



MESSAGE FROM YOUR MIMM CHAIRS

Dear Colleagues:

Another month has passed in our COVID-19 odyssey! Although it seems early, it is now time to look forward to planning for fall 2021. As you have heard, McGill is hoping to move towards more on campus activities, and currently planning is underway for a number of potential scenarios. We all recognize that predicting the situation in September is rather challenging to do in March, so a number of options will remain on the table for the time being. The most likely scenario under consideration will allow for in person activities for all classes less than 150 individuals, with a distancing requirement (perhaps 1 meter) and masking. Remote components may remain for some courses, and in



A Conversation with Dr. Vincent Racaniello (org. by MISA)

Also known as Earth's virology professor, Dr. Racaniello is an esteemed author, science communicator, and professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Columbia University. He brings virology to the outside world through his podcasts such as This Week in Microbiology, his virology blog, and his Columbia lectures that are available on iTunes University & YouTube. He is a co-author on the textbook "Principles of Virology" used in the MIMM 324 course at McGill. Dr. Racaniello has served on the editorial boards of scientific journals such as the Journal of Virology and PLOS pathogens.

particular for courses larger than 150. We would therefore encourage all course coordinators to consider the logistics of delivering their fall courses under these restrictions, particularly those courses requiring lab work. More to come in the near future.

In other news, there has been some movement on renewing our Faculty membership. The Provost has approved an exemption to the hiring freeze for a joint MIMM-GCRC recruitment in the area of immuno-oncology. Special thanks to Professors Ciro Piccirillo and Jorg Fritz, as well as Dr Danielle Karo-Atar from the King lab for accepting to participate in the recruitment committee. Please do not hesitate to reach out to them or either of us if you have suggestions on candidates, special areas of interest or other thoughts.

Finally, we again want to thank everyone for their hard work, patience and resilience during this challenging period, and as always, don't hesitate to reach out if you have advice, concerns or just need to chat!

Don and Sam

When? **March 11 2021 at 12pm**
Please [register in advance for this meeting](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

This event will be followed by a Q&A session. You are invited to submit questions ahead of time by [filling out this form](#).



Undergraduate Poster Showcase

The second annual Undergraduate Poster Showcase will take place on Tuesday, March 16th from 6-8 PM EST. This year's Showcase will be virtual – the show must go on! Students, staff, faculty, alumni, and family and friends are invited to celebrate the work of McGill undergraduate students. More than eighty student presenters from a range of departments will share their lab research, personal passion projects, course assignments, and more.

Register via Zoom [here](#).

Find out more [here](#).



Infection & Immunity Seminar

Series

Dr. Eva Harris, from the University of California, Berkeley, will be presenting a seminar entitled **Friend and Foe: The complex interactions between dengue and Zika virus immune responses and epidemiology** on Thursday, March 18 2021 11:00am-12:00pm on Zoom.

To register, please contact:
info.microimm@mcgill.ca



Congratulations to our MIMM Faculty members for receiving the following grants:

Dr. Corinne Maurice:

Understanding the role of gut bacteriophages in child stunting

Dr. Jorg Fritz: Counteracting type 2 immunopathologies through

2021 Tiny Earth@McGill

UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER STUDENTSHIP AWARDS

Deadline to Apply:
April 2 2021, 5pm

Undergraduate Summer Studentship Awards

The McGill AMR Center, the Department of MIMM and MI4 are pleased to announce the **2021 Tiny Earth@McGill undergraduate summer studentship awards**.

Supported by generous donations during McGill24 last year, we will be offering up to three awards of minimum \$2000 each to provide support towards the stipends of undergraduate students pursuing research related to antimicrobial discovery and resistance during the summer 2021.

Selection criteria:

- Relevance and expected quality of the training to be received
- Academic record
- Research aptitude
- All projects related to AMR will be considered, and a preference will be given to those directly related to the Tiny Earth program at McGill.

modulation of lipid metabolism

Dr. Jorg Fritz (NPA) & Dr. Sam

Gruenheid: Role of the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) in intestinal homeostasis

Dr. Jesse Shapiro: Impacts of human and bacterial natural genomic diversity on cholera disease severity

Dr. Maziar Divangahi: Developing a novel vaccine against COVID-19



Student Award for Teaching Innovation

Graduate student **Dilhan Perera**, part of the Ndao lab, has received the [Faculty Student Award for Teaching Innovation](#). This award was created by the office of the Vice-Dean, Education, Dr. Annette Majnemer, to recognize faculty members and learners who developed and implemented innovative teaching strategies that

Deadline to apply: **April 2nd, 2021 at 5 pm**. Successful applicants will be notified by email by April 15th 2021. [Find out more here.](#)



Equity & Diversity in Science

How can we make science inclusive and safe for folks with historically underrepresented and/or marginalized identities? Join the McGill Scientific Writing Initiative and Scientista McGill on International Women's Day, **March 8th from 6:00pm-7:30pm EST** via Zoom, for a panel discussion on equity and diversity in science. Discussion topics include: current challenges that women and women of color face in science, finding community, the value of mentorship and representation, and how to advocate for more diverse and inclusive spaces in science. Sign up to register [here](#) and to receive the Zoom link.

are learning and learner-focused. Mr. Perera initiated the redesign of a final presentation in a microbiology lab course to increase student interest and engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic. This involved more active learning principles, to include self-directed learning and peer-assessment techniques. He also creates educational videos on TikTok, which bring awareness to microbiology and immunology. His [TikTok account \(@ta.dil\)](#) boasts over 860,000 followers with videos reaching some 15 million views. Listen to the CBC interview [here](#).

Symposium: Living in a Covidian world: The McGill response

The McGill Centre for Viral Diseases and the McGill Interdisciplinary Initiative in Infection and Immunity (MI4) are co-hosting a Symposium entitled, "Living in a Covidian world: The McGill response". The goal is to highlight and promote the efforts from McGill in the fight of COVID-19.

**When: Friday March 19th, 2021
from 8:30am-12:30pm EST**

In keeping with the present university guidelines, the Symposium will be held virtually. Join the event to learn about McGill's remarkable research response to COVID-19 across biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, and social science fields.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP here: [Registration for "Living in a Covidian world: The McGill response" | MI4 - McGill University](#)

Vous êtes invités au

5^e congrès

de Bactériologie intégrative



26 - 28 mai 2021

Événement gratuit en ligne

event.fourwaves.com/fr/bisp2021

Conférenciers invités:

X. de Bolle, Namur

S. Hélaïne, Harvard

F. Le Roux, Roscoff

Date limite de soumission des résumés:

2 avril 2021



Suivez-nous sur Twitter
@BISP79428707

Congrès BiSP 2021



We are happy to announce the return of **Antonios Daskalakis** to the MIMM Student services team, where he is resuming his position as Graduate Student Affairs coordinator. Samantha Packer, who has been serving as Graduate Affairs coordinator while Antonios was on a developmental assignment, will also stay with us for the time being.

MIGSA's Annual Career Day

Don't know what to do after graduate school? Come to our Career Day on Thursday, March 25th to find out about different career paths you can take. We will have 5 speakers from different fields talk about their work and how they got there, and one professional PhD advisor. The morning will be divided into two segments: the first will focus on teaching and the second will focus on science communications, pharmacology and determining what you want to do/applying for non-academic jobs. You will have time to ask questions after each speaker's presentation and another opportunity at the end of the event during the general Q&A period. A detailed poster will be circulated shortly.

Date: **Thursday, March 25th, 2021**

Time: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

The event will be taking place on Zoom. To register, please email

Kayla Paulini:

kayla.paulini@mail.mcgill.ca

Please do not hesitate to contact them if you need any help.

The MIMM Student Affairs Team is comprised of:

Carmen Aimee Paez

(Undergraduate Studies)

Student Affairs Officer

Carmen.paezmendoza@mcgill.ca

Samantha Packer (Graduate Studies)

Student Affairs Coordinator

Samantha.packer@mcgill.ca

Antonios Daskalakis (Graduate Studies)

Student Affairs Coordinator

Grad.microimm@mcgill.ca

Publications

[Anand SP, Prévost J, Richard J, *et al.* High-throughput detection of antibodies targeting the SARS-CoV-2 Spike in longitudinal convalescent plasma samples. *Transfusion*. 2021;1–6](#)

[Demina EP, Smutova V, Pan X, Fougerat A, Guo T, Zou C, Chakraborty R, Snarr BD, Shiao TC, Roy R, Orekhov AN, Miyagi T, Laffargue M, Sheppard DC, Cairo CW, Pshezhetsky AV. Neuraminidases 1 and 3 Trigger Atherosclerosis by Desialylating Low-Density Lipoproteins and Increasing Their Uptake by Macrophages. *J Am Heart Assoc*. 2021 Feb 16;10\(4\):e018756. doi: 10.1161/JAHA.120.018756. Epub 2021 Feb 6. PMID: 33554615.](#)

[Goguen RP, Del Corpo O, Malard CMG, Daher A, Alpuche-Lazcano SP, Chen MJ, Scarborough RJ, Gatignol A. Efficacy, accumulation and transcriptional profile of anti-HIV shRNAs expressed from human U6,](#)



MISA Wine & Cheese

The Microbiology and Immunology Students Association (MISA) is inviting you to the annual Wine and Cheese event! Come share a drink with former classmates, professors, and current students over zoom on **Friday March 12th at 5:00pm**. Please RSVP [here](#).

[7SK and H1 promoters. Mol. Ther. Nucleic Acids. 2021. 23 :1020-1034.](#)

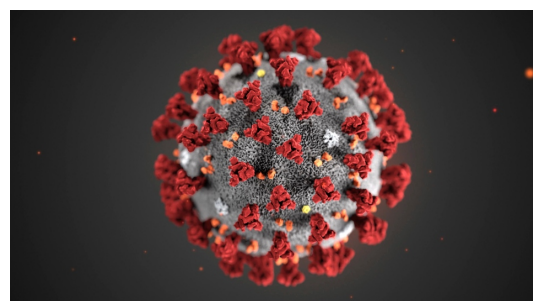
[Grover P, Goel PN, Piccirillo CA, Greene MI. FOXP3 and Tip60 Structural Interactions Relevant to IPEX Development Lead to Potential Therapeutics to Increase FOXP3 Dependent Suppressor T Cell Functions. Front Pediatr. 2021 Feb 3;9:607292. doi: 10.3389/fped.2021.607292. PMID: 33614551; PMCID: PMC7888439.](#)

[King IL, Divangahi M. Training the metaorganism: the microbial counterpart. Cell. 2021 Feb 4;184\(3\):574-576. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2021.01.009. PMID: 33545033.](#)

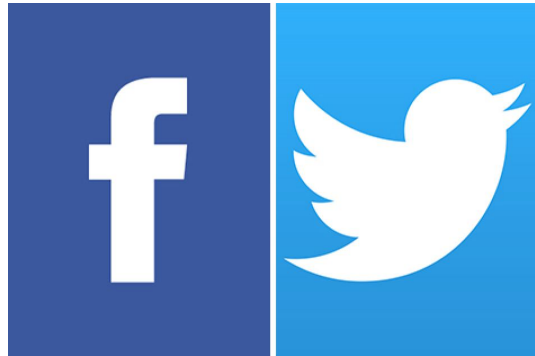
[Lypaczewski P, Zhang WW, Matlashewski G. Evidence that a naturally occurring single nucleotide polymorphism in the RagC gene of Leishmania donovani contributes to reduced virulence. PLoS Negl Trop Dis. 2021 Feb 23;15\(2\):e0009079. doi: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0009079. PMID: 33621241.](#)

[Ma T, Song X, Piccirillo CA, Deng G, Greene MI. A Structure-Guided Delineation of FOXP3 Regulation Mechanism in IPEX. Adv Exp Med Biol. 2021;1278:33-46. doi: 10.1007/978-981-15-6407-9_2. PMID: 33523441.](#)

[Taguer M, Quillier O, Maurice CF. Effects of oxygen exposure on relative nucleic acid content and membrane integrity in the human gut microbiota. PeerJ. 2021 Feb 3;9:e10602. doi: 10.7717/peerj.10602. PMID: 33604166; PMCID: PMC7866891.](#)



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



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