

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

VOL IV – ISSUE 4

April 2016

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

Although the weather may not be cooperating, it is actually Spring, and nearly May, and as such 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. If you were expecting a Maypole or Red Square reference for the upcoming May 1st date, then there it was, and yes, long live the struggle.

Additionally, please note the upcoming **OQUIC** event (May 7th-8th), which will again feature the research accomplishments from our undergraduates, as they present their work and compete with their peers across Ontario and Quebec.

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, Andrea and Vivian you were both exceptional co-presidents.

As pointed out by IGSA, our next Departmental Retreat will be on June 21-22nd, 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.

Lastly, please note the call for nominations for the 4th annual **BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize**, details below. The winner of this prize will deliver a lecture on June 20th, a day before our annual Department of Immunology Summer Retreat, June 21-22nd.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

EASTON SEMINARS

May 2016

Room 2170 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

May 2nd, 2016

Tracy McGaha, Ph.D.

“Death, Stress, and Autoimmunity”

(Host: Dr. JC Zúñiga-Pflücker)

May 9th, 2016

David Traver, Ph.D.

“Multidimensional Single Cell Analysis of B Cell Memory”

(Host: IGSA)

May 16th, 2016

Jeffrey Pollard, Ph.D.

“Tumor Associated Macrophages - from Mechanism to Therapy”

(Host: Dr. Tak Mak)

STUDENT SEMINARS

May 2016

Room 4171 MSB at 10:00 a.m.

May 2nd, 2016

Brett Wang (Supervisor: N. Hirano)

An Qi Xu (Supervisor: J. Danska)

Johnny Wang (Supervisor: T. Watts)

May 9th, 2016

Xinyan Wang (Supervisor: M. Ostrowski)

Spencer Zeng (Supervisor: D. Spaner)

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

GEMINI Study – Healthy South Asian Participants Needed!

Are you South Asian or do you have any South Asian friends? GEMINI Study is looking for healthy South Asians to participate in a paid research study to understand the impact of global migration on health and diseases. For more information visit our website and check out our study videos (www.geministudy.ca). For a couple hours of your time, you may be compensated up to \$75!



#TechTalks

In September, we launched a brand-new look to our website. Since, we've unveiled new features including an improved Faculty directory, a list of the most recent publications from members of our department, and very recently a brand-new secure graduate student directory.

The reviews of the new design and features has been positive, but we don't want to stand still. We are always looking to evolve and improve the site in order to make it easier for you to navigate and find the information you are looking for. If you have a feature request or want to provide feedback on the look/layout of our website you can send them to [Korosh at korosh.kianizad@utoronto.ca](mailto:Korosh.kianizad@utoronto.ca)

Deadlines/Reminders

Reclassifying and Qualifying exams will take place in May and June. If you intend to reclass/qualify you must send your [Examining Committee Pre-Approval Form](#) and your abstract to Kate Sedore (graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca) as soon as possible, and definitely **no later than 4 weeks before your proposed exam date**. Failure to meet this deadline may result in you being unable to reclass, and therefore having to complete an MSc degree and re-apply for the PhD program. Please get those forms to Kate asap!

Graduate Admissions

Our first round of admissions has resulted in 23 incoming students (10 Applied Imm, 13 Fundamental Imm), with more still to come!

The final admissions deadline for September 2016 programs – MSc, PhD in Fundamental Immunology, and MSc in Applied Immunology – is **May 20th, 2016**.



FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE

Today's scientific research is ever increasingly reliant on extremely large datasets. In order to easily sift through the mountains of data, some custom coding and programming is sometimes required.

The UofT Scientific Coders are a group of graduate students who hold weekly meetings with the goal of building new coding skills and awareness of new tools and techniques.

You can find information on the group and the meeting schedule on their website at: <http://uoftcoders.github.io/studyGroup/>

IGSA

Good Day Immunologists,

We hope you have enjoyed the sometimes chilly, sometimes beautiful month of April. Our graduate students participated in a Charity Paint Night on April 7th, 2016. Joined by both faculty and students who provided monetary or canned goods donations, we created some great works of art and even collaborated on an abstract piece together.

On April 29th, a sizeable contingent of graduate students will be travelling across the GTA to celebrate World Immunology Day at over 10 high schools. Volunteers will then share their experiences at the Toby's pub at the end of the day.

For the month of May, we can look forward to Billiard's Night and also a Blue Jays game! Please stay on the lookout for IGSA emails to get tickets. We would also like to thank our social representatives for holding a successful year of Easton Speaker lunches. We hope everyone has enjoyed the experience.

Finally, a reminder that the abstract submission deadline for the Annual Retreat is May 16, 2016. General attendees must register by May 31, 2016.

You may register here: <http://goo.gl/forms/pZEV3y1K3h>

Sincerely,
Team IGSA



Immunology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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.

Deadline: May 6, 2016 (5:00 pm) is the deadline for nominations. The winner will be announced on May 20, 2016.

Date of Lecture & Award Presentation: Monday, June 20, 2016 is when the BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture, and prize presentation will take place.



PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (March 2016)

1. Amini-Nik, S., and M. G. Jeschke. 2016. WHAT'S NEW IN SHOCK? MARCH 2016. Shock 45: 239-240.
2. Baglaenko, Y., K. P. Manion, N.-H. Chang, E. Gracey, C. Loh, and J. E. Wither. 2016. IL-10 Production Is Critical for Sustaining the Expansion of CD5(+) B and NKT Cells and Restraining Autoantibody Production in Congenic Lupus-Prone Mice. Plos One 11.
3. Chruscinski, A., F. Y. Y. Huang, A. Nguyen, J. Lioe, L. C. Tumiaty, S. Kozuszko, K. J. Tinckam, V. Rao, S. E. Dunn, M. A. Persinger, G. A. Levy, and H. J. Ross. 2016. Generation of Antigen Microarrays to Screen for Autoantibodies in Heart Failure and Heart Transplantation. Plos One 11.
4. Jardine, J. G., D. W. Kulp, C. Havenar-Daughton, A. Sarkar, B. Briney, D. Sok, F. Sesterhenn, J. Ereno-Orbea, O. Kalyuzhniy, I. Deresa, X. Hu, S. Spencer, M. Jones, E. Georgeson, Y. Adachi, M. Kubitz, A. C. deCamp, J.-P. Julien, I. A. Wilson, D. R. Burton, S. Crotty, and W. R. Schief. 2016. HIV-1 broadly neutralizing antibody precursor B cells revealed by germline-targeting immunogene. Science 351: 1458-1463.
5. Jeschke, M. G., R. Pinto, S. R. Costford, and S. Amini-Nik. 2016. Threshold age and burn size associated with poor outcomes in the elderly after burn injury. Burns 42: 276-281.
6. Killackey, S. A., M. T. Sorbara, and S. E. Girardin. 2016. Cellular Aspects of Shigella Pathogenesis: Focus on the Manipulation of Host Cell Processes. Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology 6.
7. Kuo, K. H. M., S. Khan, M. L. Rand, H. S. Mian, E. Brnjac, L. E. Sandercock, I. Akula, J.-P. Julien, E. F. Pai, and A. E. Chesney. 2016. EspP, an Extracellular Serine Protease from Enterohemorrhagic E. coli, Reduces Coagulation Factor Activities, Reduces Clot Strength, and Promotes Clot Lysis. Plos One 11.
8. Nakatsugawa, M., M. A. Rahman, Y. Yamashita, T. Ochi, P. Wnuk, S. Tanaka, K. Chamoto, Y. Kagoya, K. Saso, T. Guo, M. Anczurowski, M. O. Butler, and N. Hirano. 2016. CD4(+) and CD8(+) TCR beta repertoires possess different potentials to generate extraordinarily high-avidity T cells. Scientific Reports 6.
9. Stocki, P., M. Sawicki, C. E. Mays, S. J. Hong, D. C. Chapman, D. Westaway, and D. B. Williams. 2016. Inhibition of the FKBP family of peptidyl prolyl isomerases induces abortive translocation and degradation of the cellular prion protein. Molecular Biology of the Cell 27: 757-767.
10. Tattoli, I., S. A. Killackey, E. G. Foerster, R. Molinaro, C. Maisonneuve, M. A. Rahman, S. Winer, D. A. Winer, C. J. Streutker, D. J. Philpott, and S. E. Girardin. 2016. NLRX1 Acts as an Epithelial-Intrinsic Tumor Suppressor through the Modulation of TNF-Mediated Proliferation. Cell Reports 14: 2576-2586.
11. Wei, L., A. M. Bello, B. Majchrzak-Kita, N. Salum, M. M. Lewis, L. P. Kotra, and E. N. Fish. 2016. Small Molecule Agonists for the Type I Interferon Receptor: An In Silico Approach. Journal of Interferon and Cytokine Research 36: 180-191.
12. Winer, D. A., H. Luck, S. Tsai, and S. Winer. 2016. The Intestinal Immune System in Obesity and Insulin Resistance. Cell metabolism 23: 413-426.

We'd like to hear from you!
Comments or Questions – Please contact:
Immunology.communications@utoronto.ca