



Canada

## GINA BENEDICT

LEAN QUEEN OF THE SCIENCE SCENE

**LAB LOCATION:** Dartmouth Laboratory in Dartmouth, NS

**SUPERPOWER:** Analytical Chemist with Lean Green Belt certification

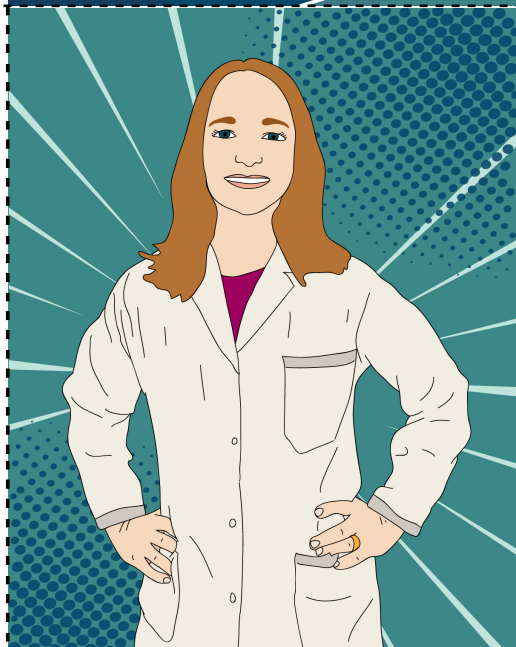
**SUPERSKILLS:** Super human attention to detail, highly developed organizational senses

**MISSION:** To battle inefficiencies and streamline the delivery of accurate results

**NEMESIS:** CHAOS

**FUN SCIENCE FACT:** The only letter not appearing in the periodic table is J

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## LAURA LALONDE

**LAB LOCATION:** Centre for Food-Borne and Animal Parasitology, Saskatoon Laboratory.

**SUPERPOWER:** Finding tiny parasites lurking in your fruit and vegetables.

**MISSION:** To keep salad safe for you!

**NEMESIS:** Food-borne parasites-Cyclospora, Cryptosporidium, Toxoplasma and Giardia.

**FUN SCIENCE FACT:** Microscopic behavior-altering parasites can manipulate their hosts to increase their own chances of transmission and survival.

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## MIREILLE MARCOTTE

**LAB LOCATION:** Plant Health Science Directorate

**SUPERPOWER:** Promoting collaboration for early detection of plant pests

**SUPERSKILLS:** Leverage opportunities as they arise

**MISSION:** Educate the public on what they can do to limit the spread of plant pests

**NEMESIS:** Plant pests

**FUN SCIENCE FACT:** A full moon can increase mosquito activity by 500 percent!

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## ALLANA LODER

**LAB LOCATION:** Dartmouth Microbiology Lab

**SUPERPOWER:** Bacterial Super Sleuth

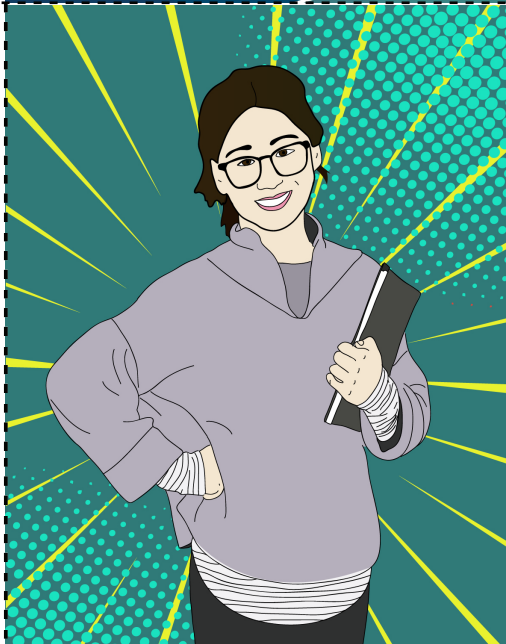
**SUPERSKILLS:** Microbial manipulation via whole genome sequencing

**MISSION:** Stopping bacteria from acquiring evil superpowers

**NEMESIS:** Pathogenic bacteria

**FUN SCIENCE FACT:** Microbes generate at least half the oxygen we breathe!

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## CAROL TANG

**LAB LOCATION:** National Capital Region

**SUPERPOWER:** Science policy

**SUPERSKILLS:** Synthesis

**MISSION:** To be brief

**NEMESIS:** Tight deadlines

**FUN SCIENCE FACT:** Humans are composed of stardust – nearly all the elements in the human body were made in a star and many have come through several supernovas (i.e. the explosion of a star).

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## ERIN TANGORRA

**LAB LOCATION:** Ottawa Laboratory, Fallowfield.

**SUPERPOWER:** Biosafety.

**SUPERSKILLS:** Encouraging a culture of safety in the lab.

**MISSION:** To ensure that everyone is safe and healthy.

**NEMESIS:** Preventable accidents.

**FUN SCIENCE FACT:** In 1846, Ignaz Semmelweis significantly decreased the mortality rate of women in a maternity ward by ordering doctors to wash their hands between performing autopsies and tending to the women. Unfortunately, this practice was not well accepted by the doctors, and the hand washing stopped after only a few months. A few decades later, germ theory was being explored, and the benefits of hand washing became universally accepted.

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## GUILLAUME BILODEAU, "PLANT PEST DETECTIVE"

**LAB LOCATION:** Ottawa Plant Laboratory, Fallowfield.

**SUPERPOWER:** Finding harmful plant insects, fungi, diseases and other pathogens.

**SUPERSKILLS:** Developing quick detection tools using genomics and DNA.

**MISSION:** To discover invasive organisms and regulated plant pests before they cause major damage.

**NEMESIS:** Plant-harming-fungi.

**FUN SCIENCE FACT:** We still think that the blue whale is the biggest organism, ever to have lived, beating even the biggest dinosaurs. But it turns out that there is a fungus that is bigger! Armillaria gallica is the largest organism on Earth in terms of weight and area, growing to more than 150 000 square metres. That's way bigger than any whale.

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## MATT COWIE "SUPERNUMBERMAN" AKA RESOURCE ANALYST

**LAB LOCATION:** Headquarters.

**SUPERPOWER:** Indigenous omnipotence.

**SUPERSKILLS:** Superhuman number crunching ability.

**MISSION:** To balance the budget.

**NEMESIS:** Inefficient use of resources.

**FUN SCIENCE FACT:** Western scientists rely on Indigenous knowledge when locating and differentiating the stars. Indigenous constellations are used as signposts and the stories help us understand which stars are which, and to remember them.

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## VAUGHN ARTHUR

**LAB LOCATION:** Dartmouth Laboratory.

**SUPERPOWER:** The ability to create a high-temperature plasma (the fourth state of matter).

**SUPERSKILLS:** Decoding the chemical makeup of food.

**MISSION:** To protect Canada from toxic supervillains like mercury, arsenic and lead.

**NEMESIS:** CONTAMINATION!

**FUN SCIENCE FACT:** Using microwaves to heat food was discovered by accident when an engineer named Percy Spencer noticed a candy bar had melted in his pocket while he was working on a radar-related project.

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## NISHANDAN YOGASINGAM

**LAB LOCATION:** *Fortress of Solitude* aka my cubicle at headquarters.

**SUPERPOWER:** Reality manipulation – presenting complex data in an easy way.

**SUPERSKILLS:** Ability to think about complex info and turn it into something that can be easily understood.

**MISSION:** To create a world that encourages discovery and promotes participation in the sciences.

**NEMESIS:** When people use the *Comic Sans* font.

**FUN SCIENCE FACT:** The centre of the Milky Way galaxy contains the same chemical that gives raspberries and rum their distinct taste and smell. The Milky Way is one ginormous cocktail.

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