



MCGILL UNIVERSITY

BIOCHEMISTRY CAREER SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 18. 2019



SCHEDULE

5:00-5:30: Registration

5:30-6:30: Alumni Presentations

6:30-6:45: Break

6:45-7:30: Alumni Presentations

7:30-8:30: Wine and Cheese

ALUMNI

Dr. Daniel Fantus

Transplant Nephrologist

After graduating from the honours biochemistry program in 2001, Daniel remained at McGill and completed an MSc in the laboratory of Nahum Sonenberg. During this period, he aspired to pursue a career as a physician scientist. As a result, he applied to several MD and MD-PhD programs but decided on obtaining an MD at the University of Toronto. Plans for a PhD were put on hold as he decided to explore his interests in medicine first. After internal medicine and nephrology training, Daniel returned to the lab and pursued 2.5 years of training in transplant immunology research in Pittsburgh. However, after an additional year of training in clinical transplant nephrology, he returned to Montreal to become an assistant clinical professor in the department of medicine at the Université de Montréal. While the majority of his time is spent doing clinical work, he is involved in various collaborative research projects and trials and is in the process of joining the CHUM research institute as a clinician investigator.

France Côté

Patent agent/partner in an Intellectual Property Boutique

After Receiving her B.Sc. in Biochemistry in 1988 from McGill University, France went on to become a Patent Agent specializing in Biochemistry, Organic chemistry, Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical inventions. She started in the profession at GGD in 1988, then migrated at Swabey Ogilvy Renault and became partner in 1998. Moved on to be the managing partner of the Montreal office of Bereskin & Parr in 2005. Co-founded Benoît & Côté with Marc Benoît in 2009. They are now 28 employees located in their own building and have plans to grow globally.

Rui Hao (Leo) Wang

Federal Employee - Transport Canada

I officially became a McGillian in 2012 with a BSc in biochemistry and a minor in management. I then completed an MSc in biochemistry at McGill. Life is full of surprises, and I started to embrace what Jimmy Buffett said: manage life as a scavenger hunt. Over the years at McGill, I tried to diversify my experience and acquire transferrable skillsets. I started building my “portfolio” in the first year of graduate school by founding Medical Grand Rounds (USMGR). I worked as a TA, and served as Faculty Councillor and McGill Senator. I also did a little bit of this and that here and there. I have learned that no experience is a waste of time, and what I have acquired from that experience is far more important than the title I have held. BSc is a tool that teaches us how to learn and how to solve problems. Now I work for the Government of Canada.

Leen Stephan

Regulatory Specialist & Project Manager

Leen holds a B.Sc. in Biochemistry from McGill University, M.Sc. in Clinical Pharmacology from Université de Montreal and a certification in Clinical Research from CRA School – Clinical Research Academy (Montreal). She currently works in Regulatory Affairs and Project Management at Trans-Hit Biomarkers Inc., she is responsible for overseeing regulatory and ethical aspects related to the procurement of human biospecimens and is also responsible for managing different biospecimen procurement centric R&D projects. Leen’s experience in research ethics and quality assurance combined with her scientific background allows her to play an important role in developing trusted partnerships with global biorepositories and R&D collaborators. In her previous job, Leen was a Project Manager at Veritas IRB Inc. (Research Ethics Board), where she managed the ethics review process of more than a 100 Phase I – IV clinical trials projects in various therapeutics areas and other non-clinical projects.

Kang Lee

General Counsel at JAMP Pharma Corporation

I am currently General Counsel at JAMP Pharma. After my B.Sc. (Biochemistry) at McGill, I left for law school. I ended up starting my career in patent law, with a focus on pharmaceuticals. I first worked at the Federal Court of Canada under the tutelage of an expert judge in patents. I then left to work for two law firms (one boutique and one national) in intellectual property and commercial litigation. I wanted a closer look at the pharmaceutical industry so I joined Sandoz, a division of Novartis, before moving to my current position at JAMP Pharma.

Stephen Talko

Independent Computer Consultant

Being best in chemistry in high school lead to Health Sciences program at Vanier which allowed me to enter Biochemistry program at McGill. Went to Concordia to undertake commerce degree with quantitative methods specialty being the best in the program. Went back to McGill to pursue masters in Computer Science with specialization in databases. Worked in software development with companies such as Royal Bank and CGI before striking out on my own as a consultant.

Dr. Mathieu Miron

Partner Patent Agent

I graduated from my B.Sc from McGill Biochemistry in 1995. I completed my Ph.D. also from McGill Biochemistry in 2003, and my thesis supervisor was Professor Sonenberg. I was a post-doctoral fellow for 2 years (2003-2005), with Genome Québec, and worked for them as a Scientific coordinator for another two year (2005-2007). In 2007, I started my career in intellectual property. I was first a Technological Consultant from 2007-2009 with Bereskin & Parr, then left for a similar position at Benoît & Côté, where I have been since then. I qualified in 2011 as a Canadian Patent Agent, and have been a partner of the firm since 2017.

Annie Nguyen

Manager Transfer Pricing (Tax)

When Annie began her major in Biochemistry in 2004, she was looking at becoming a researcher. However, towards U3 of her Biochemistry degree, she realized that a career as a researcher was not what she had first imagined and found herself disheartened. Upon completing her B.Sc. degree, she jumped to another university for a second non-science bachelor degree, only to find further disappointment along the way. Cutting short but completing her second bachelor degree, she went into the workforce, in hopes of finding herself (and starting to pay her student debt!). Fast-forward to today (2019), she is a tax manager in a Big Four accounting firm, helping corporations with compliance and planning in a specialized tax field called transfer pricing and knowing that her knowledge and skills in science are not all lost.

Dr. Jack Kalin

Forensic Toxicologist

Dr. Kalin received a B.Sc. in Biochemistry from McGill University in Montréal, Quebec in 1972 and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Florida College of Medicine in 1979 specializing in enzymology. From 1979 – 1987 Dr. Kalin worked as a Research Scientist at Southern Research Institute in Birmingham, AL where he studied the pharmacology of new potential anti-HIV and anticancer drugs, including 2',3'-dideoxyadenosine 2',3'-dideoxyinosine, 2'-3'-dideoxycytidine, cyclophosphamide and retinoids. During this period Dr. Kalin co-authored 20 peer-reviewed publications. From 1989 – 1990 Dr. Kalin worked as a Forensic Toxicologist in the laboratory of the District 17 Medical Examiner in Broward County, FL (Fort Lauderdale). From 1990 – 2012 Dr. Kalin worked as a Forensic Toxicologist with the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, first as supervisor of the Toxicology Section in the Birmingham Laboratory then as Toxicology Discipline Chief, supervising toxicological analyses conducted throughout the State. Dr. Kalin was responsible for providing laboratory and expert technical services in over 60,000 cases for medical examiners, coroners and federal, state, county and local law enforcement agencies. His expertise includes criminal and death investigations, post-mortem toxicology, DUI drugs and DUI alcohol in blood and breath. Dr. Kalin has been qualified in State and Federal Courts over 400 times as an expert in forensic toxicology. In 2012 Dr. Kalin retired from State service, nonetheless continues to provide forensic toxicological consultation services. Dr. Kalin is a (retired) sworn peace officer with the State of Alabama. He is member of the American Chemical Society and the Society of Forensic Toxicologists and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Dr. Kalin is certified as a Fellow by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology of which he is also a former Director.