

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

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VOL I – ISSUE 4

December 2012

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

Another year, another spectacular Immunology Holiday Party for which we have *Alessandra Ferzoco*, *Elisa Porfilio* and many IGSA members to thank. *Jennifer Gommerman's* Mayan inspired apocalyptic monologue was terrific, and terrifying if we really had to choose whom to save. For those that could not make it, I am sorry, you missed a wonderful evening, but here is a recap of some key items: the Richard Miller award was given to *Janet Markle* (Danska lab) and the Bernhard Cinader award by was given to *Peter Chen* (Carlyle lab); the Examiner of the Year award went to *Michele Anderson*, with *Alberto Martin* as a close runner-up. Our department's long-running holiday party DJ, *Ernie West*, was recognized for his many years of service, and *James Carlyle* won the newly minted "Lord of the dance" gold record award. The centerpiece competition winners were from the *Kelly MacDonald* lab, and the *Zúñiga-Pflücker* lab as runner-ups. The new fashion-show competition award was won by *Catherine Schrankel* (Rast lab). Congratulations to all the winners.

During the evening, I introduced a few new initiatives, such as an upcoming *Immunology Magazine*, led by *Yuriy Baglaenko* (Wither lab), which will be coming out early next year. I also introduced *Dave Prescott* (Philpott lab) as the new post-doctoral representative for the department. I announced, albeit barely audible, the creation of a new post-doctoral prize, sponsored by BD Biosciences, which will be in the form of an award and lecture. More details on this prize and the nomination/selection process will be sent out early next year.

One final set of congratulations, but in multi-million dollars style, goes to *Dana Philpott* for her recent CFI award in support of the Department of Immunology led Host-Microbiome Research Network.

Lastly, I want to wish all in the Department a happy holiday season and best wishes for a productive and eventful 2013.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

EASTON SEMINARS –

January 2013

Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

January 14, 2013

- Richard M. Ransohoff, MD
"Monocytes and microglia: Where they come from and what they do."
(Host: Dr. Eleanor Fish)

January 21, 2013

- Jorge Kalil, MD, PhD
"From molecular immunopathogenesis to the development of a vaccine to avoid a post infectious human autoimmune disease."
(Host: Dr. Michelle Letarte)

January 28, 2013

- Jeremy Mogridge, PhD
"Detection of danger by the Nlrp1b inflammasome."
(Host: Dr. Dana Philpott)

GRADUATE SEMINARS –

January 2013

Room 3171 MSB at 10:00 a.m.

January 7, 2013

- Vineet Joag (Kaul, R.)
- Valentin Sotov (Letarte, M.)

January 14, 2013

- Jeeyoon Jennifer Ahn (Dunn, S.)
- Martin Prince Alphonse (Yeung, R.)

January 21, 2013

- Daniel Chan (Yeung, R.)
- Derek Clouthier (Watts, T.)

January 28, 2013

- Mayra Cruz Tleugabulova (Malleveay, T.)
- Paulina Christine Drohomyrecky (Dunn, S.)

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WELCOME

Faculty

Dr. Bebhinn Treanor, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences, University of Toronto Scarborough – Cross-appointment to Immunology.

Graduate Students

- Aashiq Rahman (Philpott lab)
- Christopher Gunst

SPECIAL SEMINARS

Bruno Silva-Santos, PhD

Head of Molecular Immunology Unit
Instituto de Medicina Molecular
Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Lisbon
Portugal

(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

“Molecular mechanisms of differentiation of effector and regulatory T cells.”

Thursday, January 24, 2013
11:00 a.m.
Room 2172, Medical Sciences Building
University of Toronto

UPCOMING EVENTS

Toronto Human Immunology Network

presents:

Panel Discussions in Human Immunology with Dr. Richard M. Ransohoff

Hosted by: Dr. Eleanor Fish

Panelists:

Dr. Eleanor Fish, Dr. Richard Ransohoff,
Dr. Paul O’Connor, and Dr. Ann Yeh

“Targeting innate inflammation in MS.”

Monday, January 14, 2013
5:00 – 6:00p.m.
Room 7231, MSB
All welcome

Toronto Human Immunology Network

presents:

Panel Discussions in Human Immunology with Prof. Dr. Jorge Kalil

Hosted by: Dr. Michelle Letarte

Panelists:

Prof. Dr. Jorge Kalil, Dr. Rob Inman,
and Dr. Gary Levy

*“Autoimmunity, vaccine, molecular
mechanisms.”*

Monday, January 21, 2013
5:00 – 6:00p.m.
Room 7231, MSB
All welcome

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CONGRATULATIONS

PhD

Dr. Salima Janmohamed (Iscove Lab) – November 21, 2012

Reclassification / Qualifying Exams

Linda Zhao (Dunn lab) – November 28, 2012

Miho Tanaka (Carlyle lab) – November 28, 2012

Simon Eng (Yeung lab) – November 29, 2012

Heather MacGregor (Ohashi lab) – November 30, 2012

DEADLINES/REMINDERS

Awards

New** OGS: Online application now available via SGS, internal deadline April 1st, 2013

<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/informationfor/students/money/support/provincial/OGS.htm>

Immunology Tonight

Reminder that 1st and 2nd year MSc students / 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th year PhD students are required to attend four (4) sessions before the end of the academic year. The first session next term will be held on **January 10th, 2013**. Please register here:

<http://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/graduate/courses/IMMTonight.htm>

January 25: Final date to submit post-defense theses for March or June graduation for master's students without fees being charged for the Winter session. Deadline for all students to request that their degrees be conferred in March (in absentia)

Winter Courses

<http://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/graduate/courses.htm>

IMM1017H: Recent Advances in Basic Immunology and IMM1019H/1100H: Student Seminars
Classes/ seminars begin January 7th, 2013

IMM2021L/2100L: Special Topics in Immunology I and II: Immunology Tonight Seminars
begin January 10th, 2013

IMM1020: Recent Advances in Clinical Immunology
Classes begin January 21st, 2013

January 21: Final date to add Winter courses on ROSI

Immunology Summer Student Research Program 2013

Student application deadline: **Friday, January 11th, 2013 at 4:00pm**. Applications may be delivered to MS7205, or emailed to undergraduate.immunology@utoronto.ca. Application forms and more information are available at: <http://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/undergraduate/research.htm>.

Faculty who are interested in having an undergraduate summer research student are asked to send the following information to undergraduate.immunology@utoronto.ca by **Monday, January 7th, 2013**: Name of PI, number of students requested, project title(s).

IGSA

UPCOMING IGSA EVENTS

Mondays throughout December - Fundraising for Nellie's

Now that Movember has drawn to a close, the lovely ladies of IGSA are taking over. On December 17th, homemade goodies were brought in to raise money for Nellie's Shelter for Women and Children. Be sure to donate at: (<http://www.nellies.org/>)


IGSA EVENTS IN THE NEW YEAR

2012 may be almost over, but don't worry - IGSA has you covered for 2013 with another term of fantastic social outings, cultural events, career-planning workshops, sports tournaments and of course, monthly pub nights. Check out some of the upcoming attractions below and stay posted for further details!

January

- ❖ Blackboard Immunology with Dr. Tania Watts
- ❖ Skating Pub @ Nathan Phillips Square
- ❖ Frida and Diego Exhibit
- ❖ Karaoke Night

THANK YOU IMMUNOSTACHIOS!

I  you to join us in congratulating the Immunology Movember team for raising \$399 in support of men's health.

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February

- ❖ Ski Trip

March

- ❖ St. Patrick's Day Extravaganza

April

- ❖ Bowling/Billiards Excursion

May

- ❖ Sporting Life 10K Run for Cancer

June

- ❖ 7th Annual Departmental Retreat

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM IGSA!

IMMSA

Wishing you all a very Happy Holiday!

- IMMSA

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (November 2012) ⁽¹⁻⁸⁾

1. Rogers, E., B. X. Wang, Z. Cui, D. R. Rowley, S. J. Ressler, A. Vyakarnam, and E. N. Fish. 2012. WFDC1/ps20: A host factor that influences the neutrophil response to murine hepatitis virus (MHV) 1 infection. *Antiviral research* 96:158-168.
2. Kim, C. J., A. Nazli, O. L. Rojas, D. Chege, Z. Alidina, S. Huibner, S. Mujib, E. Benko, C. Kovacs, L. Y. Shin, A. Grin, G. Kandel, M. Loutfy, M. Ostrowski, J. L. Gommerman, C. Kaushic, and R. Kaul. 2012. A role for mucosal IL-22 production and Th22 cells in HIV-associated mucosal immunopathogenesis. *Mucosal Immunology* 5:670-680.

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3. Lin, G. H. Y., F. Edele, A. N. Mbanwi, M. E. Wortzman, L. M. Snell, M. Vidric, K. Roth, A. E. Hauser, and T. H. Watts. 2012. Contribution of 4-1BBL on radioresistant cells in providing survival signals through 4-1BB expressed on CD8(+) memory T cells in the bone marrow. *European Journal of Immunology* 42:2861-2874.
4. Podnos, A., D. A. Clark, N. Erin, K. Yu, and R. M. Gorczynski. 2012. Further evidence for a role of tumor CD200 expression in breast cancer metastasis: decreased metastasis in CD200R1KO mice or using CD200-silenced EMT6. *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment* 136:117-127.
5. Zuniga-Pflucker, J. C. 2012. When Three Negatives Made a Positive Influence in Defining Four Early Steps in T Cell Development. *Journal of Immunology* 189:4201-4202.
6. Peery, H. E., G. S. Day, S. Dunn, M. J. Fritzler, H. Pruess, C. De Souza, A. Doja, K. Mossman, L. Resch, C. Xia, B. Sakic, L. Belbeck, and W. G. Foster. 2012. Anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis. The disorder, the diagnosis and the immunobiology. *Autoimmunity Reviews* 11:863-872.
7. Hasselrot, K., J. Cheruiyot, J. Kimani, T. B. Ball, R. Kaul, and T. Hirbod. 2012. Feasibility and Safety of Cervical Biopsy Sampling for Mucosal Immune Studies in Female Sex Workers from Nairobi, Kenya. *Plos One* 7.
8. Juvet, S. C., M. Han, R. Vanama, B. Joe, E. Y. Kim, F. L. Zhao, C. Jeon, O. Adeyi, and L. Zhang. 2012. Autocrine IFN gamma Controls the Regulatory Function of Lymphoproliferative Double Negative T Cells. *Plos One* 7.

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