Research that changes lives
Made by Canderel Management

1821 – 2021

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McGill researchers are gaining a better understanding of our world and making it better, one challenge at a time.

Thank you

Over the past year, donors like Canderel Management have helped McGill keep the success of our students at the heart of what we do. We can see the results of these contributions as our scholars carve out a bright future for themselves.

Although the pandemic altered many aspects of daily campus life, it has also given us a clear sense of purpose. We want to be a model for how universities can evolve to meet the challenges of the present, as well as the future. Your philanthropic support is helping us shape a better tomorrow, and one where our leaders are not just career-ready, but future-ready.

This report outlines the impact you are making at the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute (GCI). We hope you enjoy reading it and take pride in the fact that your support ensures McGill has the resources to serve the evolving needs of our research community.

As the University celebrates its Bicentennial anniversary, we look back fondly on the achievements of our students. Your generosity has facilitated their curiosity and ambition. Thank you for playing an important part in their successes. Our next century will be filled with new discoveries and we look forward to you joining us on this journey.

Canderel Graduate Studentship Awards

Established in 1991, the *Canderel Graduate Studentship Awards* are designed to attract talented young people to cancer research at the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute. The Studentships are awarded to outstanding graduate students undertaking studies at the GCI or in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology.

2020-21 recipients

Bianca Adams, MSc, Biochemistry, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Sidong Huang)

Samuel Doré, MSc, Human Genetics, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Logan Walsh)

Bryn Golesworthy, MSc, Human Genetics, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. George Zogopoulos)

Yu Gu, MSc, Biochemistry, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. William Muller)

Faiz Hussain, PhD, Biochemistry, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Lawrence Kazak)

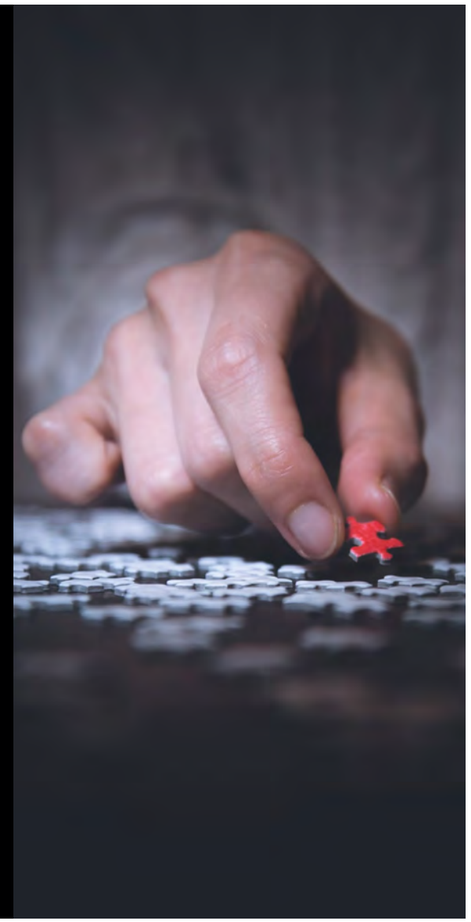
Chloe Liu, PhD, Biochemistry, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Maxime Bouchard)

Thiviya Jeyakumar, PhD, Biochemistry, Year 4
(Laboratory of Drs. Nicole Beauchemin and Philippe Gros)

Alexandre Poirier, MSc, Experimental Medicine, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Michel Tremblay)

Hedyeh Rahimian, MSc, Biochemistry, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Alain Nepveu)

Emilie Solymoss, MSc, Experimental Medicine, Year 1
(Laboratory of Dr. Peter Siegel)



Words of thanks

Dear Mr. Jonathan Wener,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your support of my research under the supervision of Dr. Sidong Huang at McGill University. I am one of the recipients of the 2020 Canderel Graduate Studentships. I feel deeply humbled and honoured to have received such an award.

Please allow me to briefly explain the research this award is supporting and the impact this studentship has on my research career. Firstly, the aim in Dr. Huang's lab is to use functional genomic approaches to interrogate gene function in order to uncover cancer-relevant pathways and therapies for SMARCA4-deficient cancers. Inactivating mutations in the SMARCA4 gene, which controls the expression of many other genes, are thought to cause small cell carcinoma of the ovary, hypercalcemic type (SCCOHT), an extremely aggressive ovarian malignancy diagnosed in young women, as well as a subset of lung cancers. Using this powerful approach, we identified the fatty acid synthase (FASN) gene, which controls fatty acid metabolism in cancer cells, as a potential vulnerability in SMARCA4-deficient cancers. In addition to validating FASN using genetic tools silencing its expression and available inhibitors that suppress its activity, we hope to uncover the mechanism behind why SMARCA4-deficient cancers are reliant on FASN, utilizing our systematic approaches, in vitro experiments, and mice models. Secondly, this studentship would not only provide great financial support for myself but also for important reagents in exciting experiments to be performed in this coming year. Rest assured, I will work to the best of my abilities to ensure your donation is put into good use.

Once again, I would like to share my deepest gratitude. I hope that one day I will have the opportunity to discuss my research project with you in person.

Warmest regards,
Bianca Adams

Dear Mr. Wener,

I want to begin this letter by thanking you for your generous donation that will allow many students and myself to move forward in our research career. The award money will be directed towards my master's degree in Human Genetics, which will allow me to pursue the research I have been working on for the past year in the laboratory of Dr. Logan Walsh.

Our lab uses a bioinformatic approach to identify new therapeutic targets for patients with lung adenocarcinoma, the most common type of lung cancer. We analyzed the genetics of hundreds of tumours from a public cancer research database, and we identified a list of genes that correlate with longer survival of patients when the protein they encode is increased. Similarly, we can obtain a list of genes that decrease survival of patients when their expression is increased. With this approach, we identified three genes that maintain the integrity of a cell-surface molecule, known as heparan sulfate proteoglycan, as good for survival outcome. We believe that it may affect cancer progression by modulating the availability of certain growth factors that can be useful for the tumour to grow. Therefore, our lab has decided to investigate the role of heparan sulfate by either turning on or shutting off these genes in tumour cells and seeing if tumour growth can be hindered. Although heparan sulfate has many interactions with other molecules making it a difficult system to study, it is what makes it a fascinating research topic to me. The preliminary data I have obtained in the past year working at the lab suggests to us that our two target genes may indeed be excellent therapeutic candidates.

These results have me very excited. I have faith that our research will be able to help patients one day. Now, thanks to the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute and the *Canderel Graduate Studentship Award*, I will have the opportunity to pursue this fascinating research and hopefully contribute to the field of cancer biology. The award money I will be receiving will allow me to dedicate my time and my focus on my research with no worries regarding funding.

Thank you for your time and contribution.

Sincerely,
Samuel Doré

Dear Mr. Jonathan Wener,

I am writing to thank you for the generous *Canderel Graduate Studentship Award*. I am honoured to be selected as a 2020-21 recipient.

This Award will support my research in the clinical implications of genetic testing in pancreatic cancer patients. Under Dr. Zogopoulos's supervision, I am researching the prevalence and clinical impacts of a genetic subtype of pancreatic cancer called homologous recombination repair deficiency. We are working to identify pancreatic cancer patients with genetic mutations so that we can classify them into this genetic subtype as well as find any relatives that are at high risk for developing cancer. In addition, I am studying the immune microenvironment of these tumours. The goal of my project is to determine if this group of patients is amenable to immunotherapy treatment as well as demonstrate that germline genetic testing has important clinical impacts for patients and their relatives.

The receipt of this studentship is a great honour and will further my research by funding me through my next year of studies as well as make me a desirable candidate for future cancer research opportunities. As well, this relationship with the Défi Canderel provides me with a link to this valuable community furthering cancer research and improving the well-being of cancer patients.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Best,
Bryn Golesworthy

Dear Mr. Jonathan Wener,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the Défi Canderel possible. As a recipient of the 2020-21 *Canderel Graduate Studentship Award*, I would like to thank you immensely for this honour.

The *Canderel Graduate Studentship Award* will support my research in breast cancer, more specifically on tumour dormancy. Breast cancer affects approximately one in eight Canadian women. Some cancer cells can enter a state of dormancy and circumvent therapeutics, and later arise as cancer recurrence and metastasis. Nearly forty percent of breast cancer patients experience cancer recurrence, and most will succumb to the disease, securing breast cancer as one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths in women worldwide. My research focuses on understanding how cell adhesion molecules contribute to the underlying mechanisms of breast tumour dormancy to help find new targets to complement current cancer therapies. Not only will this Award provide me with the financial support to conduct my project and professional trainings, but it also recognizes the importance and need to focus on advancements in basic cancer research. As a member of the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute at McGill University, I am proud and honoured to receive your encouragement to pursue my graduate studies in this field.

I would like to highlight again how thankful I am to receive this Award. I will undoubtfully continue to work hard to honour Défi Canderel by contributing to the field of cancer research.

Sincerely,
Yu Gu

Dear Mr. Wener,

I am truly honoured to be a recipient of the 2020-21 *Canderel Graduate Studentship Award* in the amount of $13,125. This Award has permitted me to pursue my PhD degree at McGill University.

I am currently enrolled in the Biochemistry PhD program, in Dr. Lawrence Kazak's laboratory at the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute. Our lab's research focus is on obesity, which is the second-leading cause of cancer, and our work will help find new therapies that can prevent obesity-driven cancer progression.

This Award will support my salary, allowing me to focus on my studies and research at the GCI. Thank you for your support and permitting me to achieve my academic goals.

Sincerely,
Faiz Hussain

Dear Mr. Jonathan Wener,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity and support through the *Canderel Graduate Studentship Award*. I am truly honoured to have been selected as one of the recipients in the 2020-21 academic year.

The assistance you have provided me will help fund my PhD research in colitis-associated colorectal cancer (CA-CRC). My research focuses on identifying genes that may act as predisposing factors to this disease, which is a severe and often fatal complication for patients with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). Furthermore, we also consider the contribution of the gut microbiome to the disease, and probe how the altered immune and microbial populations in the colon influence each other to further disease progression in genetically susceptible hosts. My work will help provide insight into the processes underpinning carcinogenesis in chronic inflammatory settings in the gut, as well as provide a deeper understanding of the pathogenesis of CA-CRC. By identifying potential genetic and microbial signatures associated with predisposition to CA-CRC, they may then be used to pinpoint IBD patients at risk for colorectal cancer development and improve cancer surveillance for these patients as well.

This scholarship will be of great help in funding this project, and receiving this Award greatly motivates me and fuels my ambitions to drive this research forward. Your generous assistance will allow me to focus more on my studies and project and help me further my graduate school goals. It is through support from donors such as yourself that our science is sustained and makes what we do possible.

Thank you again for your tremendous support through this thoughtful and generous gift and for seeing the potential in students like myself and the research that we do.

Sincerely,
Thiviya Jeyakumar

Dear Mr. Jonathan Wener,

I want to express my deepest gratitude for being a recipient of the 2020-21 *Canderel Graduate Studentship Award*. I am very grateful that the studentship can support my salary while I pursue my research project in the laboratory of Dr. Maxime Bouchard at the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute. This Award allows me to make meaningful contributions to cancer research and tackle harm that is caused by this terrible disease.

My project aims to identify predictors of prostate cancer progression. Prostate cancer is the most diagnosed and the third deadliest cancer in men in Canada. The increased PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) level in blood has been the standard method of prostate cancer detection. However, the occurrence of overdiagnosis and failed prediction of tumour progression are concerning as they lead to inappropriate treatments. Since the five-year relative survival rate drops significantly as prostate cancer advances, we want to focus on the early prevention of tumour progression, for which our current knowledge is still very limited. We have a list of suspected biomarkers that could help predict prostate cancer progression. We use a combination of advanced biochemical technology and computational software to analyze the expressions and interactions of those biomarkers on human prostate cancer tissues. With this research project, we hope to identify an early cancer predictor and increase the survival rate by targeting prostate cancer at an early stage.

From first being exposed to cancer research as part of my undergraduate biochemistry honours program at McGill University, I have since developed a strong passion for it and wanted to know more about cancer from the biochemical perspective to increase survival rates for cancer patients. Therefore, I decided to pursue graduate studies to gain more knowledge. Thank you for this studentship that supports me in my research career as a graduate student now. This studentship greatly motivates me to pursue research, knowing that my passion is being acknowledged and supported by generous donors like you.

Thank you very much for your generous donation. Thank you for supporting cancer research.

Sincerely,
Chloe Liu

Dear Mr. Wener,

I am writing to you about the profound impact you are having on my research and cancer research in general. I am eternally grateful for the *Canderel Graduate Studentship Aw*ard.

The scientific revolution is a period of history marked by outstanding achievements of brilliant minds, but also by the courage of a long list of patrons who were devoted to them. Science is now, more than ever, listened to and respected, but it was not always the case. In 1633 and after having alienated the Pope, Galileo Galilei was brought to trial where he was sentenced to home arrest for the remainder of his life. Although he was never formally charged, many historians speculate that without his patrons, the scientist would have faced a death sentence. During his home arrest, Galileo had time to focus on his most important scientific contributions. Now, many regard him as the father of modern physics and scientific method.

But would he have had the chance to accomplish all that without his loyal patrons? I don't believe so. Behind every accomplishment is a helping hand. Science needs society as much as society needs science. We needed this help and thanks to Canderel, we were given the chance to give back to society with science. This Award will not only benefit my research (developing cell-based vaccines against leukemia) it will also benefit my career. We hope that our work will lead to developing a new approach to treat acute leukemia, which will be tested in clinical trials in the not-too-distant future. Moreover, this Award will help me grow as a young scientist and increase my chances of receiving additional funding for my research.

I am extremely grateful for this opportunity.

With all my respect and gratitude,
Alexandre Poirier

Dear Mr. Jonathan Wener,

I am writing to thank you for your generosity in funding the *Canderel Graduate Studentship Award*. I am honoured to be a recipient of this Award.

I am a first-year master's student at the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute working on the tumour suppressor function of CUX1. The result of our research will allow us to explain how the inactivation of the CUX1 gene increases the risk of cancer.

My passion for cancer research comes from my love of helping people to live longer with their loved ones. By awarding me this scholarship, I will be able to focus on my research. Also, this Award is very meaningful, not only financially but emotionally as well. It has strengthened my belief in myself and my goal.

Once again, thank you for your generous support in helping young individuals like me achieve their dreams.

Sincerely,
Hedyeh Rahimian

Canderel Conference Travel Awards

The *Canderel Conference Travel Awards* were created in 1995 as an acknowledgement that the most meaningful learning experiences often take place outside the traditional classroom, and that cancer research is a fundamentally collaborative effort. Attending these conferences gives students the opportunity to improve their presentation skills, broaden their scientific knowledge, and establish new research partnerships with leading professionals in their fields.

2020-21 recipient

Gabriella Johnson
MSc, Biochemistry, Year 2,
Laboratory of Dr. William Muller

Gabriella Johnson

Conference: San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (2020)

The 43rd annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS) was held virtually between December 8th and 11th, 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Symposium covered both clinical and basic research on the experimental biology, etiology, prevention, diagnosis, and therapy of breast cancer and premalignant breast disease. Since my research focuses on modeling estrogen receptor (ER) positive breast cancer and understanding endocrine resistance, this conference provided an opportunity to learn more about the growing field of resistance to therapy from a basic scientific research angle as well as a clinical perspective. By attending educational sessions and spotlight sessions my knowledge on many aspects of breast cancer has grown. I will highlight some sessions that I found of interest.

Genomic and Epigenomic Alterations in Resistance

This session covered translational research on genetic and epigenetic changes occurring in cancerous cells leading to therapy resistance. This talk was especially attractive to me as a collaborator that I have been working with covered some of their ongoing studies, which allowed me to better understand their laboratory's personal aims and motivations. Dr. Rinath Jeselsohn from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute presented some research that looked at whether invasive lobular carcinoma has a unique ER axis compared to invasive ductal carcinoma. Specifically, they have uncovered that invasive lobular carcinoma display an upregulation of FOXA1, which leads to increased ER expression and rewiring of ER binding. This is of particular interest to me since we will be working on generating a Cre-linked and inducible FOXA1 overexpressing mouse model in collaboration with Dr. Jeselsohn.

Breast Cancer Care During COVID-19: How Did Patients and Clinicians Respond - A Global Perspective

This session covered some ongoing struggles in the clinical side of breast cancer care. First, through her work as a frontline healthcare worker at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, Dr. Deborah Doroshow provided an analysis of how COVID-19 disproportionately affects minority cancer patients. Next, Dr. Annie Tang from the Permanente Medical Group provided statistics that demonstrated the decrease of screening mammography in 2020 compared to a similar cohort from 2019. In 2020, 64% fewer patients were diagnosed with breast cancer and those that were diagnosed presented more advanced and aggressive breast cancers.

Altogether, I found these talks particularly interesting given the conversation about racial justice and the unprecedented global pandemic occurring over the course of this year.

"I would like to thank the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute for covering the expenses of attending the conference through the Canderel Travel Award. Although this conference did not involve travel itself, attending the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium virtually provided me with a unique experience during my graduate studies and broadened my knowledge of cancer, for which I am grateful for."

Gabriella Johnson

Canderel Rising Star Summer Internship Awards

For many years, the CIHR/FRQS training program provided funding for undergraduate students to participate in summer internships at the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute. When this funding ended in 2016, the GCI was able to continue offering this successful program thanks to the Défi Canderel. To recognize this change in funding, the program has been named the *Canderel Rising Star Summer Internship Awards*. The internship offers a partial stipend of $2,000 to students joining a GCI researcher's laboratory for the summer.

2020-21 recipients

Rohan Bhutkar, BSc, Immunology, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Morag Park)

Matthew Lok-Man Chang, MSc, Biochemistry, Year 3
(Laboratory of Dr. Yojiro Yamanaka)

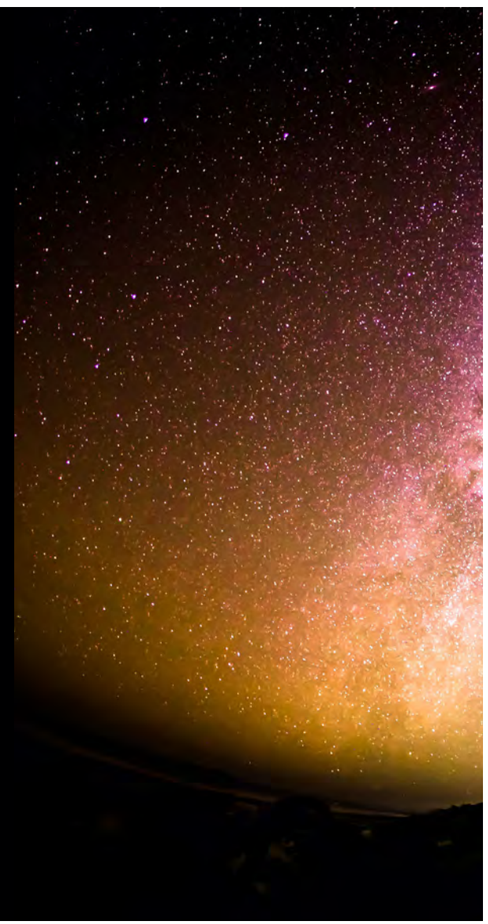
Georgia Kruck, BSc, Psychology, Year 1
(Laboratory of Dr. Peter Siegel)

Jesse Lee, BSc, Immunology, Year 1
(Laboratory of Dr. Guojun Chen)

Minyan Liao, BSc, Biochemistry, Year 1
(Laboratory of Dr. Sidong Huang)

Tiffany Lin, BSc, Immunology, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Ian Watson)

Hanxi (Gloria) Ma, BSc, Immunology, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Luke McCaffrey)



Adéline Massé, MSc, Biochemistry, Year 1
(Laboratory of Dr. William Muller)

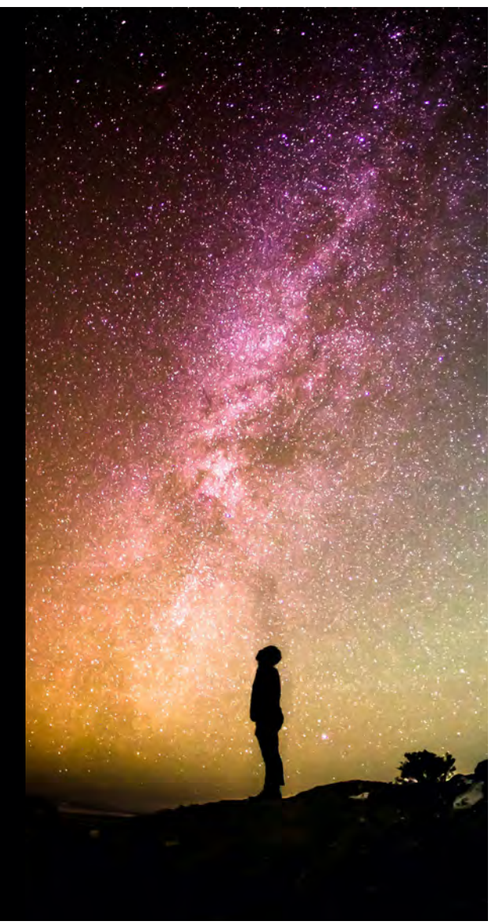
Romane Monnet, BSc, Biochemistry, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Imed Gallouzi)

Anthony Mota-Sydor, BSc, Biochemistry, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Thomas Duchaine)

Sarah Petrecca, BSc, Anatomy and Cell Biology, Year 3
(Laboratory of Dr. Daniela Quail)

Jordan Scott-Talib, BSc, Biochemistry, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Jerry Pelletier)

Aaron Tachau, BSc, Mircrobiology and Immunology, Year 2
(Laboratory of Dr. Michel Tremblay)



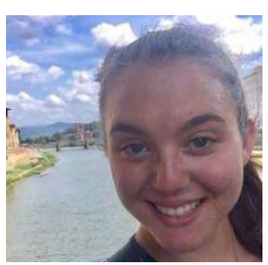
Excerpts from 2020 internship reports

Rohan Bhutkar

This scholarship has been especially meaningful as it has provided me with the platform to launch my research at the Spicer lab. As of right now, I have effectively completed much of the preliminary work needed to ensure that this project is able to continue to completion over the next year. The scholarship has provided me with the flexibility to spend a significant amount of time in the lab while performing the research I am interested in. In all, I have been able to create a stable base from which to launch and successfully complete the project.

Matthew Lok-Man Chang

This Award has enabled me to perform research while living in Montreal over the summer. With this experience, I am eager to continue answering similar biological questions over the course of my career, and I am certain that the internship award will contribute positively towards my future endeavours in academia. As a recipient of the *Canderel Rising Star Summer Internship Award*, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your generosity and support of the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute.



Georgia Kruck

This Award enabled me to conduct research that will be incorporated into an upcoming manuscript, which will directly impact my career. These past few months have made such a difference in my life and it's surreal coming to the lab every day and feeling that the work I am doing is making a difference. I would like to thank the donors of this Award, Mr. Jonathan Wener in particular and the folks from the Défi Canderel, for providing me and others with the chance to experience such a feeling. It is with your generosity that this was made possible and I cannot over-express my appreciation. You have given me the means to focus on the development of my pragmatic research knowledge and further strengthen my desire to continue my contributions in the field of research.

Jesse Lee

To the donors that made this all possible, I want to thank you for making my summer so memorable. I cannot begin to describe what your contribution and continued support of undergraduate research means to me. I don't come from any wealth, and my family struggles to make ends meet. When I came to university, I promised myself that I wouldn't take a single penny from what my parents had to offer. My education is my journey and mine alone, and the burdens that I carry are mine alone to carry. Your donation has not only helped me to carry this burden, but it has also touched the lives of millions by supporting my kind of cancer research. Donors like you are what allow me to feel such optimism about the future, a future that I am confident we as a species will be able to conquer with science and exploration, and that is worth all the thanks in the world.

Minyan Liao

It was an honour to spend four months with great people in the Huang Lab. This exceptional journey is not only valuable in academic terms, but also in forming bonds with all the people in the lab, including my supervisor. They not only taught me the fundamental lab techniques, but also how to approach problems in research and how to think like a scientist. They are not just colleagues, but friends and even family to me. Thanks to this great research experience and the Défi Canderel who supported this project, I am now more committed to pursuing a PhD in biochemistry and to devote my time to research.

Tiffany Lin

Overall, this opportunity has allowed me to learn a great amount this summer and grow as a scientist. Becoming proficient in conducting experiments in the lab and interpreting results will undoubtedly benefit my future as I continue to strive to contribute to scientific and medical research. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute, Mr. Jonathan Wener of Canderel Management, and all those who donated to the Défi Canderel annual fundraiser. With their support through the *Canderel Rising Star Summer Internship Award*, I have been able to contribute to this incredible project and gain vital experience from conducting researching first-hand.

13 students

benefitted from these internships in the 2020-21 academic year

Hanxi (Gloria) Ma

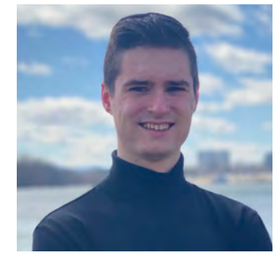
Thanks to the opportunity provided by the *Canderel Rising Star Summer Internship Award*, my work this summer in the McCaffrey Lab concludes the first step in my honours research project, which will explore the heterogeneity of macrophages in breast cancer. By better understanding macrophage activity, the ultimate goal is to harness their positive effects and negate negative influences in breast cancer development. My research ventures have taught me that being at the forefront of research will be the key to creating innovative future treatments and improving people's quality of life. In the future, I plan to continue contributing to immunology research in parallel with my medical school education to help advance personalized medicine.

Adéline Massé

I consider myself extremely lucky to have been welcomed into Dr. William Muller's lab during the summer to work on [this] project. The *Canderel Rising Star Summer Internship Award* gave me the opportunity to start my master's project before the official start date of classes. Moreover, it gave me the confidence and confirmation I needed to know that I am in the right place, doing what I was meant to do. I loved every single day I was working at the lab and I can't wait to continue my project and see what the future has in store for me. Thank you so much for entrusting me with this Award – I used it wisely and learned as much as I could in the time that I had.

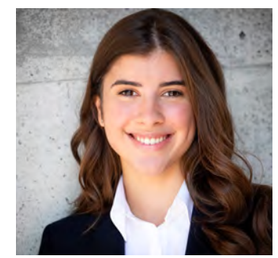
Romane Monnet

I was honoured to have received the Canderel Rising Star Award as it allowed me to continue my work in Dr. Gallouzi's lab and gain further insight into the world of scientific research. This experience has strengthened my desire to attend graduate school to consolidate my research skills and delve further into the field of biochemical research. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the donors, without whom this incredible opportunity would not have been possible.



Anthony Mota-Sydor

Over the course of the summer, I was exposed to many key laboratory techniques, such as tissue culture, in which we are directly involved with cancer cell lines, but also how to perform daily laboratory tasks. In addition, I believe to have gained autonomy in the laboratory, but also the early mindset of a researcher who predicts the experiments that lie behind scientific questions. All in all, I was extremely amazed by the support of the laboratory staff, students, as well as my supervisor in getting me accustomed to the laboratory environment. This summer internship has only confirmed my interest towards cancer research.

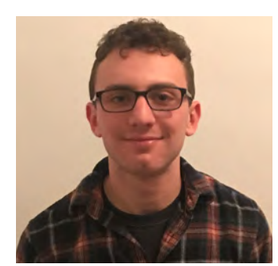


Sarah Petrecca

I would like to thank the Canderel donors who funded my work in Dr. Daniela Quail's lab this summer. The *Canderel Rising Star Summer Internship Award* allowed me to learn how to critically evaluate scientific literature, ask important questions, and work with others to solve problems. These skills will serve me in my future career as a clinician-scientist.

Jordan Scott-Talib

I would like to formally thank the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute for their financial support of my summer research through the Canderel Rising Star Award, without which my internship would not have been possible. I equally wish to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Jerry Pelletier, who provided invaluable guidance to my work with his wealth of experience.



Aaron Tachau

I enjoyed my time in the Tremblay lab this summer and am grateful for the connections I made and the people I met through this project. I appreciated having the opportunity to conduct meaningful research. The *Canderel Rising Star Summer Internship Award* gave me an added sense of motivation during the early stages of the project and the confidence that I could overcome the difficult process of troubleshooting. With the experience gained over the course of these last few months, the path towards a graduate degree in immunology or a related discipline is clearer and more attainable. I am grateful for the support of the donors in making this opportunity possible.

Canderel Fellowship Awards

The *Canderel Fellowship Awards* have been an essential component of the Défi's funding for Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute trainees since 1991. By offering a partial stipend of $25,000 per year to incoming postdoctoral fellows, this Fellowship allows the GCI to attract outstanding young cancer researchers.

2020-21 recipients

Sunghoon Kim, Per Credit Courses, Biochemistry (Laboratory of Dr. Nahum Sonenberg)

Charlotte Scholtes, Per Credit Courses, Medicine (Laboratory of Dr. Vincent Giguère)

Words of thanks

Dear Mr. Wener,

My name is Sunghoon Kim, and I am a postdoctoral student in the laboratory of Dr. Nahum Sonenberg. As a recipient of the 2020-21 *Canderel Fellowship Award*, I want to thank you for awarding me this Fellowship. I am sincerely honoured to receive this Fellowship and am grateful for the opportunities it will provide me.

I am currently working on a project that involves the upstream signaling pathway of the mechanistic target of rapamycin complex 1 (mTORC1). mTORC1 is a central regulator of cell growth and proliferation, and it is well understood that dysregulation of its activity is frequently implicated in cancer. Since mTORC1 activity is regulated by a variety of nutrient signals, including amino acids, I believe the abnormal growth and proliferation of cancer cells can be normalized by modulating the upstream nutrient signaling.

My previous work identified a novel threonine sensor in the mTORC1 pathway and is in preparation to be published in a high-profile journal. As a follow-up study, I am planning to find additional amino acid sensors and focus on the physiological relevance of them. I am convinced that this Fellowship will not only help my study expand from molecular biology to cancer but also allow me to become a scientist who fights against cancer by exploring a more efficient approach.

Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift.

Sincerely,
Sunghoon Kim

Dear Mr. Jonathan Wener,

Thank you so much for Canderel's generous contribution to the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute. I am delighted to hear that I have been selected to receive a 2020-21 *Canderel Fellowship Award* for this upcoming academic year!

Thanks to you, this Award will largely support a very fascinating project underpinning obesity as a cancer prevention strategy in Dr. Vincent Giguère's laboratory. Obesity is becoming the first preventable cause of cancer, replacing smoking, and quickly turning into a costly public health issue. Obesity increases the risk of 13 types of cancer due to metabolic disorders like fatty liver or insulin resistance. Focusing on obesity as a promising therapeutic target to prevent metabolic disorders can potentially reduce the number of obesity-related cancers.

The desire to focus on health research has been solidified over the course of my studies. I feel completely in my place between the pipettes and the microscopes inside the laboratory! Participating in the advancement of cancer research and the ability to help address questions by family members affected by this pathology are, for me, key motivations that have driven me to a postdoctoral level. Your award is a unique opportunity for me to actively participate in research in the collective fight against cancer. It also gives my professional career a boost in becoming a principal investigator in the future! Your support allows me, and many of my colleagues, to conduct quality work.

A big thank you again for all your support!

Sincerely,
Charlotte Scholtes

Canderel Entry Studentship Awards

The *Canderel Entry Studentship Awards* are given to first-year graduate students who have been recruited through the Student Recruitment Days process. Recipients are selected based on academic excellence, leadership capacity, and interest in research.

2020-21 recipients

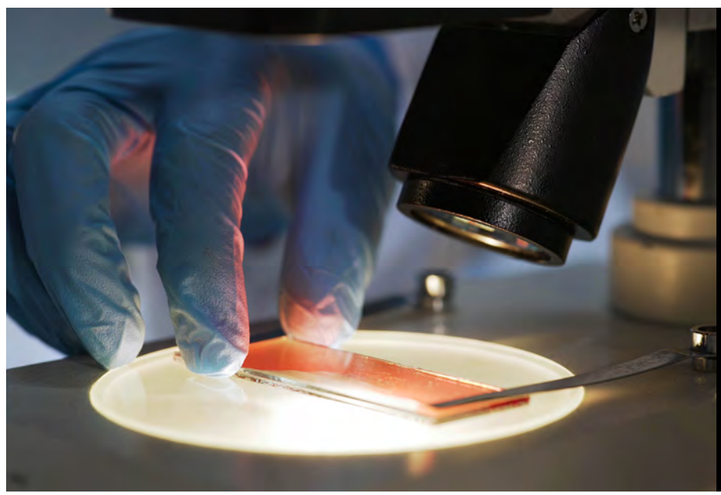
Anne Doyoung, MSc, Biochemistry, Year 1 (Laboratory of Dr. Luke McCaffrey)

Ana Maria Hincapie, MSc, Biochemistry, Year 1 (Laboratory of Dr. Michel Tremblay)

Hannah Hosein, MSc, Biochemistry, Year 1 (Laboratory of Dr. Sidong Huang)

Marilyn Wener Excellence Award

In 2012, the *Marilyn Wener Excellence Award* was established by Jonathan Wener in honour of his mother, Mrs. Marilyn Wener, BA'48. This award is given annually to one Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute trainee in recognition of their dedication to cancer research and engagement in activities, which promote and strengthen the GCI's principles.



2020-21 recipients

Lysanne Desharnais, PhD, Human Genetics, Year 1 (Laboratory of Drs. Daniela Quail and Logan Walsh)

Marina Fukano, PhD, Biochemistry, Year 2 (Laboratory of Dr. Morag Park)

Words of thanks

Dear Mr. Wener and members of the Défi Canderel,

I would like to express my gratitude for the *Marilyn Wener Excellence Award*. It is an honour to be selected as a recipient of this Award.

I am a PhD candidate in the Department of Human Genetics in the laboratories of Dr. Logan Walsh and Dr. Daniela Quail. For my research project, I am studying how diet and obesity influence how well immunotherapy drugs work. Using animal models, I found that different types of food lead to treatment resistance. I am now looking at how different diets cause inflammation in the body, which could affect how these drugs work. An exciting new part of my project is studying the gut microbiome and how it could be promoting drug response or resistance. This project has evolved to include all my research interests – oncology, nutrition, and immunology – and I can't wait to see how my findings could impact patient care in the future.

This past year, I had the privilege of being Co-President of the Goodman Cancer Student Society (GCSS) alongside Marina Fukano. We led an innovative team of trainees who did an excellent job at organizing virtual versions of our annual social, academic, and outreach events while introducing new events and collaborations that will hopefully take place in-person next year. I plan to continue to be a part of the GCSS as it has been a highlight of my time as a GCI trainee thus far.

After completing my PhD, I hope to pursue a career in science communication and knowledge translation. I believe it is important for scientists to be able to communicate their expertise to the public and I am passionate about bridging this gap. I am truly honoured to be a recipient of this Award. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

Lysanne Desharnais

Dear Mr. Jonathan Wener and members of the Défi Canderel,

I would like to sincerely thank you for the *Marilyn Wener Excellence Award*. It is a great honour to be selected as a recipient and I would like to formally accept this award.

The *Marilyn Wener Excellence Award* will greatly support my academic training as a PhD student and my research project entitled, "Investigating Intra-Tumour Metabolic Heterogeneity in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer" in the laboratory of Dr. Morag Park. My research studies how having a variety of breast cancer cell populations that depend on different nutrients within triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) supports their growth and adaptation to stresses. Since treating TNBC remains challenging due to the lack of effective targeted therapies, drug resistance, recurrence and metastasis, there is a need for a better understanding of the biology of this tumour subtype and the development of new therapies. My goal is to characterize newly identified metabolic heterogeneity within TNBC and find a method to utilize this heterogeneity to block TNBC progression. I am enthusiastic about my project as I believe this project will greatly contribute to the identification of possible metabolic vulnerabilities in TNBC that can complement the current therapies for TNBC patients.

As one of the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute (GCI) trainees, I am proud to have been involved in many GCI activities as a Goodman Cancer Student Society (GCSS) Co-President in 2020-21, as a GCSS Vice-President in 2019-20, and as a Terry Fox and Défi Canderel Run Team Captain in 2019 and 2020, respectively. I will continue to be highly involved in GCI activities, as I am now appointed for the upcoming term as a GCI Research Day Coordinator and a Research Information Outreach Team (RIOT) Montréal – GCSS Liaison to further promote patient and community outreach at the GCI.

Your generous donation allows me to continue and succeed at the work that I am passionate about and to take a further step in achieving my career goal as a scientist. Again, I am very delighted to receive your award and thank you very much for your generosity.

Yours sincerely,
Marina Fukano

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JAMES McGILL CIRCLE

We are very grateful for the generous support of James McGill Circle donors. Should you have any questions about this impact report, please contact James McGill Circle Stewardship Officer Mark Hapanowicz at mark.hapanowicz@mcgill.ca or 514.398.6206.