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### CHAIR'S CORNER

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#### A word from the MIMM Chair

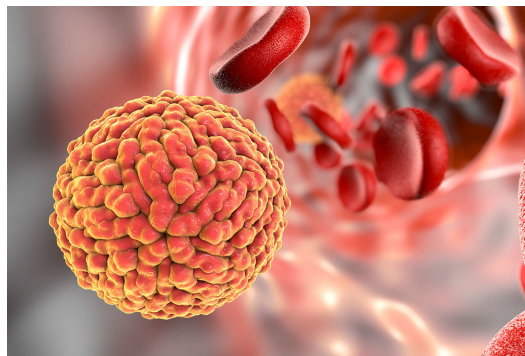
Dear Members of the MIMM Community,

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Microbiology & Immunology will participate in a one-day fundraising campaign called "McGill-24". This McGill-wide initiative consists of soliciting potential donors to directly support our Department primarily through email messages and social media. To get our campaign going, I will personally give \$150. Please be generous, no contribution is too small to support our Department. Many small

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### ACHIEVEMENTS

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#### Zika Virus

Drs. Sagan and Richer are currently conducting laboratory research to improve the understanding of the Zika virus infection. They were able to successfully cause a Zika infection in adult mice with a normal immune system. This is an exciting discovery as the virus has only been studied on mice with defective immune systems which limited the understanding of the response to it. The MIMM researchers were featured in the Med e-newsletter. To read it, click [here](#).

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

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contributions will make a big difference.

The 6<sup>th</sup> MIMM Annual Gala is fast approaching. Please join us on Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> at the CABARET LION D'OR to celebrate another successful academic year and to wish all the best to the 2017 MIMM graduating class. Tickets are on sale at the MISA Office (Lyman Duff, room 423) at a reduced rate of \$40 until March 10<sup>th</sup> and \$50 until March 24<sup>th</sup>. According to the ticket sale so far, attendance should be even higher this year!

This week will be quiet on Campus because of reading week. I would like to wish everybody a wonderful and refreshing week to get ready for the final stretch of the 2016-2017 academic year!

All the best,

Ben

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### STUDENT ASSOCIATION UPDATES

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### MISA's corner

Hello everyone! We hope that you are enjoying a relaxing reading week. MISA has a lot of events planned this month for you so make sure to stay aware via [Facebook](#), the listservs as well as this newsletter.



### MIMM Graduate Student Research Day

The annual Graduate Student Research Day will be taking place on Thursday June 8 2017. Save the date!

Registration will open in April with more details to follow in next month's newsletter.



### Infection and Immunity Seminar Series

Scheduled seminar for the month of March:

March 16 - Dr. Daniel Kaplan (University of Pittsburgh)

March 23 - Dr. Ian Watson (Department of Biochemistry, McGill University)

For a list of the winter semester seminars, click [here](#).

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### PUBLICATIONS

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On Thursday, March 16th, join us for the Annual Alumni Wine & Cheese in the Bellini atrium at 5PM. If you haven't already, please RSVP [here](#). Also, the MIMM Gala will be held on Friday, March 31st at Cabaret Lion d'Or! Early bird tickets (40\$) are still on sale until March 10th. Ticket prices will then increase to 50\$ until March 24th (final deadline).



## **MIMM MiCrafts wins 2nd place!**

In November 2016, a team of MIMM students undertook a unique project as part of the “Do Something About Antibiotics Challenge” to raise awareness about antibiotic resistance. This challenge was organised by the Small World Initiative (SWI) and judged by a panel at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). A total of 14 universities from around the globe participated, with projects that ran the gamut from a museum symposium to mannequin challenges.

Kiessling, S., Beaulieu-Laroche, L., Blum, I., Landgraf, D., Welsh, D.K., Storch, K.F., Labrecque, N., Cermakian, N. (2017) Enhancing circadian clock function in cancer cells inhibits tumor growth. BMC Biology, 15:13. <http://rdcu.be/pfPw>

Li, Z., Levast, B., and Madrenas, J. \* (2017). Staphylococcus aureus Downregulates IP-10 Production and Prevents Th1 Cell Recruitment. J Immunol, 1601336; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4049/jimmunol.1601336> \* Cocorresponding author.

Pardy ,R.D., Rajah, M.M., Condotta, S.A., Taylor, N.G., Sagan, S.M. and Richer, M.J. (2017) Analysis of the T Cell Response to Zika Virus and Identification of a Novel CD8<sup>+</sup> T Cell Epitope in Immunocompetent Mice. PLOS Pathogens, Online February 23rd. <http://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/article?id=10.1371/journal.ppat.1006184>

## **FACE OF THE MONTH**



### **Face of the Month: Dr. Maziar Divangahi**

#### **What is your passion?**

“Science” requires having the passion to embrace all the challenges and disappointments to

The MIMM project submitted for consideration was *Microbial Crafts* (MiCrafts): hand-knitted plushies, cross-stitched keychains and student-designed buttons of micro-organisms. The proceeds from the sale went to the SWI, helping fund the training of educators in underprivileged schools, and thus allowing more students to join the global effort of crowdsourcing discoveries in antibiotics.

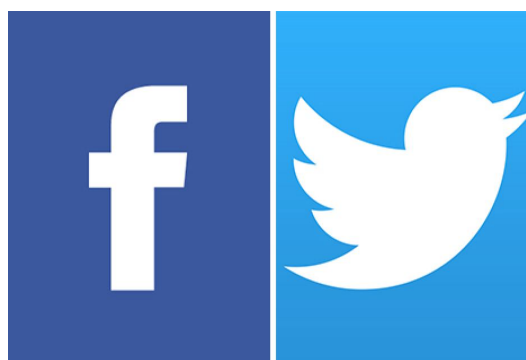
The judges said that they *loved* the submission, and were particularly impressed at the depth and reach of the project's impact. They added that they found the MiCrafts to be a great conversation starter, helping bridge the divide between academia and the wider public. The members of the MIMM Microbial Crafts team who dedicated numerous hours to the project saw their efforts vindicated when the CDC judges awarded them **second place**—an excellent result which sets the bar for future projects!

The team is very pleased with the win, and is currently working on filling a major order of MiCrafts to be delivered at the SWI 4th annual Symposium in June.

#### MiCrafts team:

-Organizer: Tzu-Wei (Joy) Tseng,  
MISA VP Finance, with the support

experience a narrow window of discovery. Perhaps the most attractive part of being a scientist is making an impossible idea become possible. The entire journey of learning and discovery is only limited by one's ability to ask the next question because the complexity of nature will never be fully realized. Finally, the intellectual freedom, the flow of knowledge as well as the far reaching impact of science on humanity are integral to being a true scientist!



#### Connect with us!

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



#### 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

of all MISA members

-Knitters: Dr. Samantha Gruenheid,  
Judith Kashul (Dr. Coulton's wife),  
Bushra Khan (U3), Shannon Hewgill  
(U2), Jennifer Hitti (U2), Kailee Wark  
(U1), Anita Raja (U1), HyeRim Han  
(U3), Michelle Chen (U1), Maryam  
Ghazi (U3) and Catherine Caldwell  
(Idea Initiator)

-Cross-stitcher: Ashley Campbell  
(U3)

-Button, sticker and card designer:  
Elena Lin (U3)

-Writers: Paul-Enguerrand “Pablo”  
Fady (U2) and Laura Thompson  
(Alumni)



### 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.](#)



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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)

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