

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

image provided by Michael Corrin

VOL III – ISSUE 8

April 2015

### ***Message from the Chair, Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker***

On May 1st, I know some of you will be dancing around your beautifully decorated Maypoles, or taking part in International Workers Day's celebrations, but if you are not, well then, please take the time to instead come and listen to our IMM450 4th year Immunology Research Project Student presentations, see the details below.

We are now entering reclass/qualifying exam season, with this in mind, I want to encourage our 2nd year graduate students to have their proposals approved and submitted on time, and thank our faculty, in particular members of the graduate committee, for making time to read the proposals and participate in the examination process.

I want to extend my Congratulations to our IMMSA In-Course Scholarship Recipients, which is a wonderful initiative from our undergraduate student leadership to recognize the excellence among our undergraduate students in Immunology.

Additionally, please note the upcoming OQUIC event (May 2nd-3rd), which will again feature the research accomplishments from our undergraduates, as they present their work and compete with their peers across Ontario and Quebec.

As you will see below, we now know who will be leading IMMSA next year, so to the incoming new undergraduate executive, Congratulations, I look forward to working with you. To the retiring IMMSA council, Thanks for a terrific year, Karen and Johnathan you were both exceptional co-presidents.

As pointed out by IGSA, our next Departmental Retreat will be on June 16th-17th, this is a great opportunity for postdocs in the department to present their work and for some of our senior graduate students and faculty to showcase their recent findings.

### **UPCOMING SEMINARS**

#### **EASTON SEMINARS – May 2015 Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.**

##### **May 04**

- Deepta Bhattacharya, PhD  
*"Molecular control of plasma cell lifespan and the duration of immunity."*  
(Host: Dr. Jennifer Gommerman)

#### **GRADUATE SEMINARS – May 2015 Room 2173 MSB at 10:00 a.m.**

##### **May 04**

- Mark Anczurowski (Supervisor: N. Hirano)
- Mahmoud El-Maklizi (Supervisors: C. Guidos/J. Danska)
- Silvio Ndoja (Supervisor: R. Yeung)

##### **May 11**

- Seong Jun Han (Supervisor: P. Ohashi)
- Yu Chen Yao (Supervisor: R. Inman)
- Mu Hsuan Ho (Supervisor: M. Ostrowski)

##### **May 18 - Victoria Day - No Seminar**

##### **May 25**

- Blair MacDonald (Supervisor: C. Guidos)
- Sofia Oke (Supervisor: A. Martin)
- Miranda Shi Supervisor: G. Ehrhardt)

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

image provided by Michael Corrin

### *Chair's message continued...*

Lastly, please note the call for nominations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize**, details below. The winner of this prize will deliver a lecture on June 15th, a day before our annual Department of Immunology Summer Retreat, June 16-17th.

---

## CONGRATULATIONS

### PhD Exam

Dr. Kiera Clayton (Ostrowski lab) – March 31, 2015

---

## UNDERGRADUATE

### IMM450Y 2014-15 Final Research Presentations

Please join us for the final research presentations of the 2014-15 IMM450Y class on Friday, May 1st in MS4279, starting at 9:30am. For a detailed schedule of the presentations, please email [undergraduate.immunology@utoronto.ca](mailto:undergraduate.immunology@utoronto.ca).

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

You are invited to the 6th annual North American Comparative Immunology workshop, which is being held at the University of Toronto from June 13-15. The meeting will focus immune investigations in model and non-model organisms and their contributions to the understanding of fundamental questions in immunology. Topics include the evolution of immunity, the role of the immune system in establishing and maintaining symbiosis, novel strategies of receptor diversification and the development of immune cells.

To register, and for more details, please visit [www.naciworkshop.com](http://www.naciworkshop.com).

For questions, contact Jonathan Rast ([jrast@sri.utoronto.ca](mailto:jrast@sri.utoronto.ca))

---

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

image provided by Michael Corrin



### **BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize**

#### **Call for Nominations:**

The Department of Immunology is pleased to announce that it is now accepting nominations of outstanding postdoctoral fellows for the *BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize*. This award is made possible by a generous gift from BD Biosciences.

**Award:** The award consists of a \$2,500 prize for the postdoctoral fellow, and a \$500 gift certificate from BD Biosciences for the laboratory of the principal investigator.

**Nominations:** Faculty members of the Department of Immunology can nominate a postdoc in their lab. Please provide a nominating letter, and a CV of the nominated postdoctoral fellow, to be submitted electronically to [chair.immunology@utoronto.ca](mailto:chair.immunology@utoronto.ca).

**Deadline:** **May 8, 2015** (5:00 pm) is the deadline for nominations. The winner will be announced on May 25, 2015.

**Date of Lecture & Award Presentation:** **Monday, June 15, 2015** is when the BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture, and prize presentation will take place.

#### **IGSA**

Hello Immunologists!

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who participated in our first ever PIEtokine Storm Fundraiser! It was a great success as we've hit every benchmark and raised a whopping total of \$1200 for the Canadian Cancer Society. Job well done guys! Videos of all pie-ings will be compiled for our annual Departmental Summer Retreat video.

Speaking of which, mark your calendars as this year's **Summer Retreat** will be taking place

**June 16-17** at Geneva Park. Registration will be opening soon so look out for our email!

We also want to extend an invitation to all senior year PhD students, Post Docs and professors to present their work at the retreat. Preference will be given to those who have not presented in the last 2 years, but everyone is welcome to indicate their interest in presenting. Please email Sintia ([sintia.xhiku@gmail.com](mailto:sintia.xhiku@gmail.com)) or Simon ([simonweng@gmail.com](mailto:simonweng@gmail.com)) if you would like to showcase your work. Also, if anyone is interested in being part of our retreat video (as an actor, producer or editor) please let us know!

Finally, our next IGSA event will be the **ROM Friday Night Live "Rock the Caravan"** on **May 22, 2015**. Stay tuned for more details on pricing and tickets!!

- **IGSA**

### IMMSA

Hello Immunology undergrads!

We would like to announce and congratulate the winners of the Immunology In-Course scholarship: Violet Ha, Anmol Gupta (2nd years), Dario Ferri, Cheryl Leung, Trillium Chang (3rd years), Samuel Chan, Brandon Sit, and Angela Han (4th years). Each received \$125 for a total of \$1000 in scholarships handed out based on overall GPA and IMM course grades. Pat yourselves on the back!

We would like to thank everyone who came out to Biojeopardy -- Our team won the trophy! It was a great time filled with teamwork and clutch moments. Moreover, thank you to those who came out to Dr. Levy's academic talk and our exam de-stressor! These events were a great lead up to IMMSA's senior position elections.

We'd like to congratulate our new IMMSA senior executives: Co-Presidents: Andrea Macikunas and Priscilla Yung, Vice President: Vincent Khuu, Secretary: Annoj Thavalingam, Sr Events Coordinator: Vivian Tia, Sr Webmaster: Kiran Wadhawan,

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

image provided by Michael Corrin

Sr Treasurer: Nancy Qin, 4th Year Representative: Lisa Hung, 3rd year Specialist Rep: Conan Chua, 3rd year Major Rep: Natalie Hoffmann. The 2014-2015 Senior Execs are proud of you all and wish you all the best for the next year! Make sure Immunology wins Biojeopardy again. Please be reminded that there will be more positions to run for in September if you did not get elected to a position this time around.

As per usual, please check out our undergraduate immunology research highlights for March: [http://immsauoft.com/?page\\_id=1035](http://immsauoft.com/?page_id=1035). Don't forget to check out <http://instagram.com/immsagram>. If you have any photos you would like to send in for immsagram please email them to [immsa.immunology@gmail.com](mailto:immsa.immunology@gmail.com).

Onto OQUIC 2015! The deadline has been extended to April 17th at 5:00pm to send in your applications. We are also now accepting abstracts for OQUIC 2015, please email us at [immsa.immunology@gmail.com](mailto:immsa.immunology@gmail.com) for more information on registration. OQUIC is a two day, all expenses paid (including transportation, food, accommodation), conference that features undergraduate researchers in the field of immunology.

Thank you and best regards,  
Johnathan and Karen  
IMMSA Co-Presidents.

### **Karen Jia & Johnathan Lau**

Immunology Students Association (IMMSA) Co-Presidents

<http://immsauoft.com> | [@IMMSA\\_UofT](https://www.instagram.com/IMMSA_UofT) | <http://facebook.com/IMMSA.UofT>

---

## **PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (March 2015)** <sup>(1-9)</sup>

1. Allan, D. S. J., C. L. Kirkham, O. A. Aguilar, L. C. Qu, P. Chen, J. H. Fine, P. Serra, G. Awong, J. L. Gommerman, J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker, and J. R. Carlyle. 2015. An in vitro model of innate lymphoid cell function and differentiation. *Mucosal Immunology* 8: 340-351.
2. Buckley, K. M., and J. P. Rast. 2015. Diversity of animal immune receptors and the origins of recognition complexity in the deuterostomes. *Developmental and Comparative Immunology* 49: 179-189.



3. Chen, P., O. A. Aguilar, M. M. A. Rahim, D. S. J. Allan, J. H. Fine, C. L. Kirkham, J. Ma, M. Tanaka, M. M. Tu, A. Wight, V. Kartsogiannis, M. T. Gillespie, A. P. Makrigrannis, and J. R. Carlyle. 2015. Genetic Investigation of MHC-Independent Missing-Self Recognition by Mouse NK Cells Using an In Vivo Bone Marrow Transplantation Model. *Journal of Immunology* 194: 2909-2918.
4. Holden, D. W., and D. J. Philpott. 2015. Editorial overview: Host-microbe interactions: bacteria. *Current Opinion in Microbiology* 23: V-VIII.
5. Khan, W. U., J. Satkunasingham, R. Moineddin, I. Jamal, S. Afzal, P. Chait, D. Parra, J. G. Amaral, M. J. Temple, and B. L. Connolly. 2015. The Percutaneous Cecostomy Tube in the Management of Fecal Incontinence in Children. *Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology* 26: 189-195.
6. Li, T., S. D. Prokopec, S. Morrison, W. Lou, H. Reich, D. Gladman, M. Urowitz, J. Scholey, P. R. Fortin, P. C. Boutros, J. Wither, and C. Landolt-Marticorena. 2015. Anti-nucleosome antibodies outperform traditional biomarkers as longitudinal indicators of disease activity in systemic lupus erythematosus. *Rheumatology (Oxford, England)* 54: 449-457.
7. Ming, K., J. Kim, M. J. Biondi, A. Syed, K. Chen, A. Lam, M. Ostrowski, A. Rebbapragada, J. J. Feld, and W. C. W. Chan. 2015. Integrated quantum dot barcode smartphone optical device for wireless multiplexed diagnosis of infected patients. *ACS nano* 9: 3060-3074.
8. Sorbara, M. T., and S. E. Girardin. 2015. Emerging themes in bacterial autophagy. *Current Opinion in Microbiology* 23: 163-170.
9. Tan, D. H. S., J. M. Raboud, L. Szadkowski, T. J. Yi, B. Shannon, R. Kaul, W. C. Liles, and S. L. Walmsley. 2015. Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 Serostatus Is Not Associated with Inflammatory or Metabolic Markers in Antiretroviral Therapy-Treated HIV. *Aids Research and Human Retroviruses* 31: 276-281.

We'd like to hear from you!  
Comments or Questions – Please contact:  
[Immunology.newsletter@utoronto.ca](mailto:Immunology.newsletter@utoronto.ca)