

MHRE 2022-23 Pitch Competition

To Undergraduate Students: All of these postgraduate students have self-selected themselves to be mentors for the MHRE 2022-23 Pitch Competition. **Please message them!**

To Mentors: Please message me once you have joined a team (of two other undergraduate students). **You can only compete in one team.**

For more competition details, please visit <http://www.hsgsa.org/pitch-competition/>

	Name: Athalia Voisin Program: Medical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases Tell us about yourself: I completed my BSc (Honours) in Biomedical Science with an Option in Premedical Studies at Trent University (Ontario). During my BSc, I completed a placement at a dermatology clinic where I worked on a chart review that is currently in the process of being published. This retrospective study sought to identify real-world reasons why patients switched off/stopped their interleukin-17 inhibitor medications in the treatment of plaque psoriasis. At the same time, I worked on an undergraduate honours thesis project exploring the spread of COVID-19 disinformation in Ontario. Over the past summer, I worked at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories as a research student. My project focused on automating the dicentric chromosome assay (DCA), which is used to provide absorbed dose estimates. Research Focus/Interest: I began my MSc on September 1st in the Armstrong Lab. My research will be focusing on the link between gut microbiome dysbiosis, fibre fermentation, and inflammation, and how these factors contribute to irritable bowel disease and progression to colorectal cancer. Email: voisina@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Azizur Rahman Program: Community Health Science Tell us about yourself: I am a PhD Candidate at the Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba. I have expertise in Statistics, Biostatistics and Machine Learning Methods which are nowadays obligatory parts of advanced learning in multidisciplinary research. In addition, my research is focused on Multilevel data with advanced Machine learning techniques. Research Focus/Interest: My research focus is on developing advanced statistical methods for clustered data through numerical optimization. Email: rahmana1@myumanitoba.ca



Name: Emanuelle da Silva

Program: Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

Tell us about yourself: I'm a Biomedical scientist, currently taking my master's degree. I work in Dr. Barbara Porto's laboratory of Innate Immunity to Respiratory Viruses. I've worked for 4 years in the research field of respiratory viruses, such as RSV, and tumor immunology. Also, I've worked for 1 year in a clinical laboratory, working with SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis and microbiology analysis of patient's samples in a hospital. During my free time, I love to practice yoga and work as a high performance mentor of my students in Brazil.

Research Focus/Interest: My research focus is respiratory viruses, such as RSV and SARS-CoV-2.

Email: dasilvae@myumanitoba.ca

Name: Eunice Assem-Erhaze

Program: Nursing

Tell us about yourself: RN in the nursing PhD program

Research Focus/Interest: Nursing education, adult learning, surgical and geretic

Email: erhazee@myumanitoba.ca

Name: Fatemeh (Elham) Gorgannejad

Program: Physics and Astronomy

Tell us about yourself: Fourth-year Ph.D. student in the field of Subatomic Physics with experience in Medical Imaging during my Master's degree.

Research Focus/Interest: As a Ph.D. student, I have been designing, developing, constructing, and commissioning the pion detector system (a kind of particle detector) for the MOLLER experiment (https://moller.jlab.org/moller_root/) as part of the Canadian participation in the MOLLER experiment . The first step in my plan is to use geant4 simulations to determine the optimal geometry and position of the pion detector system to maximize the signal from pions and minimize the signal from electrons while these simulations can be run entirely on Compute Canada resources. My long-term plan is to pursue a postdoctoral research position after my Ph.D in the development of the pion detector system.

Email: gorgannf@myumanitoba.ca

Name: Grace Holmes (She/Her/Hers)

Program: Anthropology specializing in bioarchaeology

	Tell us about yourself: I am in my second year of my PhD in bioarchaeology at the University of Manitoba. I double majored in biology and cultural anthropology at Augustana College in Illinois for my undergraduate degree. I have my masters in anthropology specializing in bioarchaeology from the University of Indianapolis. I am fluent and literate in English and Italian, and I can read and write in French and Spanish. I have done a lot of work with translation if anyone needs help translating those languages to English. A fun fact is that I have two dogs and one cat. My husky is certified as a therapy dog and my lab is training to do search and rescue. Research Focus/Interest: My undergraduate degree was based in biology and cultural anthropology so I have training in those fields. I took many general biology classes, so I have experience with botany, chemistry, entomology, anatomy, and histology. My master's degree was focused on bioarchaeology with classes in other fields relating to archaeology including geology, soils, historical archaeology, etc. I have experience working on cultural resource management in Indiana as well as working on a salvage bioarchaeology project and supervising lab and field work. My masters thesis focused on diet analysis of teeth for an indigenous population that lived in southern Indiana approximately 1400-1650 C.E.. My current research focuses on repatriation, experimental archaeology, cremation/burnt bone, and diet analysis. Email: holmesg1@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Jess Crawford (they/them) Program: Masters of Nursing Tell us about yourself: "I am a white settler with German and British ancestry. I am a trans, non-binary, and queer Registered Nurse living, learning, and working on Treaty 1 Territory (Winnipeg). My professional work has focused on mental health and addictions, 2SLGBTQIA+ health, First Nations health, community health, sexual health, and harm reduction across the lifespan in both urban (Treaty 13, Toronto) and remote areas (Treaty 3, Northwestern Ontario). I am in the second year of my Masters of Nursing at UM, my thesis work focuses on supporting the implementation of gender-affirming care in nursing education. I come to this work with a humble understanding that not everyone has safe opportunities to explore concepts such as sex (assigned at birth), sexuality, and gender. I view this work as an essential stepping stone to creating safe learning spaces for personal and professional growth in nursing care for 2SLGBTQIA+ care recipients. I have had the pleasure to create and facilitate several lectures on 2SLGBTQIA+ health to nursing students and through the MHRE Lectureship program. In my work, positionality and self-reflection are crucial to doing work in an honest and good way. It is important to my work to weave in not just queer theory, but intersectionality and anti-racism lenses. I believe that interdisciplinary work is crucial to advancing care, knowledge, and equity for all. Want to know more about me, follow me on Twitter @CrawfordNursing and check these out: • Lyons, D. (2022, August 19), MN student [Jess Crawford] researches trans health education, teaching: Gender-affirming care is beneficial for everyone™. UM Today. (Link) • Crawford, J. (2022). A non-binary nurse explains why it is time to learn about &

	reflect on transgender care. Canadian Nurse. Retrieved from https://www-canadian-nurse-com.uml.idm.oclc.org/dev-cn-en/content/opinions Research Focus/Interest: I am a research assistant at UM evaluating interprofessional collaboration as a means to dismantle racism in health care. Here, I helped with a rapid review looking at anti-racism in health professional education, engaged in data collection and analysis, and have been a co-author on 2 abstracts, with one manuscript in progress. My thesis proposal work has received meritorious status through CIHR and achieved a UM Graduate Fellowship (UMGF). My poster abstract 'Nursing education and gender-affirming care: Perspectives of undergraduate faculty and students' submitted to the Helen Glass Research Symposium received an award this September (https://umanitoba.ca/nursing/sites/nursing/files/2022-09/HGRS2022_Crawford.pdf). Currently, I have one manuscript under review and one manuscript of a scoping review protocol almost ready to submit to an open-source journal. Both articles pertain to trans* and gender diverse issues in healthcare. I will be creating 2 posters to submit to a national conference next May - both related to nursing curriculum related to trans* health. Other relevant experience includes, during my undergraduate education in 2017, I helped create and evaluate a tool used to evaluate health disparities of people experiencing homelessness with developmental disability. Subsequently, I presented a poster abstract to a national conference. At this same conference, I prepared and participated in a debate entitled: Should the Federal Government Increase Funding to Promote Health Access for Indigenous Peoples. Email: crawfo15@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Juan DÃaz (He/Him) Program: Drinking water treatment/Civil Engineering Tell us about yourself: I am a second year MSc student from Ecuador. I came to Canada to advance in my career as a professional in the field of environmental engineering. I have a degree in Biotechnology Engineering from the University of the Armed Forces - ESPE, in Ecuador. I have worked in multiple fields such as nanotechnology, environmental remediation, veterinary diagnostic (laboratory), and teaching. I speak Spanish, English, and a little of Portuguese. And my hobbies are to sing, play guitar, and play soccer. Research Focus/Interest: Currently, I am working in the chemical and microbial characterization of the substances fouling (clogging) the nanofiltration membranes used for the production of drinking water. My research is an interdisciplinary work developed between the fields of water chemistry and water microbiology. I am looking to generate the basis for future research that could improve the production of drinking water from water sources with high content of organic matter such as in the Canadian Prairies. This will improve the water quality produced and reduce production costs associated with the membrane cleaning and replacement procedures. I have training in quality control for assay laboratories, HACCP (food production quality), molecular biology, microbiology, and chemical analysis, as well as immunological diagnostic techniques. In general, I have experience and knowledge in many fields related to the biotechnology.

	Email: diazsajf@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Julie Donahue (she/her) Program: Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Tell us about yourself: I graduated from my undergrad in microbiology at the University of Guelph in June 2022 and just started my master's degree here at the UoM in September! Research Focus/Interest: During undergrad, I focused my courses on pathogenic microbiology and epidemiology. From 2021-2022, I did a research project to determine the role of FtsK in bacterial cell division. Currently, I work in the enterics division at the National Microbiology Lab. My master's project focuses on using whole genome sequencing to identify low prevalence enteric pathogens and how it relates to public health and outbreak surveillance. Email: donahue1@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Kate Bernier Program: Physiology and Pathophysiology Tell us about yourself: I am a second-year M.Sc. student in the Department of Physiology and Pathophysiology. I graduated from the University of Victoria with a B.Sc. in Biochemistry and moved to Winnipeg to pursue graduate studies at UofM. Currently, I'm serving as the student representative for the Endocrinology and Metabolic Disease division within my department and volunteering as a junior submissions editor at the University of Manitoba Journal of Medicine. Outside of school, I enjoy playing and coaching basketball, bartending as a part-time gig, and spending time with my friends (we are big on board games!). Please feel free to reach out to set up an online meeting! :) Research Focus/Interest: "While my first publication was on the topic of sudden oak death, a disease caused by oomycetes affecting trees in Western Canada, I've since shifted my interest towards biomedical sciences. With my background in biochemistry, I've designed my masters research around how making a single mutation in a single protein causes changes in adipose tissue structure and function, and whether interactions between the mutated protein and sex hormones (estrogens and androgens) affect the adipose phenotype. I'm investigating this at the gene, protein, and cell levels using real-time PCR, western immunoblotting, and primary cultures of fat cells from transgenic mouse models created using CRISPR/Cas9 technology. I am also interested in microbiology, biotechnology, and organic chemistry and have taken many lab courses to learn relevant techniques." Email: bernier2@myumanitoba.ca



Name: Kayla Kostal

Program: Community Health Sciences

Tell us about yourself: Hi everyone! My name is Kayla and I'm currently a MSc student in Community Health Sciences. I previously completed my BA(Hons) in Psychology. I've worked in various research fields, such as nutrition, social psychology, HIV, emergency medicine, and community health. I have many experiences mentoring undergraduate students that have led to successful research outcomes. My goal as your mentor will be to create a positive, safe environment that leads to maximizing your learning. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Looking forward to working with you!

Research Focus/Interest: "I have 2 current, major research focus/training areas: (1) health status and quality of life and (2) health psychology, particularly mental illness and dementia.
1. Health status and quality of life in persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities
(a) I work with standardized tools to measure health and quality of life outcomes in a longitudinal project
(b) Additionally looked at aging
(c) Assisted with qualitative works in this longitudinal study
2. Mental illness and dementia in persons with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities
(a) This project looks at the diagnostic prevalence of mental illness (e.g., mood and anxiety disorders) and dementia using population-based data

Note: These experiences have led to publishing (e.g., writing abstracts) and presenting in many conferences (e.g., poster competitions)"

Email: kostalk@myumanitoba.ca

Name: Liujun Chen

Program: Pharmacy

Tell us about yourself: I am a Ph.D. student, and I am currently in my fourth year. When I was a master student, I had been mentored two groups of undergraduate students for a province biology competition. They won the First prize and Second prize. I am easygoing in daily life but a little bit tough and serious with work issues, I hope the team that comes to me with a strong sense of time. But don't be afraid, I am here to help.

Research Focus/Interest: My PhD program focuses on obesity, metabolism, and metabolism dysfunction, I am digging into the basic mechanism about how an inflammatory cytokine (MIF) contributes to these diseases.

Email: chenl4@myumantioba.ca

Name: Logan Froese

Program: Biomedical Engineering

	Tell us about yourself: PhD Student at the University of Manitoba, doing data analysis on high frequency cardio and neurovascular physiology. This work focus on improved understanding of current patient care as well as providing avenues to more individualized routes to patient care. Research Focus/Interest: The work utilizes time and frequency domain analysis, including VARIMA, Granger causality, clustering analysis and neural networking to assess the connections between physiological data. Email: log.froese@gmail.com
	Name: Maria Baranowski (she/her) Program: Interdisciplinary Studies Tell us about yourself: Born and raised in the country, currently living in Winnipeg with family. Blessed with 3 sons. Dietitian for over 15 years; private practice since 2014. Experience in several dietetic practice areas including clinical, community, academia, and research. Began doctoral program in Individual Interdisciplinary Studies in 2021. Research Focus/Interest: Interested in learning more about the nutrition status and services of children born with Trisomy 21 and their families living in Manitoba. Long-term goal is to help promote health and prevent disease among individuals who appear to have increased risk of nutrition-related conditions and diseases across the lifespan. Email: baranowm@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Mikayla Hunter Program: Community Health Sciences Tell us about yourself: Hi there! My name is Mikayla Hunter (she/her) and I am a Master's student in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Community Health Sciences. Outside of school, I'm a proud cat mom, gardener, and textile artist. I also enjoy volunteering and setting up donation drives in my free time as well as through my capacity as the Community Development Representative for the Department of Community Health Sciences Student Council. If you work with me, I hope that I can provide you not only with mentorship and guidance but also an enjoyable introduction to research! Research Focus/Interest: "My thesis research project is a qualitative exploration of the primary health care needs and experiences of underrepresented 2SLGBTQIA+ young adult patients. Although the whole 2SLGBTQIA+ community is underrepresented in the research literature, those who fall outside of LGBT (lesbians, gay and bisexual men, and binary transgender people) are even less represented. With data collected from qualitative interviews, I will be designing a culturally appropriate survey informed by the feedback from these underrepresented groups. One of my undergraduate majors is in Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications, which means I'm also able to lend my expertise in effective writing, design, and communications tools. This is knowledge that is both extremely valuable in academia and also not as common to

	come by! I'd love the chance to teach someone both traditional and innovative methods of knowledge translation. Although I am involved in other research projects such as SPECTRUM (Social Policy Evaluation Collaborative Team Research at Universities in Manitoba) and Larry Saves the Canadian Healthcare System, I'm most eager to mentor students who are interested in qualitative research. Even if you're just a beginner, that is perfectly alright - everyone has to start somewhere! " Email: hunterm7@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Mun Kim Program: Condensed Matter Physics (PhD) Tell us about yourself: I am passionate about team working, interdisciplinary research, prototype development, and commercialization. Apart from physics, I also have experience in designing and fabricating radio frequency components. [*Experience & Awards: Teaching Assistant for PHYS1050/1070 (2019-), Falling Walls Lab MB 3rd Prize (2022), UMGF Recipient (2021), Lab2Market alumnus (2021). *Volunteering: IEEE magnetics conference organizing committee (2022). *Hobby: camping, fishing, BBQ] Research Focus/Interest: My research is focused on designing microwave frequency devices and fabricating pre-commercial prototypes. The first half of the study is to develop an isolator. The radio frequency component protects transmitter modules from high-power reflection signals (published, patent filed). The second half of the research will test the feasibility of a portable DNA/RNA sensor based on a transistor circuit. It is a collaboration project with the Department of Physiology & Pathophysiology. Email: umjinw@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Muniza Mehrin Zaman(she/her) Program: Physiology and Pathophysiology Tell us about yourself: I am a second-year master's student and have a knack for photography and bingeing new shows Netflix. I love trying new cuisines and restaurant hunting with my sister. My sense of humour is my strongest trait but sometimes my sarcastic remarks are not well received by my Asian parents. Research Focus/Interest: The nature of my project is quite interdisciplinary, involving understanding the neural pathways and receptor mechanisms to generate movement as well as understanding descending supraspinal pathways to excite and initiate spinal cord mediated movement. I am working on the effect of serotonin on ventral v3 interneurons and doing my experiments on mice models. My results will demonstrate how V3s respond to serotonin increasing our understanding of how the brain communicates and alters excitability of spinal cord to produce movement. I have been trained to do animal dissection, spinal cord dissection, tissue sectioning, generating viable in-vitro slice preparations, whole-cell patch clamp electrophysiological recordings, data collection, analysis and interpretation of data.

	Email: zamann@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Naeimeh Najafizadeh Program: Aerospace Engineering Tell us about yourself: I received my BSc degree in Aerospace engineering from Amirkabir University of Technology (Polytechnic of Tehran) in 2015 and my MSc in Aerospace engineering from the University of Tehran in 2018. I am currently a research assistant in the mechanical engineering department at the University of Manitoba. My current research focuses on GNC, system engineering, controls and Aerospace. Research Focus/Interest: Guidance, Navigation and Control Email: najafizn@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Rana Ahmed (She/her) Program: Microbiology Tell us about yourself: I am currently a Master's student and research assistant in Microbiology at the University of Manitoba. I received my bachelor's degree in Science in June 2018 from the Microbiology Department, Faculty of Sciences, Suez Canal University, Egypt. I got the third rank in the department. I completed my Pre-Masters in Applied and Medical Microbiology at the Suez Canal University (2018-2019). In addition, I finished Post-Graduate studies for a Diploma in Physiology and Biochemistry (2019-2020) and a Diploma in Bioinformatics (2020-2021) at Suez Canal University. During the past three years, I have acquired significant research experience and performed clerical and laboratory work to advance my research goals. Moreover, I have a strong background in conducting comprehensive literature reviews, providing computational research support, and preparing samples and specimens for testing. I have developed skills in designing and implementing study parameters and seeking to leverage formal education to advance research. Also, I am adept at reviewing scientific content in educational organizations, data synthesis, and analysis. I got a certificate of poster publication presented at 6th YRC Annual Conference of the Suez Canal University; 2019, April 07-08; Ismailia, Egypt. Research Focus/Interest: I have done a research regarding how to use biosurfactants as antibiotic agents to limit the antibiotic resistance acquired by microorganisms. Currently I am doing my Masters in searching for the overexpressed genes and proteins in yeast cells when the cells are subjected to antibiotics. After identifying these proteins and genes, we can design an antibiotics that target those specific proteins. Email: ahmedr10@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Sara Sambanthan Program: Environmental Chemistry Tell us about yourself: Hi, my name is Sara! I am a Master's student in the Chemistry department at the University of Manitoba. Before starting grad school, I worked as a lab tech

	in the manufacturing industry and can share about my experience. Outside of academia, I enjoy playing sports - this year I tried rugby for the first time! I also am a season rec soccer player and part of a dance collective. I hope to meet some of you soon! Research Focus/Interest: My research is based on studying the migration of plastic compounds (polyaromatic compounds), specifically in everyday food containers. Email: sambants@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Sepehr Chalajour Program: Geotechnical Engineering, Civil Engineering Tell us about yourself: Sepehr Chalajour (M.Sc. , EIT) is a Ph.D. candidate in Geotechnical Engineering at the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Manitoba. Sepehr completed his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Civil Engineering and Geotechnical Engineering, respectively. Also, he possesses more than four years of experience in practice and consulting engineering companies. Sepehr is currently working at the Bridges & Highway Structures Department of Manitoba Infrastructures and performing research as a Mitacs intern. Research Focus/Interest: "My current research area is in the Piling program and Numerical simulation, focusing on monitoring the drag force development on piled foundations with instrumentation on the active construction site, in addition to proposing numerical finite element models to predict and assess drag force on piles. Furthermore, I have acquired significant experience in designing various types of flexible and rigid walls, including MSE, Gravity and Reinforced Walls, embankments construction and stabilization, tunnelling, slope and excavation stabilization techniques, and soil improvement methods during more than 12 years in academia. I have been a teacher assistant for a variety of civil and geotechnical courses during my studies; therefore, I am able to advise and guide undergrad students in geotechnical-related projects. " Email: chalajos@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Shayna Giesbrecht (She/Her) Program: Microbiology Tell us about yourself: I am a second-year M.Sc. student in the department of Microbiology. During my undergraduate degree, I was lucky enough to partake in research in the Belmonte Lab in the Department of Biological Sciences at U of M. During my three years there, I was introduced to modern techniques in molecular biology and got experience working with agricultural plants, fungal and bacterial plant pathogens, and rhizobacteria. I also completed my honours thesis in the Belmonte lab where I physiologically characterized a plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria we had previously identified and quantified its effect on plant growth. During the summer of 2021, I spent a summer working as a laboratory technician at a pond-remediation company. Currently, I am in the process of completing my Master's degree under the supervision of Dr. Michael Becker, a scientist for the Public Health Agency of Canada. Outside of school, I run on the track and field and cross-country teams at the U of M and enjoy watching The Bachelor franchise and all its spin-offs.

	Research Focus/Interest: Currently, my research focuses on developing methods for the detection of sexually transmitted blood-borne infections (STBBIs) from wastewater. The goal of this project is to develop a surveillance system for STBBIs that can help public health officials direct healthcare resources such as testing supplies, medical personnel, and relevant education, to the communities who are affected. This project has involved a lot of trial and error with different nucleic acid extraction techniques. Another aspect of this project is testing the functionality of a qPCR-based point-of-care rapid test for wastewater-based detection of STBBIs. From previous research experience, I am familiar with working with a variety of organisms including plants (<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>, <i>Brassica napus</i>, <i>Glycine max</i>, <i>Zea mays</i>), fungal pathogens of plants (<i>Botrytis cinerea</i>, <i>Sclerotinia</i>, <i>Leptosphaeria maculans</i>), bacterial pathogens of both plants and humans, beneficial rhizobacteria, and human viruses. I also am familiar with working with environmental samples from soil and water systems. Email: giesbr74@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Shayna Pierce Program: Clinical Psychology Tell us about yourself: I'm a Ph.D. student in Clinical Psychology at the University of Manitoba with a background in psychology, biology, and health studies. I love mentoring students through research and am excited to help support students in developing a passion for research! Research Focus/Interest: Currently, my research interests involve determining the unmet mental health support needs of women experiencing perinatal mental health concerns, particularly those related to prior traumatic birth experiences and perinatal loss (miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal loss). My long-term career goals as a Clinical Psychologist are to inform the development of medical practice guidelines for perinatal mental health screening and integration of perinatal mental health services into primary perinatal care. Email: pierces3@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Soleiman Program: Mechanical Engineering Tell us about yourself: "My name is Soleiman. As long as I remember, I have been a math lover. However, I enjoy many other things like painting, board games, and team sports:) I received a Ph.D. degree in Applied Mathematics and I am still passionate to know about the new applications of Mathematics in other fields. Since my specialization was Optimization and Control, I decided to study Mechanical Engineering at the U of M. I have published several papers and books and I have worked on some programming languages like Matlab, Maple, Python, and R. I am looking forward to hearing from you." Research Focus/Interest: Optimization and Control, Hydraulic Systems, Fractals, Statistics, and Machine learning. Email: hossein8@myumanitoba.ca



Name: Stella Onwah

Program: Immunology

Tell us about yourself: Hello there, I am Stella and my love for reading and writing drove me to pursue a research career. I have a major in microbiology with an MSc in infection and immunity from the University of Leicester, England. I worked for a couple years as a research assistant under a TB Reach project and afterwards won the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship to undertake my Masters program. My passion for research grew intensely as my Masters program winded down and I took up a faculty position at my Home University before moving to Canada 3 years ago to start a PhD program in Immunology. I love travelling, cooking, photography and great conversations.

Research Focus/Interest: My research is focused in understanding how a critical metabolic enzyme, Dihydrolipoyl dehydrogenase (DLD), helps in regulating immunopathological responses during Leishmania infection. To help me figure this, I am using exciting, cutting edge tools in molecular and cellular immunology such as the Nobel Prize winning CRISPR methods and various methods related to cell cultures and protein expressions via flow cytometry.

Email: onwahs@myumanitoba.ca

Name: Viboushann Arunasalam

Program: Human Anatomy & Cell Science

Tell us about yourself: My name is Viboushann, a 2nd year MSc student in the department of Human Anatomy & Cell Science. Prior to my graduate experience at the U of M, I was an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto where I completed an Honours Bachelor of Science double majoring in Human Biology & Neuroscience. Currently, I am a graduate student in Dr. Susan Logue's lab in which our group focuses on a cellular pathway called the Unfolded Protein Response and it's function in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer. I am very interested in joining the MHRE Research Pitch Mentorship program as this is a unique opportunity to guide undergraduate students in creative research.

Research Focus/Interest: My research focuses on a cellular stress response pathway called the Unfolded Protein Response (UPR) and it's role in tumour relapse in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC). In particular, I am interested in a branch of the UPR called IRE1 and it's contributions to cytokine/chemokine production post-chemotherapy in TNBC. In order to achieve this, I have been trained in Cell culture, Western Blotting and ELISA techniques in order to analyze the expression of target UPR proteins and cytokines/chemokines in response to treatment with the chemotherapeutic paclitaxel and the IRE1 inhibitor MKC8866.

Email: arunasav@myumanitoba.ca

Name: Victoria Tess (she/her)

Program: Psychology

	Tell us about yourself: I am a graduate student in Psychology currently interested in studying environmental behaviour and quantitative research methods. Research Focus/Interest: I have experience with school psychology research projects including reading disabilities and EEG research. I am currently interested in studying environmental behaviour and quantitative research methods. Email: tessv@myumanitoba.ca
	Name: Yixiu Liu Program: Community Health Sciences Tell us about yourself: I am currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Community Health Sciences concentrating in Biostatistics. I have two years of work experience as junior epidemiologist at the Surveillance and Epi Unit at Manitoba Health. In that position, I supported and participated in respiratory outbreak surveillance and enteric outbreak investigation. The experience of tracing the routes of transmission, discovering the source, then interrupt the transmission to prevent the spread of infectious disease was incredibly interesting and made me feel fulfilling. So, I am very interested in the topic selected by the MHRE competition. Please feel free to contact me if you need a second thought or would like to build a team! Research Focus/Interest: My research focus is to develop advanced biostatistical methods to health-related research and program evaluation. My research interests include: a) joint modeling of longitudinal and survival data; (2) multilevel models; (3) person-oriented statistical approaches (e.g., latent class analysis); (4) structural equation models; (5) spatial epidemiology and disease mapping. Email: liuy3470@myumanitoba.ca