



EXCELLENCE IN GENETICS & IMMUNOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES



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Title: "From Mendel to Mycology: Human Genetic Susceptibility to Fungal Infections"

Monday, February 23, 2015

Meakins Amphitheatre | Room 521, 12:00 PM

McIntyre Medical Sciences Building

"Humans are constantly exposed to fungi, through inhalation, ingestion, or intimate contact. Despite ubiquitous exposure, however, few develop disease (in the absence of iatrogenic or acquired immunosuppression). Increasing evidence demonstrates that in a growing number of individuals with such "idiosyncratic" fungal diseases, their susceptibility is due to a penetrant, single-gene defect of their immune system (i.e. an inborn error of immunity; a Primary Immunodeficiency). These individuals represent the human model of natural susceptibility to mycoses. Their characterization complements seminal findings from fundamental research, providing significant insight into human immunobiology.

At the McGill University Health Centre, I have established the "Infectious Disease Susceptibility Program". This translational research program aims to characterize the clinical phenotypes and natural histories of patient cohorts with severe/recurrent/recalcitrant infections; to identify the genetic basis for their infection susceptibility; and to characterize the molecular and cellular bases by which the single-gene lesion contributes to pathogenesis. Ultimately, our goal is to apply this knowledge to develop novel therapeutic avenues for these disorders. In this talk, I will be discussing the emerging field of Primary Immunodeficiencies marked by fungal diseases".

This seminar is mandatory for Graduate students

LOCATION: McIntyre Medical Sciences Building, Room 521, 12:00 PM

HOSTED BY: DRS SILVIA VIDAL & MAYA SALEH