

UGME NEWS

September 2023

Your guide to the latest news from the
McMaster University Undergraduate
Medical Education Program

Educating and inspiring future physicians to improve health and well-being for all through clinical excellence, innovation, scholarship, leadership, and social accountability.

TOP STORIES:



SPECIAL SCREENING: “Bones of Crows”

This Friday is the special screening of “[Bones of Crows](#)” on September 29, 2023, in honor of Truth and Reconciliation Day. This event is hosted by the [UGME program](#) and the [Indigenous Health Learning Lodge](#), and is sponsored by the [De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre](#).

“Bones of Crows,” is a psychological drama following Cree Matriarch Aline Spears, navigating Canada’s residential school system and battling systemic challenges like starvation, racism, and abuse.

Attendees have the opportunity to not only watch this impactful film but to also engage with local community organizations offering essential services. The event is open to all and free to attend. Please bring donations of diapers or menstrual products, and as a token of gratitude you will receive an Orange Shirt (while supplies last) designed by an FHS student.

Join on Friday, September 29, 2023, doors open at 9 AM, with screenings starting at 10:15 AM across [Hamilton](#), [NRC](#), and [WRC](#) locations. [RSVP now](#) if you have not!



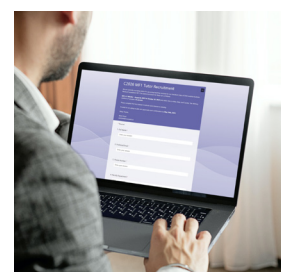
Join Us as a UGME Hamilton OSCE Examiner

Sign up as an OSCE examiner for the [Hamilton Campus](#):

- Class of 2025: November 4, 2023, 7 AM - 1 PM
- Class of 2024: November 5, 2023, 7 AM - 1 PM

As an OSCE examiner, your vital role is to assess second- and third-year medical students in real-life situations, providing invaluable feedback that helps them improve their clinical skills, accuracy, professionalism, and interpersonal abilities.

To express interest and confirm participation, complete the online form by October 16, 2023: [OSCE Examiner Sign-Up Form](#). If you have any questions or would like to sign up as an OSCE examiner for our regional campuses, please email preclerk@mcmaster.ca.



Professional Competencies Facilitators Needed

The UGME Program is seeking physicians to become Longitudinal Facilitators in the Professional Competencies stream of the curriculum in the Hamilton campus. Sessions are held Tuesday mornings from 9 AM – 12 PM on campus, from end-August until December the following year (with July and August off). UGME is also offering the option of splitting the LF role, if you are unable to commit to the full term (e.g. alternating weeks with another MD or committing to specific Medical Foundations).

This role is eligible for 320 education credits and comes with a stipend of \$16,500 for the full term. Anyone interested please reach out to [Dagmar Todd](#) with a letter of interest and resume.

FACULTY/STAFF CORNER:



Welcome New Interim Program Manager: Carrie McLaughlin

Please join in welcoming Carrie McLaughlin to the UGME team as interim Program Manager, while Gail Pepper is on leave. She has been at McMaster since 2022, most recently as Program Manager in Graduate Studies and the Medical Sciences Program. Prior to joining McMaster, Carrie served in various roles within student and academic affairs in the US and completed her doctorate from the School of Education at Syracuse University. If you have any questions, Carrie can be contacted at mclaum10@mcmaster.ca.



Welcome New Student Affairs Counsellor: Sheila Ortlieb

Please join in welcoming Sheila Ortlieb to the UGME Student Affairs team! Sheila has been working at the McMaster Student Wellness Centre since 2018 and has a wealth of experience supporting students with their mental health and well-being. Sheila will be joining the Wellness Counselling team in place of Lisa Giles who is beginning her parental leave this month. Sheila can be contacted at ortielbs@mcmaster.ca, and students may now book appointments with her via the [UGME Student Affairs online booking system](#).



New Book from McMaster's Dr. Samantha Winemaker

Dr. Samantha Winemaker, is an associate clinical professor at McMaster University in the Department of Family Medicine, Division of Palliative Care. She co-created the "[Waiting Room Revolution](#)" to transform the patient experience.

In Dr. Winemaker's book, co-written by Dr. Hsien Seow, "Hope for the Best, Plan for the Rest" she offers a guide to empowering patients and families on how to interact differently with healthcare providers, encouraging a "take-charge" approach. She will have a book launch and signing on September 28, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Hamilton Public Library (Central). [RSVP here](#).

STUDENT CORNER:



Sawayra Owais' Research into Indigenous Mental Health

Sawayra Owais, UGME Class of 2025 [MD/PhD Student](#), has dedicated her research to Indigenous parent and offspring mental health, a topic close to her heart due to her upbringing near the Haisla First Nations reserve in Kitimat, B.C. In her PhD research, Sawayra focused on Indigenous perinatal mental health, discovering a higher prevalence of mental health challenges in Indigenous individuals during pregnancy and the postpartum period. Her work also highlighted the intergenerational impact of parent and offspring psychopathology, emphasizing the need for intervention-based research. Importantly, her research showed that knowledge of an Indigenous culture and living in a well-connected community were associated with positive well-being among First Nations children. Sawayra envisions future research in Indigenous perinatal and children's mental health embracing longitudinal studies, culturally tailored measurements, and program development. Her keen interest lies in intervention-based research to foster positive outcomes in Indigenous communities.



Matteo Di Scipio and Mohammad Khan Publish in Nature Communications

Matteo Di Scipio, UGME Class of 2024 [MD/PhD student](#), and Mohammad Khan, UGME Class of 2023, recently published in "[Nature Communications](#)". Their work introduces 'MonsterLM,' a cutting-edge multiple linear regression method designed to tackle the complex issue of gene-by-environment interactions (GxE) on a large scale. Unlike previous methods, MonsterLM doesn't rely on specific model specifications, providing unbiased estimates of GxE variance. Their research, based on genetic data from over 325,000 individuals, sheds light on the significant role of GxE in complex traits. Matteo's work is supported in part by a [MAC RES award](#) and the Mach-Gaensslen scholarship in 2022. Their work was supervised by [Dr. Guillaume Pare](#), the director of Hamilton Health Sciences' [CRLB-GMEL laboratory](#). The program celebrates their outstanding achievements and looks forward to their future contributions. You can read the article [here](#).



Black Student Success Centre's Impactful Welcome Week and Student Success

In its third year of operation, the [Black Student Success Centre \(BSSC\)](#) continues to offer [core services](#), while expanding its services, campus partnerships, and flagship events. During welcome week, they hosted a [series of events](#) with over 650 engagements and culminating in a Black student welcome dinner attended by 290 students. This provided Black first-year students with vital connections and a sense of belonging, crucial for their success. The dinner was open to students of all levels, offering socialization, campus resource insights, and connections with the broader McMaster Black community.



C2025s Excel at Guelph Lake II Try-a-Tri Triathlon

Earlier this month, a dozen Class of 2025 students made waves at the Guelph Lake II Try-a-Tri Triathlon. Nicky Dunn clinched first place in the men's 20-29 category, while Isabelle Lei and Nell Hoogeveen secured 2nd and 4th in the women's 20-29 category. Also participating in the Try-a-Tri were Katelyn Cairns, Aaron Wen, Clarissa Ngo, Clara Sun, Grace Huang, Abbie Lai, Megan Brookbank, Emily Grant, and Sanjum Hunjan.

The team's dedication and unity, stemming from months of training since spring, resulted in remarkable athletic achievements and the most spirited cheer squad. Congratulations to our dedicated students for their well-deserved success!



McMaster Hosts the 2023 Ontario Medical Students Weekend

The [Ontario Medical Students Weekend \(OMSW\)](#) returns with McMaster University as the proud host of OMSW 2023. Taking place in the vibrant Kitchener-Waterloo region, this annual medical student conference offers an enriching experience.

Attendees can expect insightful presentations delivered by renowned speakers and influential figures in the medical field. The event also features hands-on workshops designed to foster learning and skill development. In addition to the educational component, OMSW 2023 provides opportunities for networking and socialization with peers from all across the province.

For further details and ticket information, please visit www.omsww.ca. If you have inquiries, feel free to contact the conference organizers at delegateexperience.omsww2023@gmail.com.



Make a Lifesaving Difference: McMaster Blood Drive

Be a hero; donate blood and be a part of our McMaster UGME life-giving blood drive. Every drop counts and your donation can save lives. Join on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at Canadian Blood Services (CBS) Clinic at 35 Stone Church Rd., in Ancaster. To register, go to blood.ca/PFL, select "Partners" from the menu, then "Join an existing team", search for: "CFMS - McMaster".

Thank you in advance for your contributions, and please reach out with any questions or concerns to [Clara Hick](#) or [Abbie Lai](#).

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

DIRECTOR, CLERKSHIP INTEGRATION: Seeking a faculty member who will support developing pedagogically grounded clinical education content and delivery methods with a focus on optimizing clinical learning. [Click here](#) for more information.

SUB-UNIT PLANNER, GASTROENTEROLOGY: Seeking a faculty member to oversee the planning, delivery, and evaluation of the Gastroenterology subunit within MF3 within the distributed UGME network. [Click here](#) for more information.

CONTACT US: