As we start the fall semester and get ready to return to campus, there is certainly a sense of excitement, tempered with a healthy dose of caution, as we gradually return to in person life. We are looking forward to seeing you all and would like to extend a special welcome, not only to our newest cohort of MIMM students, but also to last year’s cohort, who had the unique experience of having lived their first year online.

While we are excited to be able to be back in person, we are also bringing with us new knowledge and experience with online learning tools, which we will continue to apply where they can enrich the learning experience for our students. Also

Publications


new this year: following a successful pilot in Winter 2021, we are proud to introduce two new limited enrolment “SEA-PHAGES” courses: MIMM 390 (F): Phage Discovery, taught by Dr. Corinne Maurice and MIMM 391 (W): Genome Annotation, taught by Dr. Jessie Shapiro. Special thanks to Dr. Jasmin Chahal for her hard work in making the SEA-PHAGES pilot a tremendous success last year! We also want to thank the technical team led by Shan Hong Zhang for their hard work all summer to prepare the materials for our in-person lab courses.

The past year was a testament to the power of immunology as we have witnessed the unprecedented development of COVID vaccines that are saving countless lives around the world. As microbiologists and immunologists, we have a responsibility to lead by example, and it is therefore our expectation that all department members will be vaccinated. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have questions or concerns about vaccination, and how best to protect yourself and those around you.

We wish you a safe and successful academic year,

Don and Sam


Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital Research Institute

Dr. Sylvie Lesage has been appointed as Scientific Director at the Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital Research Institute where she will be responsible for establishing the directions and research priorities of the Centre de recherche de l'Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont (CR-HMR). She will also have the mandate to ensure the development of the scientific program of this center in collaboration with researchers and partners of the scientific ecosystem of the CR-HMR. Read more.

CIHR Project Grant Results

Congratulations to our professors for being funded in the Spring 2021 Project Grant Competition:

- Dr. Dao Nguyen and her co-applicant Christopher Thibodeaux received funding for “A novel mechanism of antibiotic tolerance in Pseudomonas aeruginosa.”


Kwong K, Benedetti A, Yau Y, Waters V, Nguyen D*. Failed eradication therapy of new onset Pseudomonas aeruginosa infections in cystic fibrosis children is associated with bacterial resistance to neutrophil
- Dr. Irah King and his co-applicant Alex Gregorieff received funding for "Type 2 immune-mediated control of intestinal epithelium stem cell fate and function."

**Hepatitis Can’t Wait: Teachings From COVID-19 To Combat Hepatitis B and C Viruses**

Marylin Rheault (MIMM MSc student in the Sagan lab) co-wrote an open letter with 22 other trainees in the CanHepC fellowship program to mark World Hepatitis Day (July 28). The letter discusses how teachings from the COVID-19 pandemic can be reapplied to improve viral hepatitis care.

Viral hepatitis represents an ongoing pandemic that claims around 1.1 million lives yearly. There is currently a vaccine available for hepatitis B and a cure for hepatitis C, but the majority of infections remain undiagnosed. Thus, there is still much to do to achieve the goal set forth by the World Health Organization to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. This letter aims to raise awareness regarding how we can use the momentum gained during the COVID-19 pandemic and the new innovations put in place to improve the viral hepatitis cascade of care and work towards elimination targets.

**LaRoche-Johnston F, Monat C, Verreault E, Cousineau B. Molecular characterization of both transesterification reactions of the group II intron circularization pathway. Nucleic Acids Res. 2021 Jul 9;49(12):6996-7010. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkab537. PMID: 34157113; PMCID: PMC8266578.**


**Pardy RD, Valbon SF, Cordeiro B,**
Call for Workshop Leaders & Career Panelists:
2021 Discovery Day in Health Sciences

Interested in leading an engaging and stimulating workshop on health sciences for high school students? Open to sharing your professional journey and providing insight about health careers to the next generation?

You are invited to volunteer as a workshop leader and/or career panelist at the annual Discovery Day in Health Sciences on December 1! Participants from faculty, trainees, staff, and students are welcome!

This year's virtual event is organized in partnership with McGill University's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, The Neuro, and the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF).

This national program aims to educate and inspire senior high school students (grades 9-11) who are curious about careers in health sciences, medicine, nursing, regulated health professions, and more. Youth engagement and outreach are important to Canada's medicine and health sciences.


Join the MIMM department!

We are hiring an Assistant Professor (Teaching).

To view the position description and to apply, click here.

Retirement announcement

It saddens us to announce the retirement of Aghdas Zamani, course coordinator. After 25 years at MIMM, her last day in the department was on July 13th. Aghdas was an integral part of the tech team. Her contributions will always be valued and remembered. Her hard work, commitment and dedication to students are worthy of
faculties and your willingness to participate is greatly appreciated.

REGISTER NOW:
https://cmhf.wufoo.com/forms/z11qc9mh0cicufu/

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: October 24, 2021

Let's Talk Science symposium
Looking to showcase your lab and research to future scientists?
Let’s Talk Science (LTS) is holding a half-day virtual (zoom) symposium this Fall and are looking for professors who are interested in participating. It will comprise of an introduction talk about any research being done, a virtual lab tour, and close with a Q&A session. LTS is happy to mold this to whatever you are interested in!
For more information, please contact Maxana Weiss at mcgill@outreach.letstalkscience.ca or Dr. Jasmin Chahal at jasmin.chahal@mcgill.ca.

New MISA & MIGSA council members
Meet the new student associations members for the 2021-2022 academic year:

Microbiology & Immunology Student Association (MISA) members:

We wish her a great retirement!

Departure Announcement
A special thank you to Samantha Packer, Student Affairs Coordinator, for her hard work and dedication in the department. Her last day was on August 30th. It has been an honor to have her as part of the MIMM department, she has been an indispensable part of our team. We wish her all the best in her new endeavors!


Connect with us!
President: Mira Loock
VP Academic: Hahn Li
VP Finance: Sofiya Tsyplenkova
VP External: Mysha Ibnat
VP Communications: Corissa Larson
VP Social: Brendan Flores
VP Sustainability: Alexandra Mircescu

Microbiology & Immunology Graduate Student Association (MIGSA) members:
President: Anshul Sinha
VP Academic: Kayla Paulini
VP Finance: Michael Shamash
VP External: Lydia Labrie
VP Internal: Mina Sadeghi
VP Social: Duha AlAwad
Academic Officer: Adam Hassan

Contact the members here.

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