News of what's happening around MIMM
December 2020

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The MIMM department wishes you a Happy New Year! May 2021 bring you happiness, health and success.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR MIMM CHAIRS

MIMM is happy to welcome back Dr. Corinne Maurice, who is returning from a maternity leave. Dr. Maurice welcomed a new addition to her family in the spring. Congratulations and welcome back.

Happy New Year everyone!
I hope your holidays were restful and allowed you to take some time to recharge and refresh.
2020 has now been officially relegated to the trash, where many feel it belongs, and we are
entering the new year with light at the end of the COVID tunnel. We still have a ways to go though, as case numbers and hospitalizations are continuing to rise during this early phase of vaccine deployment. As a result, the winter semester will be largely remote, with the potential for a limited teaching lab “boot camp” experience later in the semester if public health measures permit. Research labs will continue to operate under the same restrictions as the fall semester, and we will still be holding all administrative activities over Zoom.
Hopefully this will be our last “remote” semester, and we thank all of you for all your hard work, patience and efforts to support the MIMM community. As always, please don’t hesitate to reach out to either of us if you have questions, suggestions or concerns.

Stay safe!

Don and Sam

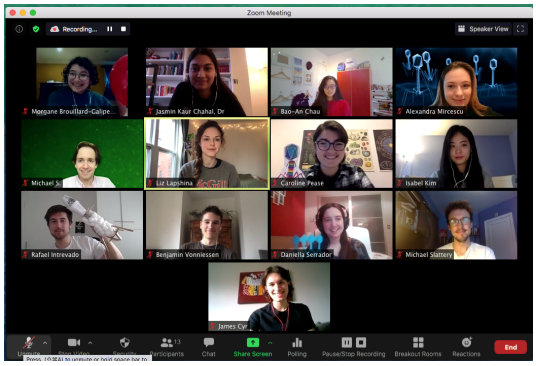
A viral passion

Working at the cutting edge of emerging virus research meant Gatignol was well placed at the advent of COVID-19.

Host Ainslie MacLellan speaks to Dilhan Perera about the science experiments he posts on Tik Tok. Perera is a PhD student at McGill University and a TA in MIMM212, specializing in parasitology and vaccine development. To hear his interview click the link here.

Research continues to identify new pathway through which to deliver more efficient and effective drug therapies to combat HIV-1. Dr Andrew Mouland, Senior Investigator at the LDI and Professor of Medicine at McGill University, is exploring the promise of liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS) that leads to the condensation of proteins and nucleic acids, as an emerging target against HIV-1 and other viruses.

"Yes, I saw it coming at the beginning of January," she said. "I remember that the first time a journalist asked me for an interview was on the 21st. At that time I saw there was something, but we just didn't know what would be the amplitude and the severity of it. People in China, maybe they knew a little bit more, but from here we were thinking at first that it could stop, like SARS CoV-1 did in 2003. We saw quickly though that it was less severe but that the dissemination was much faster. So the risk was here." Read more



2020 SEA-PHAGES

This is the first semester McGill held a SEA-PHAGES course. Our group of 11 students successfully annotated the genome of a novel bacteriophage using bioinformatic softwares. The annotations is currently in quality check with the national SEA-PHAGES team and will available in the databank in the near

PhD student receives McGill MedStar Award

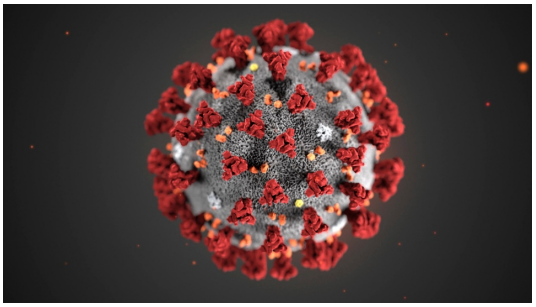
Adam Hassan's publication entitled *Vaccination against the digestive enzyme Cathepsin B using a YS1646 Salmonella enterica Typhimurium vector provides almost complete protection against Schistosoma mansoni challenge in a mouse model,* submitted to the McGill MedStar program, has won the Faculty of Medicine & Health Science's McGill MedStar Award and in recognition of the excellent research he carried out in the Faculty of Medicine.

PUBLICATIONS

Perera DJ, Hassan AS, Jia Y, Ricciardi A, McCluskie MJ, Weeratna RD, Ndao M. Adjuvanted *Schistosoma mansoni*-Cathepsin B With Sulfated Lactosyl Archaeol Archaeosomes or AddaVax™ Provides Protection in a Pre-Clinical Schistosomiasis Model. Front Immunol. 2020 Nov 16;11:605288. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2020.605288. PMID: 33304354; PMCID: PMC7701121.

Yang R, Mele F, Worley L, Langlais D, Rosain J, Benhsaien I, Elarabi H, Croft CA, Doisne JM, Zhang P, Weisshaar M, Jarrossay D, Latorre D, Shen Y, Han J, Ogishi M, Gruber C, Markle J, Al Ali F, Rahman M, Khan T, Seeleuthner Y, Kerner G, Husquin LT, MacIsaac JL, Jeljeli M, Errami A, Ailal F, Kobor MS, Oleaga-Quintas C, Roynard M, Bourgey M, El Baghdadi J, Boisson-Dupuis S, Puel A, Batteux F, Rozenberg F, Marr N, Pan-Hammarström Q, Bogunovic D, Quintana-Murci L, Carroll T, Ma CS, Abel L, Bousfiha A, Di Santo JP, Glimcher LH, Gros P, Tangye SG, Sallusto F, Bustamante J, Casanova JL. Human T-bet Governs Innate and Innate-like Adaptive IFN-γ Immunity against Mycobacteria. Cell. 2020 Dec 3:S0092-8674(20)31453-7. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2020.10.046. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33296702.

future. Currently, the SEA-PHAGES students are working together to write a scientific article to submit to the McGill Science Undergraduate Researchers Journal. Go team!



Stay updated on the latest COVID-19 news by visiting the McGill COVID-19 page.

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