

# Anja Geitmann, PhD

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♀ Montreal, Québec

Scientist and Academic Administrator with wide network in the agriculture and agri-food sector. International experience and career. 7+ years management experience as dean with finance and budget responsibility for a faculty of agriculture and 650 ha university campus. 20+ years experience in leadership positions, executive and board roles in learned societies and non-profit boards. Led several strategic planning and diversity & inclusion initiatives. ICD.D earned in 2019.

## Board Training

- ICD.D 2019 - Directors Education Program, Institute of Corporate Directors, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

## Education

- PhD in environmental biology, 1997, University of Siena, Italy
- Diplom (MSc equivalent) in biology, 1993, University of Constance, Germany
- Vor-Diplom (BSc equivalent) in biology, 1989, University of Constance, Germany

## Agriculture / Agri-food

- Plant biologist
- Oversight over teaching & research at faculty of agriculture; farm operations at Macdonald Campus
- Corporate liaisons with industries in the agricultural and agri-food sectors
- Government liaisons with Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Quebec *Ministère de l'Agriculture, Pêcheries et Alimentation*
- Fellow of the American Society of Plant Biologists
- Recipient of Mary E. Spencer Award of the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists

## Sustainability

- Executive committee of McGill's *Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI)*
- Member of Advisory Board for Sustainability of McGill's Board of Governors

## Building & Property

- Advisor to the Building & Property Committee of McGill University's Board of Governors
- Member of McGill University's Capital Priorities Working Group
- Macdonald Campus has 85 buildings including student residences and staff rental properties
- Oversight over ongoing \$100M deferred maintenance renovations at Macdonald Campus
- Planning of \$40M new research building for McGill's Faculty of Agriculture
- Planning of \$15M new cattle complex & \$6M Farm Community Engagement Centre

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

**Dean, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, McGill University, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue & Montreal, Québec** 2015 - present

- Top Canadian university (40,000 students, 1,700 tenure-track faculty)
- Academic & managerial leadership over faculty with 2,200 students, 100 professors, 500 staff, 9 departments, schools and institutes (Plant Science, Animal Science, Bioresource Engineering, Food Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Natural Resource Sciences, Human Nutrition, Bieler School of Environment, Institute of Parasitology, Margaret A. Gilliam Institute of Global Food Security), Farm Management and Technology Program
- Responsible for administration, operating budget (\$18M annual), capital expenditures, academic programming, strategic research planning
- Philanthropic fundraising (\$2M+ annually; top single gift \$15M)
- University-level responsibilities include membership in University Senate, McGill's Covid19 task force, Provost Task Force for Commemoration and Renaming (Co-Chair)

**Associate Vice-Principal, Macdonald Campus McGill University, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue** 2015 - present

- Oversight over McGill's agricultural campus with 650 ha land, 85 buildings
- Macdonald Campus Farm with dairy operation, poultry unit, seed farm, horticultural research centre
- Morgan Arboretum, Athletics facilities, Student housing, Staff housing

**Professor, Canada Research Chair - Tier 1 Department of Plant Science, McGill University** 2015 - present

- Plant biomechanics & plant development research
- Supervision of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
- Academic Director of the Macdonald Campus Multi-Scale Imaging Facility
- Research funded by NSERC, CFI, FRQNT, international agencies
- Lead Principal Investigator on \$24M infrastructure grant (CFI)

**Professor, Department of Biology, Université de Montréal Scientist, Institut de recherche en biologie végétale** 2001 - 2015

- Taught at undergraduate and graduate levels: Plant Anatomy, Microscopy, Scientific Communication
- Led the microscopy facility at the *Institut de recherche en biologie végétale*
- Research in plant biology; Supervised graduate students

## BOARD & EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

**NSF Science and Technology Center for Engineering Mechanobiology (CEMB), Penn State University** 2018 - present

*Member of External Advisory Board*

- Strategic consultation, Advice on grant submissions

## Science & Research

- Research in plant cell biology, microscopy, mechanical engineering (biomechanics, micromechanics, finite element modeling)
- >140 published articles & book chapters
- 6 books & edited journal issues
- Funded by Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Fonds de recherche Nature et technologies (FRQNT), Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI), Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP), European Space Agency (ESA)
- >100 research trainees supervised (undergraduate, MSc, PhD, postdoc)
- Service on **editorial boards** of scientific journals: Cell (2020-), Plant Physiology (2018-), Journal of Experimental Botany (2021-), Journal of the Mechanical Behavior of Biomedical Materials (2019-), *in silico* Plants (2018-), The Cell Surface (2017-), Current Opinion in Plant Biology (2017-), Journal of Integrative Plant Biology (2013-15), Frontiers in Plant Science (2010-18), BMC Plant Biology (2010-18)
- Evaluation committees for research grants, institutional review, tenure & promotion

## Public Speaking & Communication

- Seasoned scientific communicator (>200 presentations)
- Frequent keynote speaker ([www.plantbiomechanics.net/speakerscorner](http://www.plantbiomechanics.net/speakerscorner))
- Experienced in communication strategies via press release, web site, social media

## International Experience

- Germany (youth)
- Canada (20+ years)
- United States (1 year)
- Sweden (1 year)
- Italy (3 years)
- Netherlands (3 years)

## Languages

- English
- French
- German
- Dutch
- Italian
- Swedish (intermediate)
- Spanish (intermediate)

### Research

[www.geitmannlab.org](http://www.geitmannlab.org)  
@GeitmannLab

### Administrative Role

[www.mcgill.ca/macdonald/about/dean](http://www.mcgill.ca/macdonald/about/dean)  
@AnjaGeitmann

## Deans Council of Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine

*Director (2015-present), Treasurer (2018-present)* **2015 - present**

- Liaison with federal research funding agencies, Agriculture Agri-Food Canada, House of Commons, Senate
- Oversight over finances; Work with Executive Director and auditors

## Valacta/Lactanet

**2015 - present**

*Board Member - Representative of one of three shareholders*

- Strategic oversight
- Liaison with Québec *Ministère de l'Agriculture, Pêcheries et Alimentation*

## Morgan Arboretum Association Charity, Montreal - Chair of Board

**2015 - present**

- Oversight over resource allocation and strategic decisions

## Bellairs Research Station, Holetown, Barbados - Director

**2015 - present**

- Oversight over budget, strategic and capex decisions

## International Association of Plant Reproduction Research

**2014 - present**

*Vice-President (2014-18), President (2018-22), Past President (2022-)*

- Organization of biennial international conferences, membership drives
- Revision of by-laws & terms of reference for new awards

## Simpson Centre for Agricultural and Food Innovation and Public Education, University of Calgary

**2020 - 2022**

*Member of Advisory Council*

- Strategic advice regarding program orientations, relationships with community, government and business, research and funding opportunities

## Canadian Centre for Electron Microscopy (CEM), McMaster University

**2020 - 2022**

*Board Member*

- Strategic advice regarding operations, funding, strategic planning

## American Society of Plant Biologists

**2019 - 2021**

*Council Member, Chair International Committee*

- Oversight over Society's operations & strategy
- Organization of workshops and events at annual conference

## Forest & Stream Club, Dorval - Board Member

**2017 - 2020**

- Advice to management on operations, HR decisions
- Strategic planning; Infrastructure and investment planning
- Membership drive

## Canadian Society of Plant Biologists

**2003 - 2019**

*Director (2003-19), Chair of Education Committee (2003-05 & 09-13),*

*Vice-President (2013-15), President (2015-17), Past President (2017-19)*

- Organized annual conferences
- Launched branding exercise including revision of web site and logo
- Revised of terms of reference of governing board
- Launched equity & diversity task force
- Developed code of conduct for conference attendees
- Revised by-laws, procedures and award criteria
- Coordinated NFP Act transition

## Microscopical Society of Canada

**2005 - 2017**

*Councillor-at-large (2005-09), Second Vice-President (2009-11),*

*First Vice-President (2011-13), President (2013-15), Past President (2015-17)*

- Organized annual conferences
- Launched strategic planning and branding exercise
- Revised terms of reference of governing board

## Plant Canada - Board Member

**2013 - 2017**

- Organized joint conference of multiple societies
- Representation of Canadian plant science at international level

## Canadian Foundation for the Development of Microscopy - Trustee

**2008 - 2013**

- Management of endowment fund