

TRAINEE NEWS from the Desjardins Centre for Advanced Training of the RI-MUHC

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

events, announcements and news for graduate students and postdocs at the RI-MUHC



NEWS

In December 2015, a report released by the *Conference Board of Canada* ("**Inside and Outside the Academy**") reviewed some of the serious challenges facing PhD holders in Canada looking for employment.

Especially striking was that the report revealed concerns about lagging innovation and research by Canadian employers, including a potential lack of preparedness of employers to take on PhD holders, and a potential gap in appropriately skilled positions in the non-academic workforce. Of this we should take note, because the report, unlike many international or American policy pieces, raises concerns specific to the Canadian context that deeply impact the opportunities available for the PhD with advanced skills in research. Any reflection on PhD training must take into account the potential lack of receptors or unpreparedness of employers to use the full skills of our advanced graduates. Read the full report here: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=7564>

In **March**, the Desjardins Centre for Advanced Training is hosting a variety of events to support trainees as they work to counter the misperceptions of some employers spelled out in this report. We will increase your exposure to career options for the health scientist, offer you the opportunity to develop your leadership abilities, and business skills. Please see a listing of our upcoming events below and join us at these **FREE sessions**.



EVENTS



Seminar Series: What's your path? Career options for health scientists

Don't know much about the different career paths of life science trainees like yourself? Former life science trainees will answer key questions about their current work and career path. **These are FREE sessions and pre-registration is not required.** Scheduled seminars in March are as follows (presentations in English and Q&A sessions bilingual):

Why do you even want a career?

Wednesday, March 2nd, 3-4:30pm, Room ES1.1129, Glen site

Shawn Maloney, PhD, Entrepreneur and Chairman of JournalPrep, a research publication support company based in Montreal.

What's it going to take? Building and securing a career as a PI

Friday, March 11th, 3-4:30pm, Room L7-140, MGH site

Panel:

Dr. Kolja Eppert, Child Health and Human Development Research Program, RI-MUHC, McGill University

Dr. Signy Sheldon, Department of Psychology, McGill University

Dr. David Stellwagen, Brain Repair and Integrative Neuroscience Research Program, RI-MUHC, McGill University

Dr. Brain Chen, Brain Repair and Integrative Neuroscience Research Program, RI-MUHC, McGill University


EVENTS

Seminar Series: What's your path? Career options for health scientists
Can you work outside academia?
Three stories about discovering what's right for you

Wednesday, March 23rd, 3 – 4:30pm, ES1,1129, Glen site

Sara Samuel, PhD, *Clinical Trials Assistant, Quintiles (previously – MediMabs, Crimson Interactive)*

Salomon Cornejo, PhD, *Medical writer, Self-employed (previously – bmod and IC Axon)*

Sahar Saeed, MSc, PhD Candidate, *Co-Founder, Clinical Research Solutions (previously – MUHC)*


Explore your personal leadership qualities through workshops offered at the Glen Site by McGill Campus Life and Engagement

These workshops can help you recognize the skills that you already have that make you a great leader. Learn more about yourself, learn to articulate why you are a great leader, and develop and refine your leadership skills. **Pre-registration is required and spaces are limited** for these engaging, stimulating and fun workshops. Register by email at emily.bell@muhc.mcgill.ca or by the links below.

Workshop #1: "What is "Leadership"?"

Tuesday, March 22, 1-2:30pm Room EM1.3509

Learn more about "leadership" (that term that we use so much and have so many interpretations of) in theory and practice! This workshop will let you explore what leadership is and how you can be a part of an accessible and relevant leadership development process during your career here at McGill.

Register at: <https://involvement.mcgill.ca/organization/cle/calendar/details/44002>


Workshop #2: Global Leadership, Intercultural Awareness and the World of Science

Tuesday, March 29, 1:30-3pm Room EM1.3509

Science is a global activity in terms of collaboration and funding opportunities. This leads to the fact that developing one's intercultural awareness is integral to becoming a strong leader in science. Increasing globalization and intercultural contact (we live in a connective era, after all!) is a reality that demands expanding one's cultural skill set. This workshop will help everyone understand more about what it takes to be a global leader and recognize how to increase intercultural consciousness. Through reflective and participatory practice, you will gain the skills and information needed to interact in a variety of group settings. Take advantage of your unique situation as a student here at McGill and in Montreal where we have the advantage of being a part of a truly culture-rich population!

Register at: <https://involvement.mcgill.ca/organization/cle/calendar/details/44008>



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FURTHER READING

Planning for the job I want, not the job I have (Chronicle Vitae)

<https://chroniclevitae.com/news/1260-planning-for-the-job-i-want-not-the-job-i-have>

Follow the leader: Why watching others and knowing oneself is important for emerging leaders (The Bell Curve)

<http://truemilybell.tumblr.com/post/136112058690/follow-the-leader-why-watching-others-and-knowing>



Coming soon: Information sessions on admission to the Graduate Certificate in Business Administration offered by the John Molson School of Business

Did you know that Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB) and the RI-MUHC have an **established agreement to provide graduate level academic business training to research trainees**, researchers and healthcare practitioners affiliated with the MUHC through their Graduate Diploma/Certificate Business Administration (GDBA/GCBA) programs? Find out more at our information sessions to be held in April and May at both the Glen site and MGH site. For more information on the program see the link below or contact emily.bell@muhc.mcgill.ca.

<https://www.concordia.ca/jmsb/programs/graduate/diploma/program-details/ri-muhc-partnership.html>

TRAINEE KUDOS

Natalia Jaworska, postdoctoral fellow

[Brain Repair and Integrative Neuroscience Program](#)

Since arriving here last spring, Dr. Natalia Jaworska has been "a tornado," as her supervisor, Dr. Marco Leyton, reports. "She has been wiping clean various inefficient procedures, energizing everyone she comes in contact with, and providing that extra 'oomph' needed to get my group's latest round of challenging projects off the ground. Within a few months, she had made herself invaluable. These characteristics were equally clear to those reviewing her postdoctoral scholarship applications. At the FRQS she was ranked first out of 20. At the CIHR, she was first out of 1,119."

Jeffrey Downey, doctoral student

[Translational Research in Respiratory Diseases Program](#)

Jeffrey Downey's early work has culminated in two publications and a third authorship in *PNAS*, with his own manuscript currently under revision at *Cell Host & Microbe*. He is studying the regulation of macrophage-mediated immunity during Influenza A viral infection in Dr. Maziar Divangahi's laboratory at the Meakins-Christie Laboratories. Jeffrey's work is currently supported by studentships from the Faculty of Medicine and Department of Pathology at McGill University. He won the best oral presentation prize at the 2015 MUHC Respiratory Research Day.

FUNDING

Intent to Apply: March 23, 2016, 5 p.m. PDT

Mitacs | Elevate: 2-year training program for postdoctoral fellows

During the fellowship, fellows apply these skills within a real-world industry environment as they work on a two-year research project with their partner organization and university faculty supervisor, typically spending half of the fellowship with each. In addition to their research project, fellows spend one to two days per month participating in training activities. Throughout this time, fellows have multiple opportunities to connect with fellow PhD graduates in their cohort, as well as industry representatives, potential employers and workshop facilitators.

Project must start by September 15, 2016.

Value and Duration: \$57,500 per year (plus \$7,500 per year non-cash value in training). PDFs receive a minimum stipend of at least \$50,000 per year.

For more information contact the RI-MUHC Business Development Office: costas.karatzas@mail.mcgill.ca or marlies.otter@mail.mcgill.ca.

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OTHER ACTIVITIES

YES (Youth Employment Services) of Montreal presents:

Training With The Experts: How HR Selects – The Recruitment Process

This non-profit provides career services to primarily English job seekers up to the age of 35.

Join them for this workshop on the recruitment process: "Ever wonder what happens to your application after you hit the send button? This training session will outline what human resource managers and recruiters are really looking for in candidates and highlight how to put your best foot forward when submitting your application."

When: Thursday, March 17, 2016 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Costs: 20 –

Pre-registration is required. For more information, call 514-878-9788 or visit YES' website.

<http://www.yesmontreal.ca/en/events/new-training-with-the-experts-how-hr-selects-the-recruitment-process-also-available-online/7606>

TRAINEE KUDOS

Samantha Hajna, doctoral student

[Experimental Therapeutics and Metabolism Program](#)

and Centre for Outcomes Research and Evaluation

Samantha Hajna has successfully defended her PhD thesis, *Neighbourhood walkability and pedometer and accelerometer-assessed walking in Canadian adults*, in the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health under the supervision of Drs. Kaberi Dasgupta and Nancy Ross and thesis committee members, Drs. Lawrence Joseph, Sam Harper and Simon Bacon. Her work has led to six first-authored publications to date and her doctoral studies were funded by an award from CIHR. Samantha will be pursuing postdoctoral work at Cambridge University in the fall.

Yidan Lu, MD; M.Sc. student

[Experimental Therapeutics and Metabolism Program](#)

and Centre for Outcomes Research and Evaluation

Dr. Yidan Lu has been involved in high-profile research projects in gastroenterology, including an assessment of the dissemination of global guidelines using a national registry and research on conflicts of interest in international consensus meetings. She has presented orally at international conferences and published in high-impact medical journals. The McGill graduate in gastroenterology is currently pursuing a degree in epidemiology and biostatistics under Dr. Alan Barkun's supervision. She is working to develop the National Home Parenteral Nutrition Registry in Quebec, documenting Quebec patients on home Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) for the first time.

Send us your trainee kudos

Have you recently published a paper? Are you involved in neat extra-curricular activities? Have you recently received a scholarship or award?

We want to hear from you any kudos or congratulations that we can communicate to the RI-MUHC community as a whole.

Don't miss this opportunity to see your hard work and accomplishments acknowledged! Send short descriptions of kudos to ritraineenews@muhc.mcgill.ca

For more information contact:

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