

News of what's happening around MIMM
December 2019

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Retirement Announcement

Jennifer DiMassimo, Student Affairs Officer, will be retiring after 42 years at McGill.

Her positivity, warmth and dedication to students and the department will have a lasting impact on the lives of those who have had the pleasure to

PUBLICATIONS

[Bellmann J, Monette A, Tripathy V, Sójka A, Abo-Rady M, Janosh A, Bhatnagar R, Bickle M, Mouland AJ, Sternecker J. **Viral Infections Exacerbate FUS-ALS Phenotypes in iPSC-Derived Spinal Neurons in a Virus Species-Specific Manner.** Front Cell Neurosci. 2019 Oct 22; 13:480.](#)

[Costiniuk CT and Jenabian MA. **Cannabinoids and inflammation: Implications for People Living with HIV.** AIDS. 2019 Aug 12; doi:10.1097](#)

[Del Corpo O, Goguen R, Malard C, Daher A, Colby-Germinario S, Scarborough R, Gatignol A. **U1i RNA that enhances HIV-1 splicing with elongated recognition domain is an optimal candidate**](#)

work with her. Her last day in the department will be December 23 2019.

Thank you Jennifer, cheers to 42 years!



MIGSA

MIGSA's Corner:

Hey everyone!

In our last newsletter update of 2019, we're looking forward to what 2020 has in store and to celebrating the end of the year at our holiday party next week. But don't worry, there are plenty more events to come in the new term!

Special shout-out and congratulations to Eve Beauchemin and Elena Lin, whose design was selected as our new MIGSA logo!

[for combination HIV-1 gene therapy. Mol Ther Nuc Acids. 2019.18:815-830.](#)



MISA

MISA's Corner:

MIMMosas was a new event presented by MISA fostering relationships between professors, graduate students, and undergraduate students by facilitating one on one conversations regarding various topics on Microbiology and Immunology research. The presentations given provided a brief, yet succinct, overview of the cutting edge research within the department, followed by a unique opportunity to mingle over fun MIMM-themed mimosas (with non-alcoholic options available), and food.

More photos will soon be posted on the event page on [Facebook](#).



Lab Feature - Costiniuk Lab: **Elaine Thomson :**

What is the main focus of Dr. Costiniuk's Lab?

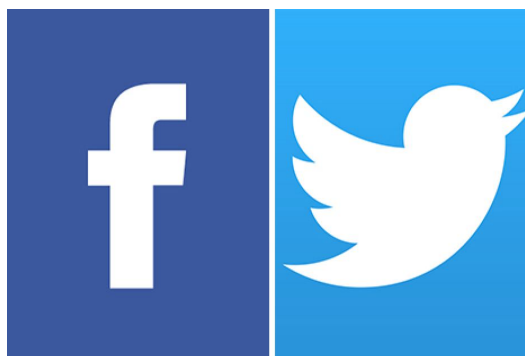
Our lab's main focus is the role of pulmonary immunity in HIV persistence and cure research, and is also branching out into studying the effect of cannabinoids in this context.

What is the main focus of your project?

I'm working on characterizing alveolar macrophages from HIV+ people who are ART-suppressed and investigating whether they could be a cellular reservoir of HIV.

What is your favourite hobby or pastime (outside of science!)?

Yoga definitely helps keep me balanced, and I love to travel when I have time or read a good book!



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