

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Division of Experimental Medicine

Annual Report 2012

(a) Present State of the Division

The Division of Experimental Medicine, providing Graduate Studies in the Department of Medicine, is completing its 10th year under the directorship of Dr. Hugh Bennett

(i) Experimental Medicine Graduate Student Society (EMGSS):

One of the most significant achievements of the EMGSS in the past year was the organization of the “12th Annual McGill Biomedical Graduate Conference” (AMBGC) that was held at the Downtown Holiday Inn on February 12th 2012. This event is the highlight of our year and offers graduate students in biomedical research the opportunity to present and discuss their work in a stimulating and collegial environment that permits networking opportunities among their peers. A major focus of this year’s conference was to continue to bring together students from all four Montréal-based research universities: Université de Montréal, Université de Québec à Montréal, Concordia University and McGill University. Approximately 250 students attended this year’s conference, representing graduate students from the Montréal area, post-doctoral fellows, and university faculty and community members. There were 10 oral presentations and 148 poster presentations from students engaged in biomedical research in Montreal. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Galit Alter of Harvard University and the Ragon Institute of the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. The EMGSS managed to secure sponsorship from more than 19 different organizations to aid in funding the event.

In addition to the AMBGC, the EMGSS hosted several other social events. A summary report of the EMGSS’ activities for 2012-2013 is attached as Appendix 1.

(b) Graduate Students

(i) Numbers: There were 303 students registered in Experimental Medicine as of the Fall 2012 semester an increase of 48 over the figure for last year. Of these, 117 were newly admitted to our programs, in the following proportions (35 Ph.D., 72 M.Sc., and 10 Diploma in Clinical Research).

Fifty-three students graduated from our programs in the 2012 calendar year, in the following proportions: 17 Ph.D., 29 M.Sc. (including Bioethics Option and 7 Clinical Research Diploma). Overall the enrolment in Experimental Medicine Graduate programs has increased by almost 20% relative to 2011 (see Appendix 2). With an anticipated enrolment of more than 100 students in the upcoming calendar year, our numbers are expected to continue increasing.

(ii) Years in the program: The average number of years in the PhD program has decreased 5.71 compared to 6.25 in the previous year. This trend has also been noted for M.Sc. graduates (the average number of years to complete has dropped from 2.48 to 2.24 (see Appendix 3).

The ultimate goal will be to reduce these figures to no more than 5 and 2 years respectively for the PhD and MSc programs. To this end the Division continues to work towards assuring that students submit theses in a timely fashion without being subject to time limitations imposed by Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies. The Division has taken a larger role in organizing annual thesis committee meetings to ensure that they take place in a timely fashion and to further reduce time to completion figures.

(iii) Graduate student funding: A summary of graduate student funding for 2012 is shown in Appendix 4. With the continued high enrolment and despite the diminishing of funds available, 61 of our students remain supported by external peer-reviewed funding. Internal funding has increased significantly due to the implementation of the Graduate Excellence Fellowships. This has resulted in a very large number of students benefitting from internal funding (251 awards totaling \$936,000 were awarded to Experimental Medicine students – see Appendix 4). The total funding awarded to our students has increased by 27% from that of 2011 (\$2,268,485 compared to \$1,786,214 in 2011)

(iv) Honours: The outstanding caliber of our students continues to be recognized by both McGill and the Canadian scientific community. Notably, 5 of our students were invited to attend the Canadian Student Health Research Forum in Winnipeg. Moreover, several of our students have been put forward for various dissertation awards.

(c) Staff Membership

The Division's membership decreased slightly over the past year due to retirement. The Division presently has 259 members (65 Full, 44 Associate and 32 Assistant Professors in Medicine together with 62 Associate Members from other departments at McGill, 40 Associate Members from the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal (IRCM) and Université de Montréal and 2 Associate Member from Institut Armand Frappier, 10 Adjunct Members, as well as 4 Emeritus Professors). Of these, 118 are currently active supervisors of graduate students registered in the Division.

(d) Program and Other Developments

The World Wide Web page (www.medicine.mcgill.ca/expmed) continues to be an excellent promotional/educational/research resource tool. It has been updated to include more resources for applicants and students alike.

The Division remains open to the development of both new programs and new courses and the implementation of new collaborations. Two new courses entitled “Anti-Cancer Drug Discovery and Development” and “Clinical Aspects of Research in Respiratory Diseases” were offered for the first time in 2012. These were well received by participants. We hope to actively encourage new staff to propose new course offerings in order to build up both the catalogue of courses offered by the Division and the academic dossiers of our faculty members. To this end a curriculum committee has been struck consisting of both students and faculty to identify areas

not presently covered adequately in the courses that are currently being offered. The committee will report their findings shortly.

(e) Conclusion.

I will conclude with personal best wishes for all those who have made the Division of Experimental what it is. I would like to express my thanks to Interim Chair of Medicine, Dr. James Martin for his advice and support throughout the past year. Special thanks are due to the Academic Advisors of the Division, Professors Ali, Autexier, Blank, Bouchard, Chalifour, Cote, di Noia, Fixman, Jean-Claude, Gatignol, Goodyer, Hendy, Lapointe, Laporte, Larose, Lazure, Lebrun, Lehoux, Liu, Mouland, Pantopoulos, Radzioch, Rak, Rocheleau, Srikant, Tonin, Torban, and Yang. I will be stepping down as Director of the Division of Experimental Medicine when my second five-year appointment finishes on October 31st 2013. It has been an honour to lead the program over the past 10 years during which time the program has increased in size by 67.5% (see Appendix 2). I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made our program so successful especially Faculty members who co-ordinate and teach in our courses and sit on countless thesis committee meetings. We could not function as an academic unit without the dedication and commitment of the Experimental Medicine community. I am truly grateful for all their hard work. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the Experimental Medicine students, past and present who have made their success our success especially members of the Experimental Medicine Graduate Student Society. I would also like to thank the essential role that Marilyn Linhares and Dominique Besso have played. Their patience and willingness to go the extra mile to solve problems is very much appreciated by both students and Faculty. I have made many new friends during my tenure as Director. Fortunately these friendships will last long after I step down. Thank you one and all.

Respectfully submitted,



Hugh P.J. Bennett, Ph.D.

Director

Division of Experimental Medicine



Experimental Medicine Executive Meeting Report

2012-2013 Council members and Volunteers

Name	Position
Carlos Melendez-Pena	President
Nicholas Winters	Vice-President Finance, Environmental Representative
Hibba Nasir	Co-Vice-President Social Affairs
Andrew Lingard	Co-Vice-President Social Affairs, Montreal General Representative
Johanna Mancini	Co-Vice-President Academics
Gordana Maric	Co-Vice-President Academics, Goodman Cancer Center Representative
Bharat Srinivasa, Boram Ham	Co-Vice-President Communication
Alexandra Fletcher	Vice-President Administration, Family Medicine Representative
Kathryn Wright, Mashrur Rahman	Co-Vice-President Internal
Rana El Bikai	Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal Representative
Nadège Fils-Aimé	Royal Victoria Hospital Representative
Laura Labonté	Meakins-Christie Representative
Palaniraja Thandapani	Lady Davis Institute Representative
Vaso Rahimzadeh	Bioethics Representative
WooJin Kim	Post Graduate Student's Society Representative, IRCM Representative
Bahar Kasaai, Bonnie Huor	Post Graduate Student's Society Representative



Experimental Medicine Executive Meeting Report

2012-2013 Events

Date	Event	Number of participants
Fall 2012 – Winter 2013	Fall Intramurals	33
September 5th 2012	Orientation Day	40
September 6th 2012	Annual BBQ	80
September 13th 2012	Inter-Institute Soccer tournament	40
October 4th 2012	EMGSS General Assembly	12
November 6th 2012	Carlos and Pepes Social	27
Upcoming Events		
February 28th 2013	13th Annual McGill Biomedical Graduate Conference	150
March?	Career Café	?
April 2013	EMGSS General Assembly	?

-With the success of the orientation BBQ last year, we hosted the 2012-2013 BBQ at Beaver Lake, off-campus (to reduce costs). The event brought together new and senior students from Experimental Medicine in an engaging and open environment. We integrated this event into our new Orientation week. We also organized a specific day of information sessions, presentations, and laboratory tours, which was of great use to the incoming students.

-As per last year, we organized intramural teams to foster student camaraderie. Additionally, we organized a monthly pub night and other activities such as a Movember team, Movie Night and others.

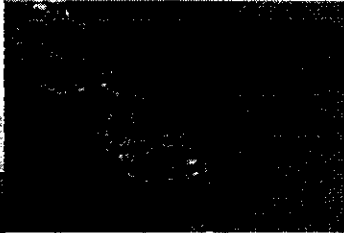
-The 13th annual AMBGC required extensive reforming. Sources of funding needed to be revisited and new fundraising avenues needed to be explored. We therefore increased the number of fundraising events. In comparison to last year (where almost no fundraisers were held), we implemented **Samosa sale, Clothing Sale, Side Walk Sale and Amazing Race**. Other events could be added next year such as Calendar Sale and a Talent Show. We believed that it was our duty to first decrease the organizational event-costs and increase our fundraising before exploring other revenue-generating avenues (such as charging registration fees to conference delegates).

-Our social events have been moderately successful; it is hard to get people involved in the student life.



Experimental Medicine Executive Meeting Report

13th Annual McGill Biomedical Graduate Conference



Details:

February 28th 2013

Holiday Inn Midtown

1070 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal

Starts at 8am

Keynote speaker will be

Dr. Anne Eichmann from Yale University

For more information please visit our website:

<http://www.ambgc.com/ambgc-conference/ambgc-2013/>

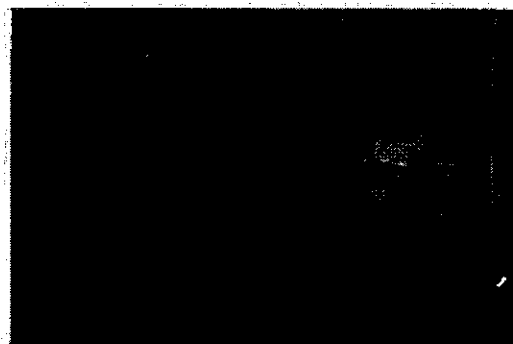
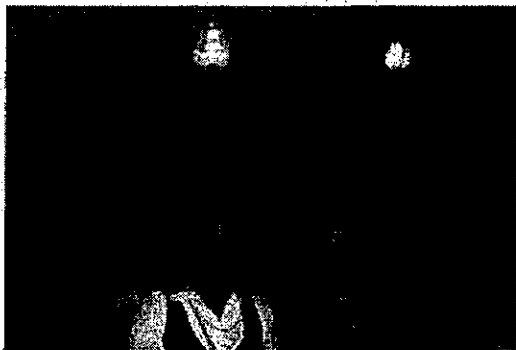
For any other inquiries, feel free to e-mail us at:
ambgc.2013@mcgill.ca

All students engaged in medical and biomedical research in Montreal are welcome to participate

The 13th Annual McGill Biomedical Graduate Conference is our major event of the year; highlights are outlined below:

- To be held on Thursday, February 28th, 2013 at the Holiday Inn Midtown
- 98 abstracts submitted, divided into 7 oral presentations and 91 poster presentations (8 different categories)
 - 81 McGill students
 - Douglas (6), GCRC (5), RI-MUHC (13), LDI (10), MNI (3), IRCM (5), Other or not mention (38)
 - 12 Université de Montréal students
 - 5 Université du Québec à Montréal students
 - 18 judges (Principal investigators and post-doctoral fellows)

- Featured keynote speaker Dr. Anne Eichmann from Yale University. Dr. Eichmann completed her PhD at Université Paris XIII. Her excellence in research, enthusiasm for science, and the accessibility of her research training will be motivational to young scientists.



12th AMBGC



- 13th AMBGC sponsors

- EMGSS
- The Victor Cape Fund
- The Division of Experimental Medicine
- Santé respiratoire du FRSQ
- Goodman Cancer Research Centre (GCRC)
- Institut de Recherches Cliniques de Montréal (IRCM)
- Cedarlane
- MJS Biolynx
- Faculty of Medicine
- Department of Medicine
- Meakins-Christie Institute
- Department of Parasitology
- Lady Davis Institute (LDI)
- McGill Post Graduate Students' Society
- CIHR
- Fonds de la Recherche en Santé du Québec (FRQS)
- Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC)
- GE Healthcare
- New England Biolabs
- Novartis

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their contributions, as well as Dr. Hugh Bennett, Dominique Besso, and Marilyn Linhares for their constant guidance and support.

APPENDIX 2

NUMBER OF STUDENTS REGISTERED (by term)

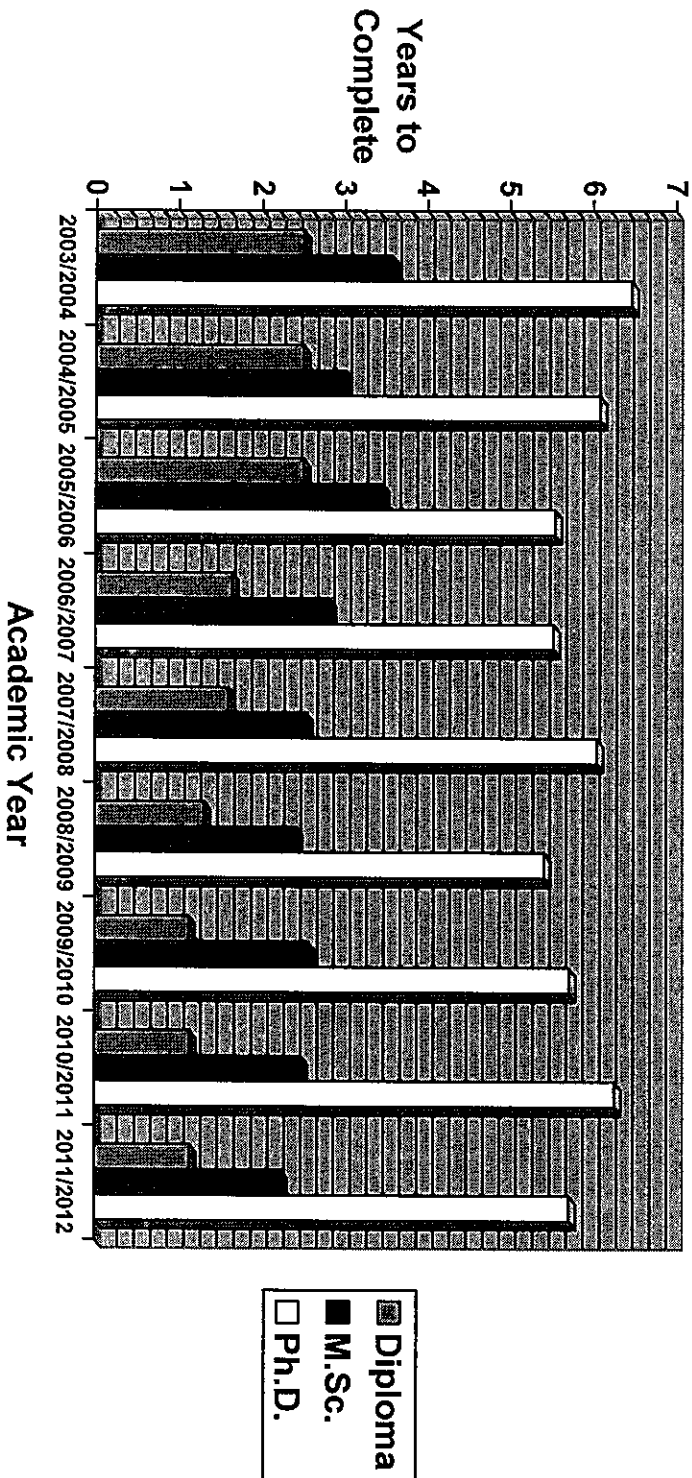
Term	Diploma	M.Sc.	Ph.D.	Unregistered*	TOTAL
200209	5	10	170		185
200301	5	10	182		197
200309	4	11	173		188
200401	3	11	181		195
200409	4	13	165		182
200501	6	16	171		193
200509	11	37	149		197
200601	10	40	149		199
200609	11	62	121		194
200701	7	68	135		210
200709	9	93	117		221
200801	8	97	116		221
200809	8	92	109		209
200901	4	92	116		212
200909	12	88	115		215
201001	12	89	123		224
201009	16	95	122		233
201101	18	103	133		254
201109	14	111	130		255
201201	11	111	133		255
201209	12	146	145		303
201301	13	137	156	3 (DNR) 6 (TL)	315

* Starting with the 201301 term and in order to make the numbers representative, we have included a column for students who are not officially registered (due to having reached time-limitation (TL) or who simply omitted to register (DNR) despite being in the lab) but who are students nevertheless.

APPENDIX 3

YEARS TO COMPLETE (by degree)

Degree	Average Years to Complete 2003/2004	Average Years to Complete 2004/2005	Average Years to Complete 2005/2006	Average Years to Complete 2006/2007	Average Years to Complete 2007/2008	Average Years to Complete 2008/2009	Average Years to Complete 2009/2010	Average Years to Complete 2010/2011	Average Years to Complete 2011/2012
Graduate Dipl. (# of Graduates)	2.5 (2)	2.5 (2)	2.5 (2)	1.64 (7)	1.60 (5)	1.31 (8)	1.13 (8)	1.14 (14)	1.14 (7)
M.Sc. (# of Graduates)	3.57 (7)	3.00 (7)	3.46 (12)	2.82 (11)	2.54 (24)	2.42 (31)	2.56 (36)	2.48 (31)	2.24 (29)
Ph.D. (# of Graduates)	6.46 (26)	6.08 (19)	5.54 (24)	5.52 (27)	6.04 (38)	5.41 (28)	5.71 (14)	6.25 (22)	5.71 (17)
Total Graduates	35	28	38	45	67	67	58	67	53



APPENDIX 4
Graduate Student Funding
2012

A. Number of Full-Time, Part-Time and Additional Session Graduate Students Registered in Experimental Medicine: 315

B. Funding From External Peer-Reviewed Studentships and Fellowships

Source of Funding	Number of Awards	Total Value \$	
1. CIHR Studentships	3	47,000	12 + 17.5 + 17.5
2. CIHR Doctoral Awards	5	116,000	21 + 14 + 21 + 30 + 30
3. CIHR Fellowships	5	73,667	21 + 23 + 9 + 9 + 11,667
4. CIHR Clinician Scientist Training Award	1	60,000	60
5. CIHR M.D./Ph.D. Studentships	2	42,000	21 + 21
6. Vanier Scholarship	1	53,000	53
7. FRSQ Studentships	16	249,668	20 + 20 + 20 + 6,667 + 20 + 15 + 15 + 6,667 + 6,667 + 20 + 15 + 20 + 18 + 20 + 20 + 6,667
8. FRSQ Fellowships	3	47,000	15 + 12 + 20
9. FRSQ Fellowship for Medical Residents	1	40,000	40
10. FRSQ Fellowship (Clinical Investigator Program)	2	130,000	65 + 65
11. Cole Foundation Studentship	3	59,500	21 + 21 + 17.5
12. US Army (Dept. of Defense) Breast Cancer Research Program Award	1	28,000	28
13. Canadian Blood Services Graduate Fellowship	1	19,250	19.25
14. Canadian Diabetes Association Studentship	1	20,000	20
15. RQR Create Scholarship	1	18,000	18

16. MHERC (Montreal Health Equity Research Consortium) Stipend	1	10,200	10.2
17. Susan G. Komen Grant	1	18,000	18
18. CSC (China Scholarship Council) Awards	2	38,600	6.4 + 19.2
19. IRCM Internal Awards	3	29,000	10 + 10 + 9
20. SENACYT Award (Gov't of Panama)	1	21,500	21
21. CONACYT Award (Gov't of Mexico)	1	9,500	9.5
22. Saudi Cultural Bureau Awards	4	175,000	51 + 51 + 51 + 22
23. Sultanate of Oman Scholarship	1	40,000	40
TOTAL:	61	\$ 1,331,885	

C. Funding from McGill Graduate and Medical Faculties, and Hospital Research Institutes

Source of Funding	Number of Awards	Total Value \$	
1. McGill Graduate Excellence Awards	200	530,000	
2. Max Stern Recruitment Fellowships	1	10,000	
3. Clifford Wong Fellowship	1	13,000	
4. Faculty of Medicine Internal Awards	10	116,000	12 + 12 + 12 + 12 + 12 + 10 + 10 + 12 + 12 + 12
5. MUHC Awards	11	100,900	9 + 10 + 9 + 9 + 15 + 4.2 + 8,925 + 8,925 + 8,925 + 8,925 + 9
6. McGill Integrated Cancer Research Fellowship	8	96,000	12 + 12 + 12 + 12 + 12 + 12 + 12 + 12
7. Neuroinflammation Training Program Graduate Award	1	10,000	10
8. St. Mary's Hospital Foundation Award	1	22,000	22
9. LDI Internal Studentships	2	20,000	10 + 10
10. GREAT Travel Awards	16	18,700	
TOTAL	251	936,600	
TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDS (B+C)	312	2,268,485	