Notes from the Director’s Chair:

Halloween is now over and we are getting ready for winter and snow. The parade of pediatric patients and their families trick or treating through MICB is truly one of the highlights of the year for staff, students and Senior Scientists. The costumes are scary, innovative, funny and imaginative and that is just the staff and trainees dressing up! The Institute looks spooky decorated as a Halloween lab. The kids and families really appreciate the effort that goes into this special day. I would like to take this time to thank everyone who decorated, dressed up and handed out candy. I would like to especially thank Ms. Eileen McMillan-Ward for organizing this event for MICB and congratulate her for winning the most original costume prize.

On October 28th there was a Halloween Bowling Party held at Academy Lanes. This presented an opportunity for MICB staff and students to socialize with the staff and students of the Department of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics. The costumes were great and a good time was had by all.

Dr. Murphy and the breast cancer research group were featured in the October issue of the WAVE magazine. This article describes Dr. Murphy’s research. It further describes the breast cancer research group and tumor banking that occurs at MICB. It is a well written and interesting article that I encourage everyone to read and give to friends and family if they are wondering what MICB does.

Dr. Jim Davie was the keynote speaker for the Manitoba Institute of Child Health (MICH) Research Day with the theme being Epigenetics. Congratulations!
There will be a series of talks on Epigenetics occurring at the University this month. The first speaker will be Dr. Patrick McGowan on November 7th followed by Dr. Mojgan Rastegar on November 14th.

There will also be a Symposium on Translational Research in Medicine held on Nov. 21st. The Keynote speaker is Dr. Stephen Scherer, Professor of Molecular & Medical Genetics, Director of the McLaughlin Centre and The Centre for Applied Genomics at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Scheduled speakers from MICB are Dr. James Johnston, Dr. Geoff Hicks, Dr. Jim Davie, Deborah Tsuyuki, Rhea Vallente, Arzu Ozturk and Ju Yoon Yoon. I encourage everyone in MICB to attend these seminars.

There is workshop coming up that may be of interest to MICB: “Increasing research interaction between biomedical and clinician scientists”. It will be held on November 17th. I will be one of the panelists. This will explore how to improve and increase the number and quality of collaboration between biomedical and clinician scientists to increase research and funding. If you are interested please register for this meeting. Details are posted in the front office.

There was a recent international workshop on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) conference held in Houston, Texas. Three senior scientists and three trainees from MICB went to the conference and presented six posters. This was the largest contingent of MICB researchers at this conference and represents our growing efforts in promoting CLL research. As for promoting CLL research, Dr. Johnston and I will be traveling to New Delhi in November to present our research program to the All India Institute for Medical Sciences. We hope this will lead to future research collaborations.

The Canadian Cancer Research Alliance inaugural Canadian Cancer Research Conference will be held November 27-30th, 2011. Many MICB researchers will be attending and will attempt a get-together while in Toronto to celebrate our research accomplishments.

Just a reminder that the "Microscopy, Optics and Imaging" workshop will take place from November 21 to 25, 2011.

The Cell Biology Club and Breast Cancer Research Group meetings have now begun. A speaker list has been distributed throughout MICB. If you do not have the list of presenters please come to the MICB office and we will provide you with one. It is imperative that the speaker takes the responsibility to arrange for someone to speak in their place if they cannot. It is disrespectful to other trainees and staff who take time out of their day to plan for the talk and find out it’s cancelled. The reverse is also true, speakers have spent time preparing for their talk, and it is disheartening to present to a small audience. Thus, trainees and staff are strongly urged to attend these meetings.
In my ongoing efforts to give you a snapshot of MICB research activities, I will describe the amount of training activity in 2010. There were 33 graduate students, 13 post-doctoral fellows and 41 other trainees such as high school students and undergraduate students trained at MICB. There was $850,000 worth of training funding acquired by MICB trainees. MICB represents over 80% of all trainees at CancerCare Manitoba making us the training centre for CancerCare Manitoba.

Publications:


- *If you have any awards, publicity, and/or publications accepted or in press please e-mail them to me so I can include them in my notes.*

**Upcoming deadlines:**
Grants:

November 9th -- **CBCF National – Early detection $5m**

November 15th -- **CIHR - Child and Youth Health (New Investigator), Canadian Hemophilia Society, LOI – Foundation Fighting Blindness, Sick Kids Foundation (new Investigator)**

November 25th -- **Pediatric oncology group of Ontario**

November 27th -- **DAAD Rise Worldwide** (applications for German exchange students)
November 30th – Dan David Prize for Genomics, Canadian Medical Association Special Awards Nominations

December 1st -- Cancer Research Society LOI

December 6th -- NSERC Engage Grants and NSERC Interaction Grant

December 9th -- Braintumor.org Innovation research grants and CCMF Research Grant peer review deadline

Trainees:

November 1st -- Azrieli Foundation PostDoc in Israel, Union for International Cancer Control Beginning Investigators, Mitac Accelerate

November 2nd -- CIHR Banting PostDoc Fellowship

November 9th -- CIHR – Vanier Canada Grad Scholarships

November 15th -- Trudeau Fellowship, Hemophilia Society -Summer Studentship, -Fulbright Student & Scholar Awards

November 30th -- Post-Doc training in cancer research 2012 (in France) WHO expertise transfer fellowship

FAAF’s for both trainee and grant applications are due at least 1 week before the grant deadline.

Good luck with your research endeavours!

Spencer Gibson
Acting Director
Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology