

2023-2024
***Annual
Report***

**Desjardins
Center for
Advanced
Training**

of the
RI-MUHC

Centre universitaire
de santé McGill
Institut de recherche



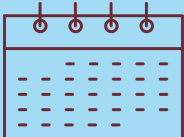
McGill University
Health Centre
Research Institute

Overview

Our Measurable Impact: 2023-2024



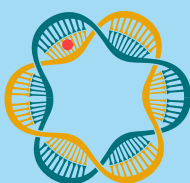
Over **1000** participants (including repeat clients) engaged with DCAT (attended an event, sought support or information from DCAT).



DCAT hosted **65** events, including workshops and seminars.



There were **59** sessions of individual career advising.



In February 2024, over **25** guest speakers and invited professionals, and **103** students attended the Precision Medicine Symposium: Expanding Graduate Students and Postdocs' Career Horizons.



21 students received DCAT prizes or awards. They participated in various professional development activities, including: [Effervescence: The Future of Life Sciences](#); the [Graduate Certificate in Business Administration](#) (offered by [Concordia University](#)); the [Life Sciences Entrepreneurship Development Program](#) (offered by [Montreal InVivo](#), the [John Molson Executive Centre](#), and [University of Montreal's Faculty of Pharmacy](#)).

New Programs With Dedicated Grant Funding

The Clinical and Regulatory Affairs Training Program becomes CANTRAIN'S GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (Funded by an \$11.3M grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research):

In 2023, the Clinical and Regulatory Affairs Experience Training Program was updated and rebranded as CANTRAIN's Graduate and Postdoctoral Career Development Program. This new program trains Master's and PhD students for careers in clinical trials and the development of new therapeutics. It focuses on mentorship and career exploration to teach practical skills and knowledge, aiming to enhance Canada's talent pool in drug and therapeutics development. Building on the success of DCAT's previous program, CANTRAIN seeks to expand this training across Canada. DCAT remains a partner in the strategic leadership and transformation of the program.

TREMLIN McGill Affiliated Consortium for Career and Professional Development (Funded by an \$800,000 grant from the Fonds de recherche de Québec-Santé):

The Tremplin McGill-Affiliated Consortium provides a student-focused program across four McGill-affiliated health research institutions, emphasizing career preparation and skill development. This year, Tremplin's events, including a Precision Medicine Symposium, have boosted graduate students' confidence in reaching their career goals. Confidence is essential for students' well-being and career readiness. Tremplin helps students feel confident, explore various career options, and work towards their desired futures.

Highlight 2023/2024

Precision Medicine Winter Symposium : Expanding Graduate Students and Postdocs' Career Horizons February 23-24, 2024

Some key happenings from the symposium included:

- **Networking with professionals and peers** on topics related to various career paths in precision medicine. **23** invited guests participated in talks or panels; and **16** professionals participated in a networking lunch with **100** trainees.
- Trainees showcasing their research in precision medicine in a **3M thesis style competition**. Nine trainees competed for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes in MSc, PhD and Postdoc categories.
- Participation of various organizations and entities including **Montreal InVivo, FRQS, BioQuebec, CellCarta, adMare Bioinnovations, Amplitude Ventures, and McGill's Career Planning Service**.

The symposium also included 3 keynote talks and 7 panel discussions with titles such as:

- Precision Medicine: what is it and meeting the challenges of today
- Understanding precision health in the bio-economy and in healthcare
- Precision Medicine in Action: Clinical Trials
- Precision Medicine in Action: Transforming clinical practice
- A Canadian outlook on precision health: what should we expect to see from here to 2035
- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Navigating your academic to industry journey (MSc, PhD, Postdoc)

Testimonials from attendees

"The biggest takeaway was just the amount of multidisciplinary people in the different panels... I found out about entrepreneurship opportunities or how to convert my research into commercial products...I learned a lot today."

-PhD student

"It was super interesting experience, it was very nice to meet with people from more senior positions and we have very diverse people whether the speakers or attendees. It's a great way to network in a super nice welcoming space."

-Recent MSc graduate

"The most important takeaway for me is... also realizing the industry is very aware and are interested in how are we working to bring new innovations into the field"

-MSc to PhD student

"The main takeaway is there were a lot of ... interesting panel discussions from experts in the field of clinical research...doctors, industry people. For someone like me who is trying to make a transition from academia to industry this is a great resource...because this is the only exposure that I have outside my lab. I can connect to people and...ask them how to get my foot in the industry after I am done with my PhD.

-PhD student

Event Snapshots



The organizing committee of the February 2024 Precision Medicine Winter Symposium.



The networking lunch at DCAT's 2023 Career Day provided an opportunity for trainees to connect with professionals from both industry and academia.

Summary

Pillars of DCAT



EXPLORATION

Provides trainees with a chance to discover diverse career paths and options.



NETWORKING

Facilitates connections between trainees and mentors in various fields, such as industry, government, and academia.



COMMUNITY

Designs programs that facilitate group activities for peers with similar career interests, including brainstorming, discussions, and presentations.



DEVELOPMENT

Provides training that aims to enhance both hard and soft skills, including project management, clinical trials management, communication, and business acumen.

The Team

Dr. Rhian Touyz – Principal Investigator, TREMPIN, McGill Affiliated Consortium

Dr. Miguel Burnier – Director, DCAT

Emily Bell, PhD, Associate Director, DCAT; RI-MUHC Lead, TREMPIN; Stream Lead, GPT Stream, CANTRAIN

Amélie Bourdieu, PhD, Manager, TREMPIN McGill-Affiliated Consortium

Ariel De Roo, DCAT Coordinator

Conclusion



At the 2023 DCAT Career Day, Desjardins representatives presented a major contribution to the Desjardins Centre for Advanced Training, highlighting their support for advanced training initiatives

Thank you!

**CENTRE DESJARDINS DE
FORMATION AVANCÉE**



**DESJARDINS CENTRE FOR
ADVANCED TRAINING**

We thank Desjardins for their generous contribution that allows us to provide such valuable career programming to graduate trainees.

For more information: <http://rimuhc.ca/dcat>

To contact the Desjardins Centre for Advanced Training:

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