CHRIS RAFIAA

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EDUCATION

MCGILL UNIVERSITY   Montreal, QC, Canada
Faculty of Medicine: Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery (MDCM)   2020 – 2024
Bachelor of Science: Neuroscience major, Computer Science minor**,** Graduated with **Dean's Honor List**   2016 – 2020

CLINICAL ELECTIVES

Inpatient Psychiatry and Personality Disorders   Montreal, QC, Canada
Jewish General Hospital   December 2023 (2 weeks)

Pediatric Allergy and Immunology   Montreal, QC, Canada
Montreal Children's Hospital   November 2023 (2 weeks)

Rural Emergency Medicine   Bracebridge, ON, Canada
South Muskoka Memorial Hospital   October 2023 (2 weeks)

Community Family Medicine   Ottawa, ON, Canada
The Ottawa Hospital (Civic Campus)   October 2023 (2 weeks)

Inpatient Psychiatry   New Westminster, BC, Canada
Royal Columbian Hospital   September 2023 (2 weeks)

Inpatient BC Psychosis Program   Vancouver, BC, Canada
UBC Hospital   September 2023 (2 weeks)

Palliative Care   Montreal, QC, Canada
Royal Victoria Hospital   August 2023 (3 weeks)

General Family Medicine   Huberdeau, QC, Canada
Y Country Camp   July 2023 (2 weeks)

Cardiology Consults   Montreal, QC, Canada
Jewish General Hospital   July 2023 (2 weeks)

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Class Representative (elected by peers, 3 terms)   Montreal, QC, Canada
MDCM Class of 2024 Council   July 2021 – Current
- Organize social events for the McGill Medicine class of 2024 and serve as the class representative in faculty meetings.
- Planned large-scale events centered around major milestones in our training promoting class cohesiveness and bonding, increasing the sense of community. Memorable events include White Coat Cocktail and End of Pre-clinicals Goodbye. Currently planning our Graduation Ball.
- Additionally advocated for our class at general council meetings to help secure additional funding.

Geriatrics Student Representative (2 terms)   Montreal, QC, Canada
Medical Student Society   July 2022 – Current
- Represent the class at the Geriatric's Subcommittee meetings and participate in Education Committee meetings where we discuss and suggest modifications to improve the MDCM curriculum.
- Advocate for and give student input during Geriatric's Subcommittee meetings. Additionally collected and relayed feedback from the class using anonymous surveys to help optimize the rotation and foster a safe environment for student learning.

VP Internal (elected by peers)   Montreal, QC, Canada
Neuroscience undergraduates of McGill   July 2019 – June 2020
- Organized social events for neuroscience undergraduates, as well as planned inter-departmental events to foster a strong sense of community and strengthen inter-departmental relationships.
- Memorable events include a multidepartment gradation ball with attendance of over 300 people, our annual happy Hebbian Christmas party, and a meet and greet for the new incoming neuroscience students.

VP Academic (elected by peers)   Montreal, QC, Canada
Neuroscience undergraduates of McGill   September 2018 – June 2019
- Addressed all educational and curricular concerns for neuroscience undergraduates, as well as organized academic events.
- My initiatives included organizing a statistics workshop to keep students informed on how different statistical analyses can impact research conclusions, a MATLAB workshop for students to be better prepared for undergraduate research, as well as social events between faculty members and students to promote student involvement in research.

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Osler Co-leader   Montreal, QC, Canada
McGill Faculty of Medicine   August 2022 – Current
- As part of an Osler group consisting of 5 first-year medical students and a physician leader, I mentor the students from a peer perspective.
- I offer advice, share my own experiences, help resolve their concerns, offer academic resources and am an open and confidential ear for their worries. Additionally, I help facilitate simulation sessions offered by the faculty, giving them feedback to further strengthen their patient interview and communication skills.

Teaching Assistant (TA)   Montreal, QC, Canada
McGill University   September 2017 – May 2022
- TA for more than 5 undergraduate classes over 10 semesters ranging from introductory physics and computer science to molecular biology and organic chemistry.
- My most significant experience was for an introductory computer science class with a class size of 600 people. Over the course of 5 years, I consistently served as a TA for the same class with increasing responsibility. The prolonged engagement in teaching gave me valuable insight and experience, allowing me to further refine my teaching style to effectively cater to students with different learning styles and backgrounds.
- Responsibilities included monitoring discussion boards and class groups to help students grasp course material, holding office hours to help with assignments, being present during lectures for on-the-spot questions, running tutorials and review sessions to practice course material at a greater depth, as well as grading examinations and assignments.

Frosh Leader   Montreal, QC, Canada
Science Undergraduate Society, Medical Students' Society   September 2018, 2019, 2021
- Led a group of 30 incoming McGill students during a week of Frosh, which included various activities ranging from orientation to sports competitions. Fostered a strong sense of community and excitement in new incoming students to the faculties of science and medicine.
- I continue to be in contact with my frosh group members years later as a mentor helping guide them through life at McGill and beyond.

Peer Mentor   Montreal, QC, Canada
Neuroscience undergraduates of McGill   September 2018 – May 2020
- Paired up with junior neuroscience students to offer them advice and insight into the program as an upperclassman.

Science Games Leader   Montreal, QC, Canada
Science Undergraduate Society   January 2018, 2019
- Led a team of 60 undergraduate neuroscience students in a 5-day long competition between all the departments of the faculty of science. Fostered a strong sense of community and good sportsmanship within the team.

Computer Science Tutor   Montreal, QC, Canada
Self-employed   January 2018 – September 2018
- Tutored middle school aged children how to program in Python. Helped them reach a point where they could independently code a script to calculate the fairness of pizza pricing based on the size while collecting input from the user.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research Assistant Montreal, QC, Canada
McGill University, Dr. Sarkis Meterissian (General Surgery) February 2023 – Current
- Prospective study investigating axillary management in breast cancer patients undergoing upfront mastectomy with positive sentinel lymph nodes.
- Responsible for the data analysis and ensuring proper statistical methodology is used.

Undergraduate Research Assistant Montreal, QC, Canada
McGill University, Dr. Jamie Near (Neuroscience) September 2019 – June 2020
- Aim of the study was to investigate the effects of early vs. late anti-inflammatory drug treatment in a rat model of Alzheimer's disease.
- Responsible for analyzing the brain morphometry changes from MRI scans to assess AD-related brain atrophy over time using multiple computational tools (PydPyper, MaGeT Brain) and scripts that I wrote mainly using Python.

International Genetically Engineered Machine Competitor Montreal, QC, Canada
McGill Research Team, Dr. Lorraine Chalifour & Dr. Josie Ursini-Segal (Experimental September 2017 – June 2020
Surgery), Dr. Corinne Hoesli (Chemical Engineering)
- As a participant in the annual iGEM research competition, I had the opportunity to represent McGill as part of the inaugural team. Our team was student-led and sponsored by the faculties of Medicine and Chemical Engineering. We successfully designed a novel adaptable mechanism for cell-to-cell interaction, resulting in the award of a bronze medal at the iGEM Jamboree at MIT.
- Project title: SynNotch and tandem single-chain variable fragments in novel system granting multi-specificity to phagocytic immune cells in cancer. Goal of the project was to test the effectiveness of a modular SynNotch/BiTe system.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

MMI Evaluator & CV Reviewer Montreal, QC, Canada
McGill Medicine Admissions February 2023, 2024
- Assess candidates applying to medical school through MMI interviews and CV file review for the incoming classes of 2027 and 2028.

U1 Representative Montreal, QC, Canada
McGill Students for Geriatric Health September 2017 – September 2018
- Acted as a liaison between the club and the U1s of McGill. Responsible for advertising our events at all the U1 classes, as well as helped plan and facilitate our fundraising events.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Covid Vaccinator Montreal, QC, Canada
CIUSSS West-Central Montreal February 2021 – December 2021
- Assisted in the mass vaccination effort against COVID-19 in Quebec by administering the vaccine.
- Worked approximately 400 hours in total vaccinating thousands of patients, offered empathy for their worries and concerns linked to the pandemic.

Customer Service Representative Montreal, QC, Canada
Garage Clothing April 2020 – August 2020
- Worked as part of a team at a call center during the early stages of the pandemic to help resolve customer complaints.
- Communicated professionally with clients, ensured confidential transactions, and collaborated with various departments to offer the best customer service based on a solution model.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Graduation Dean's Honor List, McGill University   May 2020
- Awarded for graduating in the top 10% of the Faculty of Science.

Science Class of 1965 Scholarship, McGill University   August 2019
- Awarded based on academic standing.

Dean's Honor List, McGill University   October 2018, August 2019
- Awarded twice for being in the top 10% of the Faculty of Science.

Tomlinson Engagement Award for Mentoring, McGill University   December 2017, April 2018 (x2), December 2018 (x2)
- Awarded five times based on excellent pedagogy skills for working as a teaching assistant.

HOBBIES & LANGUAGES

Programming   7 years
- Able to comfortably code in Java, C/C++, Python, OCaml, MATLAB, Bash, HTML/CSS, and MIPS. Completed several personal projects, including a script that texted me the daily covid numbers in Quebec during the peak of the pandemic, a modular scalable tic-tac-toe game to enjoy with friends, as well as designed my own website.
- I hope to continue to be up to date with my programming throughout my life and find a way to integrate it into my practice.

Snowboarding   10 years
- Started when I first came to Canada. Helped me get accustomed to the cold weather and the new culture. I have had the incredible opportunity of snowboarding at various mountains and hills in Quebec, Lake Louise in AB, and Whistler in BC. I look forward to exploring more of this beautiful country.

Hiking   3 years
- Started hiking during the pandemic and fell in love. Allowed me to explore the mountains in the summer in addition to snowboarding in the winter. Completed various hikes in Quebec, Vermont, and BC. Proudest hike is panoramic ridge (33 km over 9 hours) at Garibaldi provincial park.

Baking   6 years
- Started this hobby serendipitously. I first baked for a potluck and found it incredibly therapeutic. Since then, I have gotten into making both savory and sweet baked goods, ranging from stuffed pizza to donuts and pretzels. My favorite recipes are lahm bl ajen (meat pies) and red velvet cupcakes.

Health & Fitness   6 years
- Adopted a healthy lifestyle after being overweight for several years. Through exercise and proper diet, I proudly lost 50 pounds. This journey is very important to me as it's improved my physical and mental health significantly.

Languages
- English (Fluent)
- Arabic (Fluent)
- French (Intermediate)