

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

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April 2017

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

The Department of Immunology recently held its very first Alumni Reception, we had over 60 in attendance and by all accounts it was a resounding success. We heard from **Dr. Nana Lee** about the GPD program and how several of our alumni contribute to the course; and many more showed an interest in giving back with their time and expertise. We also heard from 3 current students, **Ronald Galiwango** (Kaul lab), **Spencer Zheng** (Spaner lab), and **Nyrie Israelian**, (Danska lab), who mesmerized the audience with their deft 3-minute thesis presentations. Given how well the event was received, we will be sure to have another Alumni reception next year.

Now that Spring has finally sprung, and it is nearly May, we are entering reclass/qualifying exam season. With this in mind, thanks to our faculty, in particular members of the graduate committee, for making time to read the proposals and participate in the examination process. I also felt that the new approach for setting up the exams was very effective. Most importantly, I want to give our most wonderful Graduate Assistant **Kate Sedore** our collective best wishes, as she starts her maternity leave. Also, please join me in welcoming **Ian Marquez**, who will be working as our Graduate Assistant.

Please see below about the upcoming **OQUIC** event (May 6-7), 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 pointed out by IGSA, our next Departmental Retreat will be on June 20-21, 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. Plus, this year we will awarding the *Jim Watts Travel Award in Human Immunology*, so please be sure to sign up for a presentation at the retreat.

Lastly, please note the call for nominations for the **BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize**, details below.

UPCOMING SEMINAR

EASTON SEMINAR

May 2017

Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

Monday May 8th, 2017

Facundo Batista, Ph.D.

Host: Bebhinn Treanor

“Visualizing lymphocyte activation: from single molecules to in vivo”

The winner of this prize will deliver a lecture on June 19, a day before our annual Department of Immunology Summer Retreat, June 20-21.

Wishing everyone a happy *World Immunology Day!*

WELCOME

Staff

Ian Marquez, acting Graduate Assistant.



WELCOME

Judi Yang to the Applied Immunology Program

DEADLINES/REMINDERS

Graduate Admissions

Our first round of admissions has resulted in 23 incoming students with more still to come!

The final admissions deadline for September 2017 programs – MSc & PhD in Fundamental Immunology, and MSc in Applied Immunology – is **May 1st, 2017**.

FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE

SGS Summer Gym Bursary – SGS is offering full-time, registered doctoral-stream students a refund of **up to 100%** of your summer gym membership fees as part of a three-year pilot program to promote graduate student wellness.

Participating gyms include the Hart House Fitness Centre and Kinesiology & Physical Education (KPE) athletic facilities.

Visit the [SGS Summer Gym Bursary website](#) for details on how to apply!



IMMSA

Hello immunologists!

Thank you for a wonderful academic year; it has been a pleasure to get to know the wonderful students, staff, and faculty in the Department of Immunology. From academic seminars, pub nights, information seminars, and social events, we hope that you have enjoyed the IMMSA events.

Our final event for this year is quickly approaching: the 9th annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC)! OQUIC is a great opportunity for undergraduate students from across Ontario and Quebec to present their independent research and meet other immunology students. OQUIC will be held from May 6-7 at the U of T Bahen Centre for Information Technology and is free of charge for all registrants. We will have Dr. André Veillette (Université de Montréal) and Dr. Jayne Danska (U of T) as keynote speakers. For more information and details on how to become involved, please visit our website: <http://immsauoft.com/?p=1601>.

Good luck on all end-of-year exams! Please follow us on social media for all event details, and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us at immsa.immunology@gmail.com.

Regards,

Natalie Hoffmann & Conan Chua

Immunology Students Association (IMMSA) Co-Presidents 2016-17

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



IGSA

Dear Immunologists,

Spring is finally here and even better weather is on the way! We would like to thank our social representatives for holding a successful year of Easton Speaker lunches. We hope everyone has enjoyed the experience.

This month, IGSA got the conversation started on mental health, with the first ever Mental Health Seminar in our department. Additionally, over a dozen Immunologists donned their lab coats and showed off their sporty sides by participating in the Harry Rosen 8K Run. Last weekend, students stood in solidarity with fellow scientists at the Toronto March for Science.

On April 28th, our graduate students will be celebrating **World Immunology Day** by spreading Immunology knowledge at a number of high schools across the GTA. Volunteers will then share their experiences at Toby's pub at the end of the day.

A reminder to everyone to please register for the **11th Annual Summer Retreat** using the link that was sent out. We encourage all students to present posters, and post-docs to sign up for talks. This year, the **Jim Watts Travel Award in Human Immunology** will be presented for the first time. This travel award will be awarded for the best human immunology focused presentation at the Department Retreat presented by a trainee (grad student or post-doc), to be used toward the academic conference of their choice.

Next month, we can look forward to **Billiard's Night** on Thursday May 4th and also a **Blue Jays Game!** Please stay on the lookout for IGSA emails to get tickets. Lastly, it's time to dust off those gloves, folks! Softball practices will commence at the end of May.

Stay classy,

Mark & Maria
IGSA co-presidents



Immunology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



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 5, 2017 (5:00 pm) is the deadline for nominations. The winner will be announced on May 19, 2017.

Date of Lecture & Award Presentation: Monday, June 19, 2017 is when the BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture, and prize presentation will take place.



PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (March 2017)

1. Bromberg, K. D., T. R. H. Mitchell, A. K. Upadhyay, C. G. Jakob, M. A. Jhala, K. M. Comess, L. M. Lasko, C. L. Li, C. T. Tuzon, Y. J. Dai, F. L. Li, M. S. Eram, A. Nuber, N. B. Soni, V. Manaves, M. A. Algire, R. F. Sweis, M. Torrent, G. Schotta, C. H. Sun, M. R. Michaelides, A. R. Shoemaker, C. H. Arrowsmith, P. J. Brown, V. Santhakumar, A. Martin, J. C. Rice, G. G. Chiang, M. Vedadi, D. Barsyte-Lovejoy, and W. N. Pappano. 2017. The SUV4-20 inhibitor A-196 verifies a role for epigenetics in genomic integrity. *Nature Chemical Biology* 13: 317-+.
2. Crome, S. Q., L. T. Nguyen, S. Lopez-Verges, S. Y. C. Yang, B. Martin, J. Y. Yam, D. J. Johnson, J. Nie, M. Pniak, P. H. Yen, A. Milea, R. Sowamber, S. R. Katz, M. Q. Bernardini, B. A. Clarke, P. A. Shaw, P. A. Lang, H. K. Berman, T. J. Pugh, L. L. Lanier, and P. S. Ohashi. 2017. A distinct innate lymphoid cell population regulates tumor-associated T cells. *Nature Medicine* 23: 368-375.
3. Merkel, P. A., G. Xie, P. A. Monach, X. M. Ji, D. J. Ciavatta, J. Byun, B. D. Pinder, A. Zhao, J. Y. Zhang, D. Qian, S. Ripke, C. Pagnoux, S. Carette, S. Chung, D. Cuthbertson, J. C. Davis, P. F. Dellaripa, L. Forbess, O. Gewurz-Singer, G. S. Hoffman, N. Khalidi, C. Koenig, C. A. Langford, A. D. Mahr, C. McAlear, L. Moreland, E. P. Seo, U. Specks, R. F. Spiera, A. Sreih, W. S. Clair, J. H. Stone, S. R. Ytterberg, J. T. Elder, T. Ochi, N. Hirano, J. C. Edberg, R. J. Falk, C. I. Amos, K. A. Siminovitch, and C. Vasculitis Clin Res. 2017. IDENTIFICATION OF FUNCTIONAL AND EXPRESSION POLYMORPHISMS ASSOCIATED WITH RISK FOR ANTI-NEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASMIC AUTOANTIBODY-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS. *Rheumatology* 56: 23-24.
4. Pikor, N. B., J. Cupovic, L. Onder, J. L. Gommerman, and B. Ludewig. 2017. Stromal Cell Niches in the Inflamed Central Nervous System. *Journal of Immunology* 198: 1775-1781.
5. Volpi, S., Y. Yamazaki, P. M. Brauer, E. van Rooijen, A. Hayashida, A. Slavotinek, H. S. Kuehn, M. Di Rocco, C. Rivolta, I. Bortolomai, L. K. Du, K. Felgentreff, L. O. de Bruin, K. Hayashida, G. Freedman, G. E. Marcovecchio, K. Capuder, P. Rath, N. Luche, E. J. Hagedorn, A. Buoncompagni, B. Royer-Bertrand, S. Giliani, P. L. Poliani, L. Imberti, K. Dobbs, F. E. Poulain, A. Martini, J. Manis, R. J. Linhardt, M. Bosticardo, S. D. Rosenzweig, H. Lee, J. M. Puck, J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker, L. Zon, P. W. Park, A. Superti-Furga, and L. D. Notarangelo. 2017. EXTL3 mutations cause skeletal dysplasia, immune deficiency, and developmental delay. *Journal of Experimental Medicine* 214: 623-637.

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