

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

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VOL II – ISSUE 4

December 2013

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

As in previous years, we had another spectacular Immunology Holiday Party for which we have *Kieran Manion*, *Darrin Gao* and many IGSA members to thank. *Cindy Guidos* delighted us as the evening's MC and gave us a wonderful autobiographically inspired look at life in research. For those of you that were sitting on the far corners of the Great Hall, or were not able to 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 *Amanda Moore* (Anderson lab); the Hardi Cinader Prize was given to *Eric Gracey* (Inman lab); and the Immunology Science Outreach Award (a new award from IGSA) was given to *Patrycja Thompson* (Zúñiga-Pflücker lab). The Department's Graduate Coordinator, Jen Gommerman, recognized Dennis Ng (Gommerman lab) as this year's recipient of the Bernhard Cinader Graduate Scholarship in Immunology. Yours truly won the "Lord of the dance" gold record award, previously held by James Carlyle. The centerpiece competition winners were from the *Hirano*, *Ohashi*, *Mak* and *Paige* labs, and yes it took a large team effort to beat out the other worthy contenders. Congratulations to all the winners.

During the evening, I recapped a few of the new initiatives that were started in 2013, such as the upcoming publication of the Strategic Plan for the Department of Immunology, a final draft of which I had just delivered to our Dean for approval, and since Friday night I received very positive feedback regarding our plan from dean Whiteside. We will be publishing and distributing the Plan in the early part of 2014. Speaking of publishing, I highlighted the amazing work being done by Yuriy Baglaenko (Wither lab) and Charles Tran (Ohashi lab) in running IMMpress Magazine, but also pointed out that the IMMpress team is looking to recruit new members to continue with this remarkable endeavor. I also announced the creation of a new prize to recognize outstanding achievements by our Immunology undergraduate students; and, that we will be again asking for nominations for the BD-Biosciences Immunology Postdoctoral Lecture Prize, to be awarded in early June just before our Summer Retreat (June 17-18). More details on this prize and the nomination/selection process will be sent out early next year.

Lastly, I want to wish all in the Department a happy holiday season and best wishes for a productive and eventful 2014.

### UPCOMING SEMINARS

#### EASTON SEMINARS – January 2014 Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

##### January 06

- Mikael Karlsson, PhD  
*"B cells and a link between SLE and Atherosclerosis."*  
(Host: Dr. Tak Mak)

##### January 13

- Leslie J. Berg, PhD  
*"Insights into the regulation of TCR signal strength."*  
(Host: Dr. Cynthia Guidos)

##### January 20

- Ciriaco A. Piccirillo, PhD  
*"Functional dynamics of FOXP3+ regulatory T cells in humans."*  
(Host: Dr. Tania Watts)

##### January 27

- Kristin A. Hogquist, PhD  
*"Self recognition in T cell development."*  
(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

#### GRADUATE SEMINARS – January 2014 Room 3171 MSB at 10:00 a.m.

##### January 13

- Catia Perciani (Supervisors: K. MacDonald & D. Willer)
- Marion Parsons (Supervisor: G. Ehrhardt)

##### January 20

- Michael St. Paul (Supervisor: P. Ohashi)
- Jastaranpreet Singh (Supervisor: Dr. JC Zúñiga-Pflücker)

##### January 27

- Jong Bok Lee (Supervisor: L. Zhang)
- Jun Yu Zhou (Supervisors: D. Philpott & S. Girardin)

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### WELCOME – Faculty –

Dr. Eyal Grunebaum, Associate Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Immunology, and Division of Immunology and Allergy, Hospital for Sick Children.

Dr. Nana Lee, Lecturer, Departments of Biochemistry and Immunology, Director of the Graduate Professional Development Course.

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### CONGRATULATIONS

#### PhD

Dr. Shaliny Ramachandran – November 20<sup>th</sup> (Martin lab)

Dr. Michael Wortzman – November 26<sup>th</sup> (Watts lab)

#### Qualifying Exam

Vineet Joag - November 28<sup>th</sup> (Kaul lab)

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### Graduate Admissions – September 2014

The early application deadline for September 2014 MSc and PhD admissions to the Graduate Program in Immunology is February 1st, 2014. All applicants are strongly encouraged to ensure that their application for admission is complete (including letters of reference) by the deadline. Information about minimum admission requirements and the application process is available on the Department website.

Faculty who already know that they are recruiting grad students for September 2014 are encouraged to send a message to [admissions.immunology@utoronto.ca](mailto:admissions.immunology@utoronto.ca), indicating how many students are being recruited, and available projects, if known.

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### Immunology Summer Student Research Program 2014

The deadline for undergraduate students to apply for the ISSRP is Friday, January 10th. Applications are available on the Department website, and can be submitted by email to

[undergraduate.immunology@utoronto.ca](mailto:undergraduate.immunology@utoronto.ca), or in person at the Immunology Undergraduate Office, MS7205.

Faculty inquiries about the program should be directed to Alberto Martin ([alberto.martin@utoronto.ca](mailto:alberto.martin@utoronto.ca)).

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### IGSA

*Season's greetings, Immunologists!*

We hope that everyone who attended enjoyed the Immunology Holiday Party! It was definitely a night to remember and our department could not have looked more fantastic!

For the coming year, we have a number of events planned and look forward to seeing everyone back after the holidays. In January there will be a pub night, skating night and a games night. We will post more information as the events are scheduled and planned!

A reminder for students in 2nd year planning (or wondering if they should..) to reclassify: whether you're wondering what the process is like, how to go about setting everything up, or studying for your exam, we want to help you! IGSA has a number of upper year students that are willing to help you out! Please contact Tracy In ([tracy.in@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:tracy.in@mail.utoronto.ca)) to find out more.

We wish everyone in the department a happy and healthy holiday season and look forward to 2014!

-- IGSA

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### PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (November 2013) (1-9)

1. Boulianne, B., M. X. Le, L. A. Ward, L. Meng, D. Haddad, C. Li, A. Martin, and J. L. Gommerman. 2013. AID-Expressing Germinal Center B Cells Cluster Normally within Lymph Node Follicles in the Absence of FDC-M1(+) CD35(+) Follicular Dendritic Cells but Dissipate Prematurely. *Journal of Immunology* 191:4521-4530.
2. Gao, J., M. S. F. McIntyre, C. A. D'Souza, and L. Zhang. 2013. Pretransplant Infusion of Donor B Cells Enhances Donor-Specific Skin Allograft Survival. *Plos One* 8.
3. Gorczynski, R. M., Z. Chen, I. Khatri, A. Podnos, and K. Yu. 2013. Cure of metastatic growth of EMT6 tumor cells in mice following manipulation of CD200:CD200R signaling. *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment* 142:271-282.
4. Jeschke, M. G., C. C. Finnerty, S. Shahrokhi, L. K. Branski, M. Dibildox, A. B. A. Org, and C. Delivery Burn Care. 2013. Wound Coverage Technologies in Burn Care: Novel Techniques. *Journal of Burn Care & Research* 34:612-620.
5. Marsh, A. K., D. O. Willer, A. P. N. Ambagala, M. Dzamba, J. K. Chan, R. Pilon, J. Fournier, M. Brudno, P. Sandstrom, and K. S. MacDonald. 2013. The Development Of an HIV/SIV Vaccine Viral Vector: A Cynomolgus Macaque Cytomegalovirus-Based Approach. *Journal of Medical Primatology* 42:255-255.

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6. Robert-Tissot, C., L. T. Nguyen, P. S. Ohashi, and D. E. Speiser. 2013. Mobilizing and evaluating anticancer T cells: pitfalls and solutions. *Expert Review of Vaccines* 12:1325-1340.
7. Solek, C. M., P. Oliveri, M. Loza-Coll, C. S. Schrankel, E. C. H. Ho, G. Wang, and J. R. Rast. 2013. An ancient role for Gata-1/2/3 and Scl transcription factor homologs in the development of immunocytes. *Developmental Biology* 382:280-292.
8. Sorbara, M. T., L. K. Ellison, M. Ramjeet, L. H. Travassos, N. L. Jones, S. E. Girardin, and D. J. Philpott. 2013. The Protein ATG16L1 Suppresses Inflammatory Cytokines Induced by the Intracellular Sensors Nod1 and Nod2 in an Autophagy-Independent Manner. *Immunity* 39:858-873.
9. Tattoli, I., M. T. Sorbara, C. Yang, S. A. Tooze, D. J. Philpott, and S. E. Girardin. 2013. Listeria phospholipases subvert host autophagic defenses by stalling pre-autophagosomal structures. *The EMBO Journal* 32:3066-3078.

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