



Congratulations / Félicitations

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The John D Reynolds Award Recipient

My passion for immunology started during the first year of my BSc program at McGill in the Microbiology & Immunology program. I found Immunology quite intriguing; in contrast to other disciplines, most of the tenets were new and constantly being challenged. I transitioned to the Interdepartmental Honours Immunology program which allowed me to undertake a one-year internship with Dr. Patrice Hugo where I studied T cell differentiation. I continued this project during my PhD at McGill University in Experimental Medicine. One year into my PhD, I attended my first CSI conference in Ste-Adèle and I was invited to present in a workshop! This meeting made me appreciate the diversity of questions and hypothesis that still need to be addressed. Loving challenges, I was hooked! I am very grateful to the CSI community for their continued support, providing travel awards which gave me opportunities to present my work at international conferences, as well as appreciate their support through presentation prizes.

After completing a postdoctoral training with Dr. Christopher C. Goodnow in Australia, I applied the concepts of immune tolerance and immunogenetics in mouse models of type 1 diabetes. I completed a second postdoctoral training in Montreal, working on immune tolerance, and subsequently, I set up my research laboratory at Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont affiliated to the Université de Montréal. I am now a Full Professor at l'Université de Montréal in the département de microbiologie, infectiologie et immunologie. My current research focuses on cellular immunogenetics, where we address the impact of gene variations in immune composition and immune responses. This research program encompasses both a fundamental and translational research program, where we strive to develop therapeutic approaches to prevent autoimmune diseases or improve cancer treatments. Over the past few years, you may have seen or heard some of this work at CSI meetings, as I continue to encourage my graduate students to join the CSI community.

More locally, I founded the "Montreal Immunology Meetings" network in 2014, which organizes local seminars and an annual symposium, attended by over 200 participants from the greater Montreal area, Québec, Sherbrooke, Ottawa and beyond. I am actively engaged in various networks and I am always very proud to represent the Immunology community.

Having felt the support of the CSI throughout my career, I had decided to give back to the community. I presented my candidacy and was pleased to act as elected council member from 2015 to 2019. During that time, CSI was building their new website. Among other things, I helped translate key web pages, such that the site is now accessible to the French-speaking community. For those of you who knew John Reynolds, I am sure that you all remember that he created and acted as webmaster for the CSI website. It is thus a great honour to receive the John D. Reynolds award, for having contribute to improve the website. Thank you to all my colleagues for the collegial and collaborative environment. I will continue to attend and to encourage all immunologists, même les francophones!, to join this rich community.