

Win4Science Spotlight Series:
Prof. Daniela Quail

Interviewers and Authors: Morgan K. Foret, Lucia Wang

Work with and for people who want you to succeed – this is Prof. Daniela Quail's motto. Win4Science sat down with Prof. Quail to hear more about her insight on pursuing a career in research and the importance of mentors.

Prof. Quail earned her BSc and PhD at the University of Western Ontario followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center with Prof. Johanna Joyce. In 2017, she started her lab at McGill University and currently holds the highly competitive Tier II Canada Research Chair in Tumour Microenvironment research. Throughout each career stage, she studied different facets of

cancer and tells trainees that, "I always encourage my trainees to do an experiment that inspires you to go in a different direction." She also emphasizes the importance of following your passion and not being afraid to take risks.

Her research at McGill focuses on tumor microenvironment and tumor immunology because it affects not only patients, but also their support networks. Prof.

maternity leave just before the pandemic began. Thus, it has been challenging setting up and running her lab since then. However, her effective time management and perseverance has paid off as she recently achieved a milestone, publishing a study in the prestigious journal *Nature Cancer* with the first graduate student to join her lab, Sheri McDowell, as first author.¹

Looking to the future, Prof. Quail hopes that academic institutions become more aware of the discrepancy in the number of women postdoctoral fellows and the number of women faculty members. There are lots of women in science at the training stage. The