

Special Thanks

Generous funding provided by the School of Graduate Studies' Graduate Community Building Fund and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences' Research and Graduate Studies department

Esteemed guests: **Dr. Kim Sawchuk**, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies (Faculty of Arts and Science), and **Dr. Amir Aghdam**, Associate Dean, Student Affairs and Postdoctoral Studies (School of Graduate Studies)

Dr. Selvadurai Dayanandan, Graduate Program Director, Biology Department

Master of Ceremonies, **Aphrodite Salas** (CTV News Montreal)

Dr. Peter Ulyczynj, Facility Manager, Genome Centre

Alicia Horner (Hospitality Concordia) and **Mark Penny** (Concordia IITS)



'Beyond Books' Organizing Committee



Chair: Arun Dayanandan

Committee Members:

Alexandra Baird

Carol Zastavniouk

Jamie Allan

Event Coordinator: Marian Pinsky



Biology Department

BEYOND BOOKS: ALUMNI PANEL DISCUSSION FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT IN BIOLOGY

March 16, 2016

Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16, 2016

GENOME CENTRE (GE-110, 7141 RUE SHERBROOKE OUEST)

5:30PM REGISTRATION

6PM WELCOMING REMARKS

Moderated by MC Aphrodite Salas

OPENING CEREMONY

Arun Dayanandan, Chair of the 'Beyond Books' Organizing Committee, VP Internal, Concordia Biology Student Association

Dr. Amir Aghdam, Associate Dean, Student Affairs and Postdoctoral Studies (School of Graduate Studies)

Dr. Kim Sawchuk, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies (Faculty of Arts and Science)

Dr. Patrick Gulick, Chair, Biology Department

Dr. Selvadurai Dayanandan, Graduate Program Director, Biology

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr. Sherin Al-Safadi

Medical Science Liaison, Bayer, Inc.; Founder of Foundation Amal

Dr. Sherin Al-Safadi completed a B.Sc in Anatomy and Cell Biology, an M.Sc in Pharmacology and Therapeutics, an MBA and a PhD in Biology, with a focus in the field of Neurobiology. As a Medical Science Liaison at Bayer, Sherin's career interests lie in creating value-driven innovation in the pharmaceutical industry, by bridging the gap between R&D and commercialization. A sports enthusiast and dedicated philanthropist, Sherin has strong aspirations for a better world.



Aphrodite Salas is an award-winning journalist who has worked across Canada and around the world. She comes to CTV Montreal after hosting her own radio show, and anchoring the 6 o'clock news for Global Quebec. Prior to that, she covered national politics on Parliament Hill for CityTV's Toronto and Vancouver stations. Her industry awards include two RTNDA awards (Central Region and National Categories for Spot News, 2000) and she was part of the team at CityTV when they won the Gemini for best newscast in 2004.



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Concordia Biology Student Association

Website: bsaconcordia.com

ALUMNI PANEL DISCUSSION

Dr. Simon Daoust

Professor, Biology Department, John Abbott College;
Adjunct Professor, Institute of Parasitology, McGill University

Dr. Mona Hamzeh

Senior Advisor, Strategic and Institutional Research Initiatives,
Concordia University

Dr. Tonia De Bellis

Professor, Biology Department, Dawson College

Ms. Caroline Bilhete

Alumni, Biology, Concordia University

Mrs. Sandra Chiovitti

Quality Assurance Manager, InSymbiosis

Dr. Lauren Segall

Research Facilitator, Faculty of Engineering and Computer
Science, Concordia University

Mr. Robert Carson,

Departmental Teaching and Instrumentation Laboratory Technician,
Biology Department, Concordia University

7:30PM **Q & A**

8-10PM **BUFFET DINNER RECEPTION & NETWORKING**

What is the BGSA Mentorship Program?

Contemplating continuing your academic career in biology can be daunting; what better way to address questions of navigating what's required in terms of lab research experience, exploring funding opportunities, and preparing applications then to be matched up with an experienced graduate student!

For more information, contact Carol at carol.zastavniouk@gmail.com

What are the Objectives of the 'Beyond Books' Discussion?

The 'Beyond Books' Panel Discussion brings together an impressive line-up of alumni panelists who have all applied their biology degrees in various entrepreneurial ventures. These range from research, teaching, and applied science. Bringing together graduate and undergraduate students, alumni, postdoc fellows and professors in biology, the event promotes the recently established Biology Undergraduate-Graduate Student Mentorship Initiative, now also partnering graduate students with alumni mentors.

The discussion contributes to Concordia University's [Nine Strategic Directions](#) for a next generation university, including 'teach for tomorrow', 'double our research', and 'get your hands dirty!'

