



FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

Dear MIMM^{ers},

Excellence at MIMM is part of our culture and takes many forms. No better example than this last month. Check it out.

MIMM continues a remarkable record of success at the Annual Undergraduate Research Conference (URC) of the Faculty Science. For the last six years, our nominated students have received awards at this highly competitive meeting. This year it was Erica Ma, working in Dr. Irah King's lab. Erica received the 2nd prize in the Medical Sciences Category. Congratulations to Erica and Irah. You made us all very proud. And the same for all of our students that took part at the URC. Special recognition and thanks to Dr. Herve Le Moual for coordinating MIMM's presence at URC for the last few years.

We just came out of a very successful International Symposium of Human Immunity and the Microbiome, organized with Cell Press and the CIHR Human Immunology Network (CHIN). Over 330 participants came to Montréal to discuss cutting edge discoveries in Human Immunology and the Microbiome. Moreover, the Symposium provided a great opportunity for exposure of our trainees to leaders in the field and to project the exciting work being done here. We are looking to continue our association with Cell Press and periodic organization of this conference. Stay tuned!

Another milestone achieved: *Pubmed* just listed **20 publications from MDTC** (our Microbiome and Disease Tolerance Centre). Congratulations to all involved.

In another vein, Astha Agrawal and Patrick Ritchie finished our 2015 Alumni Survey, a very informative exercise. Among the findings that stand out: over 80% high satisfaction rate for our graduates, and 45% of our graduates end up in academia (a higher than expected outcome). These results give us all a tremendous impetus for the work we do. More extensive report of the results will be presented at a future Town Hall meeting.

Last, but not least, don't forget that recruitment for a new faculty member is underway. Please, attend the seminars and chalk talks by the candidates, and provide me with your feedback. Your input is very important to ensure that we make the best decision in identifying our newest recruit.

Without further due, enjoy this issue of MIMM bites!

Quim





RESEARCH

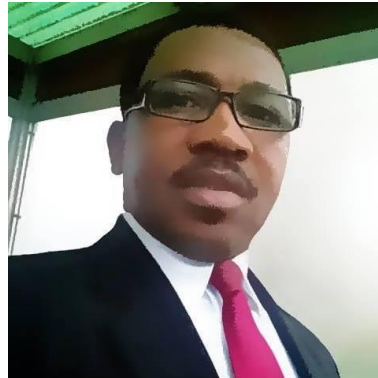
Publications

1. Ajamian L, Abel K, Rao S, Vyboh K, García-de-Gracia F, Soto-Rifo R, Kulozik AE, Gehring NH, Mouland AJ. **HIV-1 Recruits UPF1 but Excludes UPF2 to Promote Nucleocytoplasmic Export of the Genomic RNA.** *Biomolecules*. 2015 Oct 20;5(4):2808-2839.
2. Brannon JR, Thomassin, JL, Gruenheid, S, Le Moual H. **Antimicrobial Peptide Conformation as a Structural Determinant of Omptin Protease Specificity.** *J. Bacteriol.* 2015 Nov 15;197(22):3583-91. doi: 10.1128/JB.00469-15. Epub 2015 Sep 8.
3. Le Sage V, Cinti A, Valiente-Echeverría F, Mouland A, **Proteomic analysis of HIV-1 Gag interacting partners using proximity-dependent biotinylation.** *Virology*. 2015 Sep 11;531(1):138. doi: 10.1016/j.virol.2015.08.036.
4. Mongeau-Martin G, Ndao M, Libman M, Delage G, Ward BJ. **A family cluster of Chagas disease detected through selective screening of blood donors: A case report and brief review.** *Can J Infect Dis Med Microbiol.* 2015 May-Jun;26(3):157-61. PMID:26236358
5. Mou Z, Li J, Boussoffara T, Kishi H, Hamana H, Ezzati P, Hu C, Yi W, Liu D, Khadem F, Okwor I, Jia P, Shitaoka K, Wang S, Ndao M, Petersen C, Chen J, Rafati S, Louzir H, Muraguchi A, Wilkins JA, Uzonna JE. **Identification of broadly conserved cross-species protective Leishmania antigen and its responding CD4+ T cells.** *Sci Transl Med.* 2015 Oct 21;7(310):310ra167. doi: 10.1126/scitranslmed.aac5477. PMID: 26491077
6. Ricciardi A, Ndao M. **Still hope for schistosomiasis vaccine.** *Hum Vaccin Immunother.* 2015 Oct 3;11(10):2504-8. doi: 10.1080/21645515.2015.1059981. PMID: 26176659
7. Sonzogni-Desautels K, Renteria AE, Camargo FV, Di Lenardo TZ, Mikhail A, Arrowood MJ, Fortin A, Ndao M. **Oleylphosphocholine (OIPC) arrests Cryptosporidium parvum growth in vitro and prevents lethal infection in interferon gamma receptor knock-out mice.** *Front Microbiol.* 2015 Sep 23;6:973. doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2015.00973. eCollection 2015. PMID: 26441906



FACES OF EXCELLENCE

Richard Arthur
Technician, Teaching Facility



How long have you been with the Department?

I have been with the department since May 7, 2010.

What is your job description?

My duty is primarily to oversee the day-to-day operations of the undergraduate Teaching laboratory. I organize and participate in planning and organizing laboratory schedules and also bring the different elements of organization into the Teaching lab to ensure efficiency in students' laboratory sessions.

As the current Acting Chairperson of the departmental Safety Committee, I liaise between the department and McGill EHS office, sharing relevant safety information between the two parties to ensure the safety of staff, students and visitors, and also identifying potential hazards and determining ways of reducing risks in the department.

What do you look forward to when you come to work every day?

I look forward to having a successful and a productive day, whenever I come to work. I love to see students in and out of the lab without any obstacles that may jeopardize or impede their performance. Success of students, is my success!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Our colleague and friend Dr. Mark Wainberg has been selected for induction to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame! This induction recognizes outstanding contributions to health have made Canada, and the world, a better place. **Click here** to read about the Induction Ceremony in *The Canadian Medical Hall of Fame* and **click here** to read the article in the *McGillREPORTER*. The induction ceremony will be held in association with McMaster University, Faculty of Health Sciences on April 14, 2016 at The Hamilton Convention Centre in Hamilton, Ontario.

On behalf of the MIMM family and the McGill community at large, congratulations Dr. Wainberg!!! Well deserved. Our best wishes for many more successes and recognitions.



Congratulations to Dr. Brian Ward. It has been a great month, as he is part of the recipients of the following grants: CIHR, US Dept. of Defense and CIHR/Canadian Immunization Research Network, Also, he has been asked to represent Canada on the Scientific Advisory Board of GloPID-R (Global Preparedness for Infectious Diseases Research). This is a new international organization initially supported by grants from the Wellcome Trust and the Merieux Foundation that brings together most of the major international funding agencies interested in emerging infections.



Ms. Nirmin Alsahafi, a PhD student in Dr. Andrés Finzi's lab, was honoured to receive the pre-Doctoral Student Award at the 10th Anniversary of the Duke CHAVI-ID Retreat Meeting, which was held at Durham, NC, USA, for the contributions in research with the Duke center for HIV/AIDS vaccine immunology and immunology discovery.



Ms. Erica Ma, an undergraduate student in Dr. Irah King's lab, was awarded the 2nd prize in the Medical Sciences Category at this year Undergraduate Research Conference at McGill. "Systemic coordination of eosinophilia following immune challenge" (Supervisor: Prof. Irah King). Nominated by: Department of Microbiology & Immunology **Stay tuned to read Olga's Interview in our December Newsletter!!**



MIMM Hosts Alumni Event at Homecoming and Open House 2015

By Olga Okoulova

Department Faculty, Staff, Trainee and Alumni came together on Friday, October 23rd to celebrate McGill's annual Homecoming and Open House. The event, which included a wine and cheese reception and was dedicated specifically to welcoming back MIMM alumni, allowed past MIMM graduates to return to their alma mater and share their professional experiences and career development with their old department.

"The great thing about these types of events is it allows the faculty to actually get a sense of how well [our alumni] are doing," said Dr. Joaquín (Quim) Madrenas, Chair of the Department. At the reception, Dr. Madrenas was able to speak to an alumnus from as far back as 1979, a man who had gone on to develop a successful professional career following his graduation from the MIMM department, and who attributed a great deal of his professional achievement to the education he had received at McGill.

Overall, the event played host to alumni from a range of different localities and belonging to a variety of generations.

Among the other alumni in attendance, the most recent graduate was from the class of 2013.

When asked if she could offer one piece of advice to current McGill students, Wang responded, "even if you don't know what you're going to do now, finding your way is a day by day process". After completing her degree in the faculty of medicine in 2013, Wang has gone on to pursue a pathology residency also at McGill and is currently in her 3rd year of the 5 year program.

Homecoming, from the perspective of current students, is an unparalleled opportunity to be reminded of the opportunities that await post-graduation and to see what past McGill graduates have accomplished with their degrees. For this reason, alumni initiative on and about campus is always appreciated and their presence highly welcomed.

The MIMM community encourages alumni to take part in future alumni events and thanks all those who attended the homecoming reception this year!



MIMM BITES

A NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL'S MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER 2015

UPCOMING

WINTER PARTY

When: December 11th
Where: Thomson House Basement
Who: MIMM Staff and Labs
What: Potluck style

Registration details to follow

Brought to you by MIGSA and the Department of Microbiology and Immunology

SERVICES

Duff Biobar Updates

BioBar Hours

The operating hours for the BioBar are the following: between 8-12 and 1-4.

Don't forget the Biobar Stocks Useful Lab Supplies such as: Kleenex; Bleach; Gloves; Paper Towels; Etc.

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You are all encouraged to submit any news, grants, papers, awards, pictures, or items that you want to include to our monthly newsletter. We will be happy to share them with the rest of the department. You can email them to **Mr. Patrick Ritchie**.