



---

### CHAIR'S CORNER

---



#### A word from the MIMM Chair

Dear MIMMers,

This is the last MIMM Newsletter before the well-deserved Summer vacation period. The 2016-2017 academic year was again a very successful one for the MIMM Department. I would like to sincerely thank everybody in the MIMM Community for your contribution to such a wonderful academic year.

As for the 2016 calendar year, we increased our overall peer-reviewed

---

### EVENTS

---



#### MEMORIAL FOR DR. ALI-KHAN

Dear friends and colleagues of  
Dr. Zafer Ali-Khan,

**It is with our deepest sorrow that we inform you of the death of Dr. Zafer Ali-Khan's, Professor Emeritus at McGill University, passing on April 5, 2017.**

We invite you to attend an informal **memorial** gathering to celebrate the life and career of Zafer. It will be held **at 2pm on Friday June 9<sup>th</sup>** at the Sheldon Conference Room D4, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology (Duff

funding by 23% compared to the previous year. During that period, we also enrolled a total record of 30 new students in our Graduate program. These are excellent news unveiling the overall vitality and strength of our Department. More details about our collective success can be found in the recently published [2016 Annual Report](#). Now, let's look forward to another fruitful and productive year in 2017.

It was with great sadness that we informed you last month that one of our Colleagues Dr. Zafer Ali-Khan, Emeritus Professor, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family in Christchurch, New Zealand. A memorial will be held, in presence of his daughter Sarah, to celebrate his life, to share stories, and remember a life lived to the fullest. The memorial will take place on Friday June 9<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 2:00pm in the Sheldon Conference Room (D4) at the Duff (3775 University Street). In lieu of flowers please consider donating to the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation and specify Kidney Dialysis Unit. Kindly RSVP by sending a reply to Lana Kobeici [office.microimm@mcgill.ca](mailto:office.microimm@mcgill.ca). Please share this invitation with anybody who would be interested in attending the memorial.

Kudos to our Colleagues Dr Martin Richer and Dr Greg Matlashewski that both received 5-year CIHR project grants respectively entitled "The impact of host-pathogen interactions on cell-mediated immunity" and "The genetic basis for *Leishmania* attenuation". Great job, keep on the good work!

Please join me in congratulating Ms. Suzana Kafadar who recently accepted the position of Associate Director of our Administrative Excellence Center (AEC #2). Suzana, thank you for accepting to

Medical Building, McGill University, 3775 Rue University, Montréal, QC H3A 2B4). We hope that you will be able to join us to share stories, and raise our glasses to toast our dear Zafer.

This invitation may be forwarded to anyone who you know would like to attend the celebration of Dr. Ali-Khan's life.

RSVP by June 7th

to: [office.microimm@mcgill.ca](mailto:office.microimm@mcgill.ca)

---

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

FOR  
MIMM  
MEMBERS



**June 14 2017**

This workshop will increase participants' understanding of the mental health issues of McGill students. Participants will learn to identify students in distress, initiate helping dialogues, and mobilize campus resources.

Brown Building  
3600 McTavish St.  
Room 5001  
2:00PM - 3:30PM

Facilitator: Evelyn Rodinos, Psychologist  
RSVP: [office.microimm@mcgill.ca](mailto:office.microimm@mcgill.ca)

### Mental Health Awareness Workshop

MIMM members are invited to a Mental Health Awareness workshop taking place on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm-3:30pm in room 5001 of the Brown Building (3600 McTavish St.). Evelyn Rodinos, psychologist, will be leading this workshop. Participants

supervise our AEC and stay associated to our Department. We wish you great success for this new challenge in your career.

Some news about our Departmental office. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Elisa Torres will be back in the position of Secretary that was held by Ms. Irene Laforteza (sick leave) and Ms. Syed Fiza Edroos during Elisa's maternity leave. Elisa, we are all very happy to welcome you back to our Department. On behalf of all MIMMers, I would like to thank Irene who kindly replaced Elisa during her leave from MIMM. As for Fiza, she will stay with us until at least the end of the Summer.

Finally, I would like to wish everybody a wonderful Summer. Please take the time to enjoy the warm weather, unwind, and spend some relaxing time with family and friends. Hope to see you all refreshed and ready to tackle another academic year, next Fall.

All the best, take care,

Ben

---

## **PUBLICATIONS**

---

[Dhariwal A, Chong J, Habib S, King IL, Agellon LB and Xia J. \(2017\). MicrobiomeAnalyst: a web-based tool for comprehensive statistical, visual and meta-analysis of microbiome data. \*Nucleic Acids Research\*.](#)

[LAU, PETER C. K. \*Quality Living through Chemurgy and Green Chemistry\*. Germany: SPRINGER-VERLAG BERLIN AN, 2017. Print.](#)

[Meli AP, Fontes G, Leung Soo C and King IL. \(2017\). T follicular helper cell-derived](#)

will learn to identify students in distress, initiate helping dialogues, and mobilize campus resources.

---

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

---



## **Awards Winners**

Congratulations to the following **outstanding** individuals:

- Ms. **Jordana Serero** for winning the E.G.D. Murray Prize in Microbiology
- Ms. **Jahanara Rajwani** for winning the Major Hiram Mills Medal
- Mr. **Ryan Pardy** for winning the W. Yaphe Award (M.Sc. level)
- Ms. **Kaitlin Anstett** for winning the W. Yaphe Award (PhD level)

---

## **FRQNT Team Grant**

---

Congratulations to Drs. Samantha Gruenheid, Lyle Whyte, Lawrence Goodridge and Roger Levesque being awarded the FRQNT team grant entitled *Novel antibiotics from the arctic soil microbiome*.

---

[IL-4 is required for IgE production during intestinal helminth infection. \*Journal of Immunology\*.](#)

[Mirzaei, MK., and Maurice, CF. \(2017\) Ménage à trois in the human gut: interactions between host, bacteria and phages. \*Nature Reviews Microbiology\*. doi: 10.1038/nrmicro.2017.30.](#)

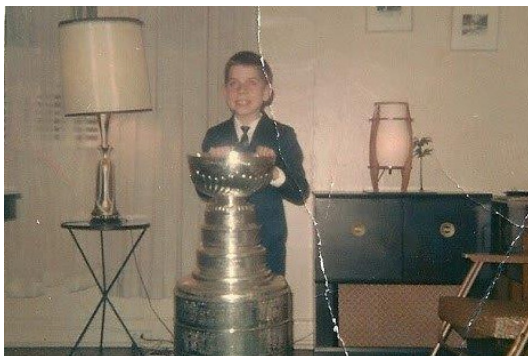


### **NEW MEMBERS JOINING THE DEPARTMENT**

Two new members will be joining the Maurice Lab this summer: Livia Sant'Ana and Will Jogia.

Livia is a PhD student from Brazil coming to pursue some of her work on the interactions between the gut microbiota, the inflammasome, and obesity. Will is a NSERC funded undergraduate student who will be working on characterizing the physiology of gut bacterial isolates.

### **FACE OF THE MONTH**



### **Face of the Month: Tom Ringer**

You are....

I started in the department in 1995



### **CIHR project grants**

Congratulations to Dr. Martin Richer and Dr. Greg Matlashewski for receiving a 5-year CIHR project grants :

- “The impact of host-pathogen interactions on cell-mediated immunity” - Dr. Martin Richer
- “The genetic basis for *Leishmania* attenuation” - Dr. Greg Matlashewski



### **Fellowships awarded to Félix LaRoche-Johnston**

We are pleased to announce the successful recipient of the prestigious [CGSD scholarship](#), **Félix LaRoche-Johnston**, from Dr. Benoit Cousineau's Laboratory. The CGSD scholarship awards \$35,000 a year for a period of 3 years.



as a glasswasher and autoclave helper and now I run the Bio Bar, Glass washing and autoclaving facilities.

### What do you like about the department?

I enjoy helping different people on a daily basis. This includes, the people I work with, the PIs, sales reps, work-study students and the students that work in the research labs.

### How are you involved in the department?

I run the Bio Bar, Glass washing and autoclaving facilities. I also deal with the McGill tradesmen, Waste management program and EHS as I'm part of the Department Safety Committee. I'm also the Department Radiation Safety Officer.

### What is your passion?

Try to learn something new every day.

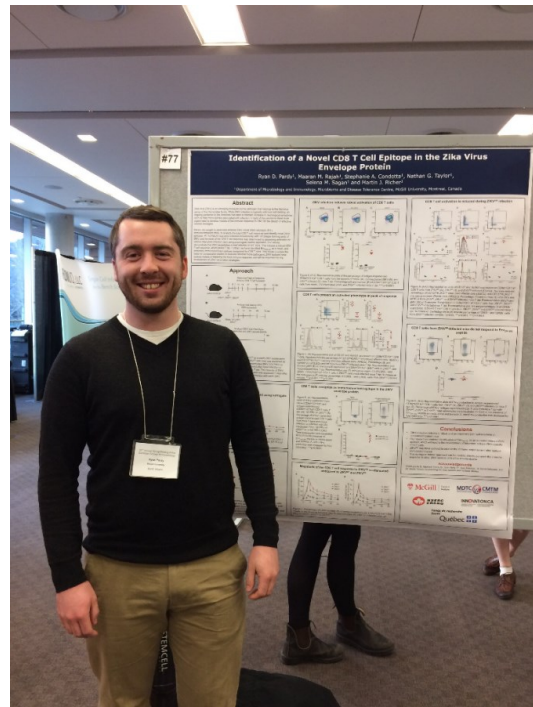
I do have a passion with Hockey and Football both CFL and NFL. The last 8 years I have been playing darts; it's not a very competitive league but a lot of fun. The group of people there and my co-workers here have helped me in a lot of life changes which I'm very grateful for.

---

Felix has also won 2 additional fellowships:

- PhD Fellowship from Fonds de Recherche du Québec - Nature et Technologies (FRQNT)
- PhD Fellowship from Fonds de Recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS)

Congratulations Félix!



### Awards and Scholarship granted to Ryan Pardy

Congratulations to Ryan Pardy, from Dr. Martin Richer's lab, for receiving the following awards last month:

- Poster award at the 30th Annual Spring Meeting of the Canadian Society for Immunology in Banff
- Poster award 6th Annual Symposium on Cytokines in Inflammation, Ageing, Cancer and Obesity in Eastman, QC
- Doctoral Training Scholarship from the Fonds de Recherche Santé Québec ([FRQS](#))

Congratulations Ryan!

---



### Jobs Available!

Still looking for a job? Visit the postings available [online](#) or have a look at the job binder located in Room 511 of the [Duff Medical Building](#).

---

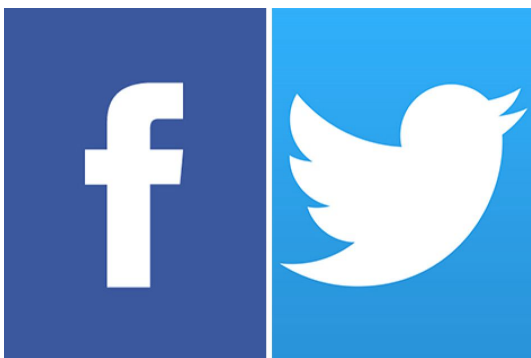
### SERVICES



### Duff Biobar Updates

The Biobar stocks useful lab supplies including Kleenex, bleach, gloves, and paper towels at competitive prices. BioBar operating hours are from Monday to Friday: 8:00 -12:00 & 1:00 -3:30.

[More information.](#)



### Connect with us!

Like our official [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#) for regular updates!



### Microbial Crafts Team is going to New Orleans!

In November 2016, McGill Microbiology and Immunology Students' Association (MISA) took part in the **Get Smart About Antibiotics Week** overseen by the **Small World Initiative** and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The students' goal was to raise awareness about antibiotic resistance by selling **Microbial Crafts** (MiCrafts), which were handcrafted and designed by about 15 McGill students and professors.

SWI invited six students behind MiCrafts to present their lab research related to antibiotics discovery and to deliver the MiCrafts at the annual SWI Symposium of American Society for Microbiology Microbe 2017 in New Orleans, Louisiana on June 1st. The six MIMM undergraduate students are:

- Tzu-Wei (Joy) Tseng
- Jennifer Hitti
- Emma Hignett
- Alicia Jia
- Owen Dunkley

- Bushra Khan

MIMM's Microbial Crafts Team was featured on the [Small World Initiative blog](#).



---

Want to contribute an item to the MIMM Bites? Here's where to send it: [office.microimm@mcgill.ca](mailto:office.microimm@mcgill.ca)  
Check out the latest updates on our website: [www.mcgill.ca/microimm](http://www.mcgill.ca/microimm)

[View previous editions of MIMM Newsletters](#)