



Message from the Executive Director

Almost there

We are six months away from the beginning of a series of moves that will shape the RI for the coming decades. In February 2014, many investigators using wet lab space will move from the RVH, MGH, MCH and the Meakins-Christie Labs to the Glen. Starting two months later, the clinics and clinical research will begin moving from the RVH, MCH and MCI to the Glen, while some research groups will be relocating from the RVH and other locations to the MGH. These moves will be complete with the establishment of the CORE (Centre of Outcomes Research and Evaluation) at a Glen-adjacent building and in part at MGH.

Although the wet lab and clinical research moves are well planned and specific timelines have been set, the CORE move is still uncertain because of the lack of appropriate space in a Glen-adjacent building as originally planned. However, there is a coordinated effort to identify this space and finalize the details of this move by the end of the summer. The main RI administration will remain at Guy Street for now.

Since the inception of the Glen and planning the reorganization of the MGH, the vision has been to increase the permeability between the various scientific sectors at the RI, thus encouraging both ideas and people to move more freely. Good permeability is the basis for discovery, innovation, and translation in today's fast moving and highly competitive biomedical research world, which ranges from fundamental science to clinical applications to society at large. We hope that the massive investments made by the Federal and Provincial Governments, as well as our Foundations, to provide us with the new infrastructure at the Glen and the upcoming repairs and renovations of the MGH will enable us to achieve our goals.

I would like to thank all of you, the RI members and staff, for your engagement and cooperation over the last year. This was critical for the planning of a successful and least disruptive move possible. However, we are not done yet. Just six months away from the move of the first group (wet labs) to the Glen and in preparation of the move of the other groups, we need to continue to work together, as the engagement of all is essential to the success of our enterprise.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, help and trust.

Vassili



Redevelopment of the RI-MUHC at the Glen site

Preparations for the move will continue this summer!

The transition team at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC) is actively preparing for the move to the Glen site in February 2015.



As you no doubt already know, our goal is to ensure that the transition is well organized and that our community of researchers gets the relevant information it needs throughout this transition period.

To keep you in the loop, here are the major ongoing developments:

Certification of Containment Level 3 Facilities

The transition and environmental health and safety teams are working closely with the construction firm to ensure compliance with Containment Level 3 Certification of the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#). This long process is now in the completion stage.

Equipment and support activities

The commissioning of new equipment has started at the Glen site. This equipment includes biological safety cabinets, bulk sterilizers, CT scanners, and more. The transition team is helping the construction firm make sure that everything is installed properly at the site.



Front of the RI-MUHC (Atrium)



Under the team's supervision and with the help of our researchers, inventory of new and old equipment is currently underway to assure harmonization and to maximize efficiency at the new facilities.

An information technology and telecommunications team is currently compiling an inventory of our computers and telephones. Prior to their site visit, the IT team will contact every research teams.

Other support activities are also under way:

- Researchers were given a standardization policy to help them preserve and scan paper documents and therefore reduce the volume of documents that have to be moved.
- A “Clean Sweep” campaign with collection containers at different sites is currently in place to help researchers clean out and dispose of various types of documents and obsolete equipment.
- A policy to preserve research equipment (“Preserving RI-MUHC Property”) was circulated to ensure that anything that won’t be moved but that belongs to the RI-MUHC won’t be lost in the shuffle.
- A policy for safely moving chemicals and radioactive products will also be implemented soon.

The transfer

The Glen site construction will finish at the end of September 2014, when the site will officially belong to the MUHC and the RI-MUHC.



Aerial view of the Glen site

The activation phase for the RI-MUHC will start in October 2014 and end in February 2015. This phase will consist of validating and certifying the new facilities and new equipment at the Glen site, developing methods to move specialized equipment, and providing orientation and training to employees.

The goal is to have the RI-MUHC fully functional at the Glen site by February 2015.



Hallway linking the two buildings



Cafeteria



Break room, M1, Glen Site



Internal Staircase, Mezzanine, Glen Site



Toonie Challenge raises \$10, 500, on its way to \$138,000!

Our budding fundraisers got a taste of what it's really like to be a scientist

This year, students from 10 Quebec Association of Independent Schools (QAIS) elementary and high schools raised \$10,500 as part of the Toonie Challenge. The long-term fundraising goal is to raise \$138,000 (or 69,000 toonies)—enough to circle the entire Glen site if placed end-to-end.

On Tuesday, April 8, the MUHC Foundation hosted a half day event where representatives of each of the schools including students, parents, teachers and administrators came to present the MUHC with the cheque. To thank the students for their efforts stations were set up in the Glen hall for the kids to visit and learn about medical science and maybe even get inspired to pursue a career in medicine and research.

This year, together with the Executive office of the RI-MUHC, kids could stop by three research stations in Orthopaedics, Ocular Pathology and Parasitology and meet with scientists and fellows as well. Children and adults were thrilled to touch real bones, jiggle real eyeballs in their hands and see real parasites in jars. Our research kiosks were a hit and the RI has been invited to come back to next year's event.



Some of these stations were interactive like the orthopaedics medical station, where kids had temporary casts made for their arms or at the medical instruments heritage station, where they got to look at old medical instruments used over 80 years ago to perform surgery.

The Executive office expresses its thanks to the three labs, the residents, technicians and investigators for participating and will be scouting for more labs to participate next year!

Orthopaedics Research station – The Bones in you
Dr. Chan Gao (candidate) and Dr. Ayman Awlia (candidate)
from the Bone Engineering Labs



Parasitology station – Breakfast with Parasites: DEAD OR ALIVE! – Dr. Momar Ndao, Director of the National Reference Centre of Parasitology (NRCP), showing a parasite in a jar to two impressed students



Ophthalmology research station – Your eyes on our bench: we need pupils! – Patrick Logan, Post-Doctoral Fellow, The Henry C. Witelson Ocular Pathology Laboratory



Message from the Research Grants & Data Management Division

Curriculum vitae (CVs): We would like to thank all researchers who provided us with their CVs in February. We achieved an 80% response rate. This exercise will allow us to validate all publications extracted from PubMed along with other data, such as contact information, students, and research funding.

Student grant competition: We would also like to thank the 106 researchers at the RI-MUHC who agreed to evaluate the 162 students who submitted a funding request in 2014-2015. Many of these evaluators also attended the annual meeting on June 10. The results of the competition will be announced in July and August.

Training awards: Although we do have access to information about FRQS awards, we do not have information about bursaries that are paid directly to students and that are not administered by the RI-MUHC or McGill University. We are therefore asking students to send their proof of funding to Jennifer Bracho so that we can compile this important data. These awards contribute to the RI-MUHC's productivity and are included in the calculation of space allocated to researchers.

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Communications

Your Hospitals, Your Questions!



The MUHC has released a public forum – Your Hospitals, Your Questions – to share information and answer questions from the local community on concerns pertaining to the transition to the Glen as well as the clinical services that will be offered.

This forum is aimed at the general public, as well as the medical and the Research Institute community. [Click here to access the website](#)



RI Newsletter: survey results

As part of a continuous improvement, we are currently reviewing the relevance of the format and the content of the RI-MUHC newsletter to better meet your needs in terms of internal communication in the future.

In April, we sent out a survey to all regular and associate members, as well as the RI students. To view the results of this survey, click [here](#).

Our newsletter will have a new layout this fall. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact us at this address ricommunications@muhc.mcgill.ca should you have any comment or suggestion. Have a great summer!

RI Communications

RI Website

We remind you that, since this past May, the Research Institute of the MUHC now has its own website. [Visit it now!](#)

NOTE TO RESEARCHERS: If you want your profile to be featured on the *Researcher profiles* section of our site, please check your email inbox and send us the requested information at ricommunications@muhc.mcgill.ca.

Over 230 RI regular member profiles are currently featured on the site. Associate members were contacted to send their profiles as well. If you notice a mistake on your profile, please contact us by email at: ricommunications@muhc.mcgill.ca. Thank you for your collaboration!





CIHR Café scientifique

On June 4th, the McGill University Health Centre and the Research Institute have organized a Café Scientifique funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) about gender identity, entitled *Trans: A new image in society*.



Over 100 people from all fields, general public, medical and community fields have attended the discussion taking place at the Monument National and debated on the challenges that the trans community faces in society.

Dr. Shuvo Ghosh, clinician and researcher at the Montreal Children's Hospital and Director of the only Gender Variance Program in Québec, was on the panel. Approximately 150 children are currently under the care of Dr. Ghosh and his team at his clinic and 90 more visit them every year.

The discussion was filmed and the videos are [now available online](#). Enjoy! Don't miss our next Café scientifique on chronic pain, which will take place this fall.

NOTE: CIHR has announced the suspension of all funding for the 2014-2015 Cafés Scientifiques.



Research highlights

Scientists find important piece in the brain tumour puzzle

(July 4, 2014) [Read more](#)

International study yields important clues to the genetics of epilepsy

(June 16, 2014) [Read more](#)

Dr. Brenda Milner awarded prestigious Kavli Prize in Neuroscience

(May 29, 2014) [Read more](#)

Scientists control rapid re-wiring of brain circuits using patterned visual stimulation

(May 27, 2014) [Read more](#)

Dr. Guy Rouleau awarded major medical prize

(May 9, 2014) [Read more](#)

World Ovarian Cancer Day: Montreal research project still going

(May 8, 2014) [Read more](#)

Watching, delaying treatment of low-risk prostate cancer may be more cost-effective

(Apr 24, 2014) [Read more](#)

Cancer Research: RI-MUHC researchers undertake innovative

(Apr 16, 2014) [Click here for a short description of the five projects](#)

Researchers find that influenza has an Achilles'Heel

(Apr 10, 2014) [Read more](#)

Noisy brain signals: How the schizophrenic brain misinterprets the world

(Apr 3, 2014) [Read more](#)

Monday March 24th was World TB Day and readers should be reminded that TB remains a global threat. To read the full article written by McGill International TB Centre's Dr. Marcel Behr and Dr. Dick Menzies, [click here](#).