

[Message from Dr. Don Sheppard,
Chair of MIMM](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought major changes to our lives in MIMM. Research operations (with the exception of COVID-19 research) have come to a standstill, we are all learning the ins and outs of zoom and e-learning, and there is a great deal of uncertainty about the duration of this crisis and its impact on our personal and professional lives. We have tried to keep you as informed as possible these last two weeks without deluging you with too many communications. This next week will present new challenges as we move to remote learning for our undergraduate and graduate

[Message from Dr. Samantha
Gruenheid, Associate Chair of MIMM](#)

It's been a crazy couple of weeks for everyone. But as we have been physically distancing, we have also been "virtually" pulling together. It has been inspiring to see our professors working tirelessly to prepare for remote course delivery and adapting to information as it evolves daily. Our graduate students have been mastering remote seminars, committee meetings, comprehensive exams and defenses while winding down their benchwork for the time being. This week, we welcome back our undergraduate students as they settle into remote learning. As many of us stretch

curriculum and live graduate student seminars by Zoom for the first time. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work, and positive energy during these last two weeks, and in particular, I would like to highlight the efforts of Dr. Gruenheid who has worked tirelessly with the course coordinators and lecturers to help migrate their courses and assessments to the new formats. I will close by asking for your continued support as we deal with these new challenges going forward, and encourage you to reach out to us if you have questions, concerns or suggestions about these changes.

PUBLICATIONS

[Medina-Moreno S, Zapata JC, Kashanchi F, Le NM, Hassounah S, Mesplède T, Oliveira M, Davis CC, Heredia A. \(2020\). Lamivudine-resistant HIV\(M184V\) is durably suppressed with dolutegravir plus lamivudine dual therapy in humanised mice. J Glob Antimicrob Resist. doi: 10.1016/j.jgar.2020.01.018.](#)

[Pham HT, Yoo S, Mesplède T. \(2020\). Combination therapies currently under investigation in phase I and phase II clinical trials for HIV-1. Expert Opin Investig Drugs. doi:](#)

ourselves out of our comfort zones, I encourage you to view this as an opportunity to develop new skills including adaptability, online communication and collaboration. We also know that many of you may be dealing with other concerns and life changes during this crisis. Previous communications have outlined the resources for different groups for mental and physical health and accommodations for students such as the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option and the extended deadline for course withdrawal. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns. Let's face this crisis with patience and kindness, for each other and also for ourselves.

MIMM ALUMNI HAS ISOLATED THE COVID-19 VIRUS

Dr. Robert Kozak, isolated SARS-CoV2 with a team of researchers. He completed his BSc, MSc and PhD at MIMM and worked in Dr. Marcel Behr's lab.

“Researchers from these world-class institutions came together in a grassroots way to successfully isolate the virus in just a few short weeks,” said Dr. Rob Kozak, clinical microbiologist at Sunnybrook. “It demonstrates the amazing things that can happen when we collaborate.”

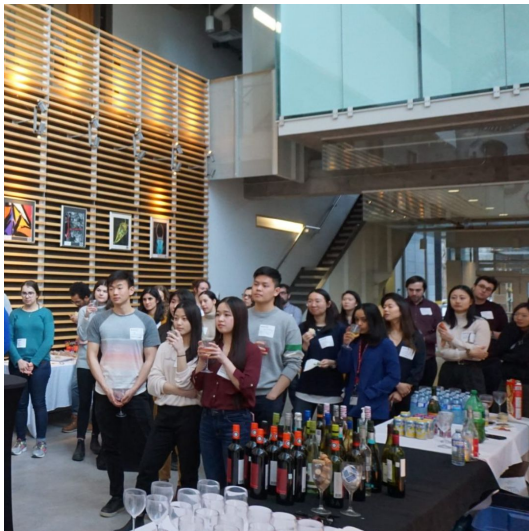
[10.1080/13543784.2020.1724281.](https://doi.org/10.1080/13543784.2020.1724281)

[Pham HT, Xiao MA, Principe MA, Wong A, Mesplède T. \(2020\). Pharmaceutical, clinical, and resistance information on doravirine, a novel non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor for the treatment of HIV-1 infection. *Drugs Context*. pii: 2019-11-4. doi: 10.7573/dic.2019-11-4.](#)

[Read more.](#)



Jasmin Chahal, 2nd from the right.



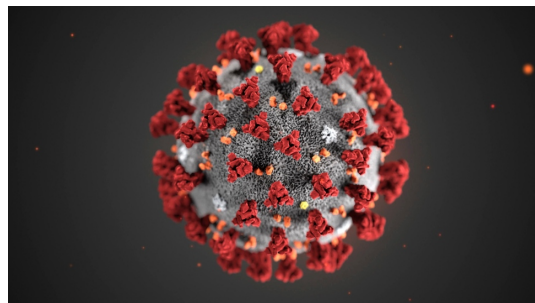
[McGill24](#)

Last month, during McGill24 on March 11th, the [Tiny Earth initiative](#) received a total of **\$3,549.88** - thank you for your donations.

The goal is to raise a total of \$7,000 and we have 7 weeks left to reach it! If you haven't yet made a gift, it's not too late: [click here](#) to make a contribution to provide a hands-on research opportunity to an undergraduate student to discover novel antimicrobials and fight

[MISS CANADA - MIMM STUDENT FINALIST](#)

Jasmin Chahal placed First Runner Up (2nd place) in the Miss Canada Competition. Congratulations!



[COVID-19](#)

Stay updated on the latest news by visiting the [McGill COVID-19 page](#).

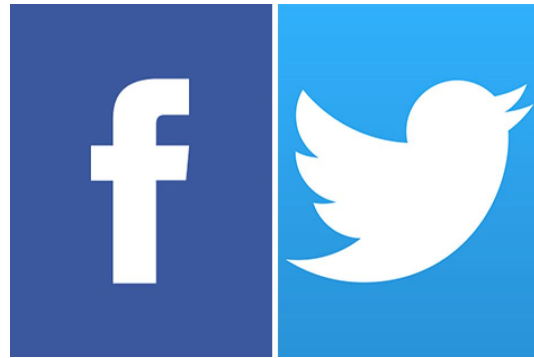
[EVENTS](#)

All MIMM events are cancelled until [May 1 2020](#) as the McGill campuses

antimicrobial resistance.

The McGill24 5@7 Wine and Cheese took place in the Atrium of the Bellini and was attended by students, faculty and alumni members. For pictures, [follow this link](#).

are closed, except for necessary activities.



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