGill, and in Montreal. Excited with taking on a new

PUBLICATIONS



Combating HIV using a double-edged sword

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are approximately 36.9 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) causes HIV infection and over the time Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). AIDS is a condition in humans in which progressive failure of the immune system allows life-threatening infections and cancers to thrive. Without treatment, average survival time after infection with HIV is estimated to be 9 to 11 years, depending on the HIV subtype. [Dr. Mark Wainberg](#), Director of the McGill University AIDS Centre, is conducting

challenge. Energized by the new opportunity at LA Biomed Research Institute. Pampered by the warm welcome and support of my new colleagues and the community at large.

As I move on, I realize how much I have learned in the last 5 years as a Chair. I have learned that there is no New Year in the Duff without a flood due to a burst pipe or a faulty toilet... but these incidences bring good luck! I have realized that, in academia, to occupy space is as important as to be promoted or get tenure! I have learned that every departmental issue has not one, or two or three angles but as many angles as departmental members! I learned that an academic department is a human entity more than an administrative unit, and is made of human beings with many different personal stories. And I have learned that, at the end of the day, leadership is about both commitment to people and to a vision, and is about both listening to all and about making decisions that may not please all.

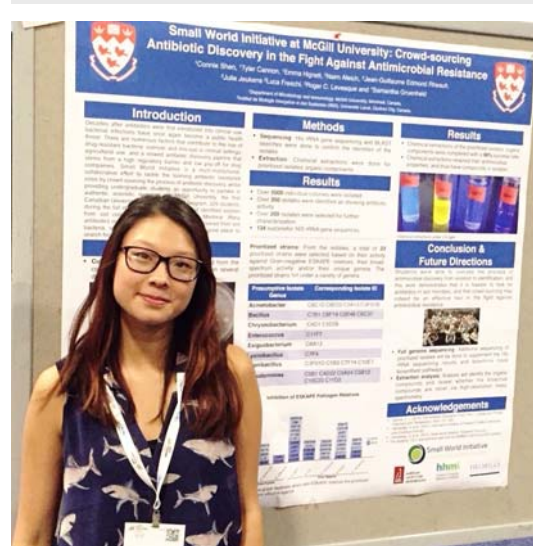
I would like to thank you very much for the honor to lead the Department over the last 5 years, for the opportunity to serve you, and for the fortune to learn of your personal and professional goals and aspirations. Metrics show that the Department is a better department now, combining the energy and brightness of early career scholars with the wisdom and experience of more senior scholars, involving competent and committed administrative and technical staff, and engaging the best and most driven students in the community. Building on these achievements, the Department is ready to take on new challenges and to reach new highs of academic excellence.

I am off. May the future bring us realized dreams and many chances to see each

cutting-edge research to achieve a cure for HIV infection. In this publication he examines the cure of HIV by eliminating proviral DNA from every infected cell using the genome editing technology.

[Read more.](#)

ACHIEVEMENTS



U2 student represents MIMM in Boston

Connie Shen, a U2 MIMM student, presented a poster describing McGill's success with [Small World Initiative \(SWI\)](#) at the SWI symposium during the American Society of Microbiology meeting this past June in Boston, MI. The symposium was attended by 56 SWI participants while providing a great opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences between partners. Thanks Connie for doing a great job of representing our department! [Read more.](#)

FACE OF THE MONTH

