

News of what's happening around MIMM
September 2019

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**A word from MIMM's new Chair,
Dr. Donald Sheppard**

As the incoming Department Chair, I'm excited to begin the 2019 Fall term!

As a member of this department for more than 15 years, I'm looking forward to this opportunity to give back to our community. My overall goal is to support you, our students and faculty, as we rapidly close in on McGill's 200th anniversary. It is an exciting time for our department. Our undergraduate



**A word from MIMM's new
Associate Chair, Dr. Samantha
Gruenheid**

There has never been a more exciting time to be a student (or a professor!) of Microbiology and Immunology. Cancer immunotherapy, antibiotic resistance, and genome editing with CRISPR-Cas are just some examples of current hopes, threats and controversies intrinsically linked with our field. In addition, the environment to support teaching and learning at

curriculum has undergone a renewal, with a major investment in our teaching lab spaces and equipment. We have a new Associate Chair, Dr. Samantha Gruenheid, who wants to hear from you about how to grow our education programs. On the research front, the launch of MI4 has given us the opportunity to expand our programs, build new collaborations and secure McGill's position as a world-leader in infection and immunity research. Finally, we have (almost!) completed the challenging HVAC renovation project at the Duff. Thank you to everyone for your patience and hard-work in weathering this disruption.

Moving forward, please take a moment to stop and reflect on how we can develop a strategic vision for our department for the next 5 years. Ask yourself: what could we do better to maintain and grow a sense of community with faculty and students at four sites? How can we best support our students, and link them with faculty outside the Duff building? How can we make our teaching programs more interactive, relevant and attractive to the next generation of students?

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me in person, or by email, to share your thoughts, and ideas. This is YOUR department, so help me chart

McGill has never been better. I am therefore enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to the continuous development and renewal of our department's undergraduate and graduate education programs. By engaging and enabling our students to develop cutting-edge knowledge, expertise, critical thinking and communication skills, we aim to give students all the tools and skills to engage with the challenges and opportunities that await them after graduation.

Samantha Gruenheid



**Winner of the Relève étoile
Jacques-Genest from FRQS**

Postdoctoral Fellow, **Dr. Dorival Martin Jr.**, working in the [Nguyen lab](#), has received the prize of the Relève étoile Jacques-Genest from the Fonds de recherche Santé Québec (FRSQ) for his publication titled [Superoxide dismutase activity confers \(p\)ppGpp-mediated antibiotic tolerance to stationary-phase](#)

a course for the next five years that will make you proud to be a member of MIMM.

Warmly,

Don Sheppard

PUBLICATION in NATURE JOURNAL

A new study published in [Nature](#) demonstrates that a gut infection can lead to a pathology resembling Parkinson's disease (PD) in a mouse model lacking a gene linked to the human disease.

This discovery extends recent work by the same group suggesting that PD has a major immune component, providing new avenues for therapeutic strategies. The collaborative study was the work of a joint team of scientists led by [Samantha Gruenheid](#), Michel Desjardins and Louis-Eric Trudeau from University of Montreal, and [Heidi McBride](#) at the Montreal Neurological Institute.

[Read more.](#)

[Pseudomonas aeruginosa](#) in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

[Read more](#)

CIHR grant

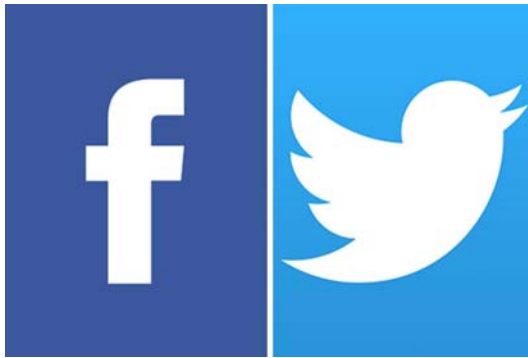
Dr. Jacques Archambault received a CIHR grant for his project titled *Host factors involved in human papillomavirus (HPV) genome replication*. Congratulations!

[Read more.](#)



INFECTION & IMMUNITY SEMINAR SERIES

Dr. Marcelo Lopez-Lastra, Professor at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, will be presenting a seminar on **Insight into Andes orthohantavirus-host relationship; from basic to translational science** on September 19 2019- 11:30-12:30 in the Amphitheatre, Duff Building. For more information, click [here](#).



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