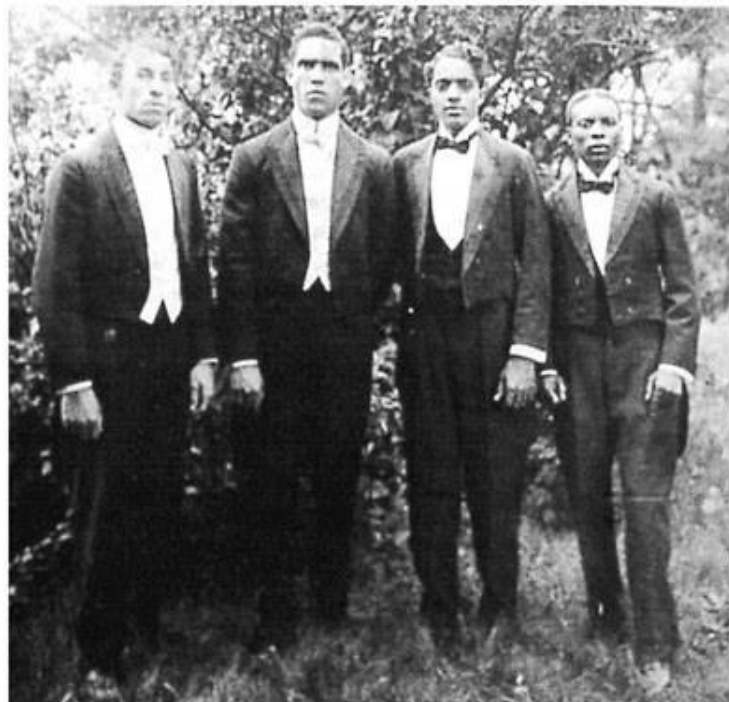


Black History Month is a time for reflecting on and celebrating black lives recognizing the contributions black people have made to all areas of our society. Throughout time, the efforts of black scientists have forwarded many scientific fields — including biology. The Biology Department of Trent University understands that diversity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields is crucial for continued scientific advancement. Therefore, while we rightfully recognize a few black biologists in North America this month, we also acknowledge that there is still a great need for increased diversity in biology — especially here at Trent University. For example, an increase in available mentors and increased representation could favourably shift student populations within the field. We hope that in the coming years, there is more public, private, and structural support for the personal and professional growth of black scientists in biology and STEM careers.

Below, we highlight three exceptional scientists who have dedicated their lives to changing the field of Biology for the better.

Dr Charles Lightfoot Roman was the grandson of a fugitive slave, who was born in Ontario on May 19, 1889. He enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University in 1912 and was the only known black person to serve with the Canadian General Hospital No 3, a field hospital run by McGill near the front lines in France. His published works have advanced the field of occupational medicine.



Fiske University Debating Team, 1910.
From the left: William Lloyd Imes '1-, Charles Lightfoot Roman '10
Charles Harris Wesley '11, Julian Dawson '10

Dr. Charles Lightfoot Roman,
Valley Field, Quebec, McGill 1914, WW I RCAC

Dr. Maydianne Andrade –was born in Jamaica before immigrating to Vancouver with her parents at the age of three. She attended Simon Fraser University where she earned her Bachelor of Science in 1992. She then received her Master of Science in zoology from the University of Toronto in 1995. Dr Andrade then attended Cornell University where she gained her PhD in 2000. In 2005, she was named one of the Brilliant 10 by *Popular Science* magazine. Dr Andrade is the co-founder and president of the Canadian Black Scientists Network (<https://blackscientists.ca>)- The group works to highlight Black Canadians in the STEM field. Currently, Dr. Andrade is a Canada Research Chair, University of Toronto, Scarborough.

Dr Andre Fenton- was born in Guyana before immigrating to Canada at the age of seven with his mother. He majored in biology at McGill University where for his undergraduate thesis, he studied the neurobiology of crickets. He then joined the Institute of Physiology at the Czech Academy of Sciences where he specialized in the hippocampus. Dr Fenton then attended the State University of New York where he received his doctoral degree. He is now a professor of Neural Science at New York University where he also carries out his research focused on how the brain stores and experiences memories. In 2020, Dr. Fenton was named by Cell Press as one of the Top 100 black scientists in America.

REMINDER: NSERC-Undergraduate Student Research Awards

Each award provides eligible undergraduates with 14-16 weeks of employment.

In the 2025 competition, Trent University has two supplementary NSERC-USRA allocation for black scholars. Details on USRAs and deadlines can be found at:

<https://www.trentu.ca/ori/funding/undergraduate-graduate-postdoctoral-fellow-funding-opportunities/undergraduate-student>

"Rising Star: André Fenton, playful problem-solver". *Spectrum | Autism Research News*. 2015-11-09. Retrieved 2020-12-29.

Virgin, N. (2022). Charles Lightfoot Roman. In *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. Retrieved from <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/charles-lightfoot-roman>

Wikimedia Foundation. (2024, January 5). *Maydianne Andrade*. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maydianne_Andrade