SEA-PHAGES COURSES

2 SEA-phages courses have been added to the Undergraduate program curriculum:

MIMM 390 SEA-PHAGES: Phage Discovery - Fall 2021 (3 credits)
MIMM 391 SEA-PHAGES: Genome Annotation - Winter 2022 (3 credits)

More information will be sent to the Undergraduate students shortly.

This piece of art was created by Celeste Pilon, TA in Dr. Chahal's class, by streaking Staphylococcus aureus on a TSA plate.
**Infection & Immunity Seminar Series**

Dr. Nandita Gurud, from the University of California, Berkeley, will be presenting a seminar entitled *Evolution in Natural Populations: Lessons from Drosophila and the Human Gut Microbiome* on **Thursday, April 8th 2021, 11:00am-12:00pm** on Zoom. For the Zoom link, please contact Elisa.

Dr. Carla Rothlin, from Yale University, will be presenting a seminar entitled *The virtues of restraint* on **Friday, April 16 2021, 11:00am-12:00pm** on Zoom.

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**MIMM TownHall**

MIMM community: you are invited to our virtual town hall meeting on **April 8th, 12:30-1:30pm**

Our Chairs, Don & Sam, will be happy to answer your questions. Please confirm your attendance and submit your questions by April 6th [here](#).

*Bring your lunch!*

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**In-person lab activities aka Boot Camp**

The end of March marked the start of our in-person lab activities or boot camp! During remote learning, students were not able to experience working in labs. Thus, these activities allow undergraduate students to practice their laboratory skills during the pandemic. The boot-camp is voluntary, non-graded, COVID regulated and a lot of fun!
**The Royal MIMMdgerton Gala**

You are invited to the virtual Royal MIMMdgerton Gala, a delightful fancy evening organized by MISA filled with fun activities, a bartender's cocktail demo, MIMM awards and entertainment. Plus, students can register to get an UberEats voucher!

**When:** Friday, April 8 2021, 6pm-8pm

[Register here.](#)

There are 4 student awards to be won:
- Undergraduate Student of the year
- Undergraduate Research award
- Graduate Student of the year
- Graduate Research award

*Submission Deadline: Monday, April 5 2021 11:59pm*

[More information here.](#)

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**PhD Oral Defence**

Congratulations to the MIMM students who presenting their PhD Oral defences last month:

Marija Landekic on Wednesday, March 24th

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Congratulations to all MIMM students that presented at the Office of Science Education’s Undergraduate Poster Showcase 2021:

Brianna Lu – “Challenging Ependymal Barrier Integrity.” Supervised by Dr. Nina Caporicci-Dinucci

Clemence Cuillerot – “Comparing advantages and drawbacks of different next generation sequencing methods on repetitive regions of the Trypanosoma brucei genome.” Supervised by Dr. Igor Cestari

Mira Loock – “Investigating the effectiveness of various feedback methods.” Supervised by Dr. Jasmin Chahal

Robert L. Kidd – “Investigating the mechanism by which cell size impacts spindle assembly checkpoint strength in Caenorhabditis elegans.” Supervised by Dr. Abigail R. Gerhold

Rohan Bhutkar – “Students Teaching Students: Building a learning
THESIS TITLE: *Chronic invasive candidiasis in murine CARD9-deficiency*

Felix LaRoche-Johnston on Tuesday, March 30th
Thesis Title: *Examining the evolutionary history and functional roles of L.I.LtrB, a group II Intron from Lactococcus lactis*

Patrick Lypaczewski on Friday, March 5th
Thesis Title: *Virulence and adaptation of Leishmania donovani parasites*

Ryan Hanula – “Lengthy, Lonely and Listless: The “L’s” Connected to Remote Learning in PHYS 101.” Supervised by Dr. Tamara Western


Dr. Patrick Lypaczewski celebrating his defence on March 5 2021.

**2021 Tiny Earth@McGill UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER STUDENTSHIP AWARDS**

Deadline to Apply: April 2 2021, 5pm

**Undergraduate Summer Studentship Awards**

Reminder: The deadline to apply to the *2021 Tiny Earth@McGill undergraduate summer studentship awards* is on **April 2nd 2021** at 5pm.

Supported by generous donations during McGill24 last year, up to three awards of min. $2000 each will be presented to undergraduate students.
**MedStar Award**

Félix LaRoche-Johnston, Ph.D. student in the Cousineau lab, has been chosen to receive a McGill MedStar Award in recognition of the excellent research he carried out in the Faculty of Medicine. His publication is entitled “Group II Introns Generate Functional Chimeric Relaxase Enzymes with Modified Specificities through Exon Shuffling (…) “.

[MedStar Award info.](#)

**Harriet & Ivan MacFarlane award**

Congratulations to Adam Hassan, Ph.D. student, for receiving the Harriet & Ivan MacFarlane award for one of the best pre-recorded talks! He presented at the 6th annual International Science and Society virtual conference hosted by the Beyond Sciences Initiative, on March 31 2021. The title of his presentation was Cathepsin B delivered by an attenuated Salmonella Typhimurium vector confers therapeutic protection in a murine model of chronic schistosomiasis.

[Find out more here.](#)

**Publications**


Black Health & Covid: understanding the vaccine

Dr. Momar Ndao and Adam Hassan, Ph.D. candidate, were on a panel discussing Black health and COVID-19 with a focus on tackling vaccine misinformation and addressing community concerns. The moderator was Khandideh Williams who graduated from the MIMM department with a B.Sc. last year. More info here.

RI-MUHC-led team receives $3.4M for new Centre for Applied Nanomedicine

A research team has obtained $3.4M in infrastructure funding to establish the new Centre for Applied Nanomedicine (CAN) at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC). A node in technology network connecting several McGill labs, this cutting-edge facility will


Lypaczewski P, Matlashewski G. Leishmania donovani hybridisation and introgression in nature: a comparative genomic investigation. The Lancet Microbe. 2021 Mar 23. This study has major implications for the field of leishmania: Our study identifies the first genome hybridization event in nature between L. donovani with L. major and L. tropica. This hybridization could explain the unusual phenotype of L. donovani in Sri Lanka and highlights the use of hybridization as a virulence evolution mechanism. We additionally identify African origins to these parasites which suggests the Sri Lankan epidemic could be the result of imported parasites.


accommodate the study of exosomes, also known as extracellular vesicles. These mobile elements implicated in cellular communication have been found to hold diagnostic potential. Dr. Martin Olivier is part of this collaboration. More info here.

McGill leads in urgent virus variant research network

Experts across Canada, including researchers at McGill, are working to understand the impact of COVID-19 virus variants of concern on the health of Canadians and our public health measures. Dr. Jesse Shapiro is among the eight principal applicants of the Network, and will join its executive committee. Drs. Ciriaco Picirillo, Don Vinh, Silvia Vidal and Jorg Fritz will also join this major effort by Canada to coordinate research in SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern and inform public health and government. More info here.

Do you want to make your research accessible to the general public?

Academia Explained can help you make your research articles, blogs, twitter posts, presentations and websites more accessible to a broader audience. If you are interested in more information, please contact Jesse Li at jesse.li@mail.mcgill.ca.


Connect with us!
The Fall 2020 SEA-PHAGES class successfully annotated the genome of a novel bacteriophage, known as Blizzard, and was uploaded to GenBank (GenBank Accession: MW712733).

Congratulations to the first SEA-PHAGES class:
Morgane Brouillard-Galipeau
Bao-An Chau
James Cyr
Rafael Intrevado
Isabel Kim
Elizabeth Lapshina
Alexandra Mircescu
Cal Pease
Daniella Serrador
Michael Slattery
Benjamin Vonniessen
Michael Shamash (TA)
Dr. Jasmin Chahal (Coordinator)
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