

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

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VOL III – ISSUE 4

December 2014

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

I have always enjoyed our annual Immunology Holiday Party, but this year I feel that we had one of the most spectacular parties, ever! For this amazing feat, we have *Sintia Xhiku*, *Simon Eng* and many IGSA members to thank. *Jayne Danska* kept us on pace, as the evening's MC, and she also reminded us why we all just love *IMMpress Magazine*. For those of you who were sitting on the far corners of the Great Hall, perhaps getting a drink, or were not able make it, I am sorry, you missed a wonderful evening. Here is a recap of some key events: the Richard Miller Award was given to *Leesa Pennell* (Fish lab); the Hardi Cinader Prize was given to *Charles Tran* (Ohashi lab); and the Immunology Science Outreach Award (awarded by IGSA) was given to *Yuriy Baglaenko* (Wither lab) and *Charles Tran*. The Department's Graduate Coordinator, Jen Gommerman, recognized faculty members who have served on graduate exams: 3rd place, tied by *Dana Philpott* and *Michele Anderson*, 2nd place, *Jen Gommerman*, and 1st place, *JC Zúñiga-Pflücker*. Yours truly once again won the "Lord of the dance" gold record award, initially held by James Carlyle. The centerpiece competition winners were from the *Anderson* and *Zúñiga-Pflücker* labs. Finally, the main event of the evening was this year's Immunology Fashion show, MC-ed by *Michael Julius*, in which *Gary Chao* and *Philippe Poussier* won with their Nutcracker-inspired soldier and rat king outfits, meticulously created from lab materials. Congratulations to all the winners.

During the evening, we also enjoyed cleverly composed and expertly performed songs by *Jen Gommerman* and *David Williams*. There was also a "traditional" choir, lead by *Kieran Manion* providing ingenious twists on old classics. I recapped a few of the new initiatives that were started in 2014, such as our *Strategic Plan for the Department of Immunology*, our new M.Sc. program in *Applied Immunology*, and highlighted the amazing work done by *Yuriy* and *Charles* in creating *IMMpress Magazine* two

UPCOMING SEMINARS

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

January 5, 2015

- Dr. Joseph C. Sun, PhD
"Molecular programming of immunological memory in natural killer cells."
(Host: Dr. James Carlyle)

January 12, 2015

- NO SEMINAR

January 19, 2015

- Andrea Cerutti, MD, PhD
Title: "TBA"
(Host: Dr. Goetz Ehrhardt)

January 26, 2015

- Wendy Garrett, MD, PhD
"The gut microbiome in colorectal cancer and colitis."
(Host: Dr. Jayne Danska)

GRADUATE SEMINARS – January 2015
Room 2173 MSB at 10:00 a.m.

January 5, 2015

- Alexandra Ling (Supervisor: A. Martin)
- Qiaochu Lin (Supervisor: T. Mallevaey)

January 12, 2015

- Magar Danny Ghazarian (Supervisor: D. Winer)
- Catia Perciani (Supervisor: K. MacDonald)

January 19, 2015

- Nam Yun Kim (Supervisor: J. Wither)
- Jasty Singh (Supervisor: J.C. Zúñiga-Pflücker)

January 26, 2015

- Dennis Lee (Supervisor: J. Gommerman)
- Selena Cen (Supervisor: C. Paige)

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Chair's message continued...

years ago, thanked them for this remarkable achievement, and welcomed *Kieran Manion* and *Catherine Schrankel* as the new co-chief editors. I also announced the creation of a new anonymously-endowed prize to recognize outstanding achievement by our 3rd year Immunology undergraduate students, and that we will be again asking for nomination for the BD-Biosciences Immunology Postdoctoral Lecture Prize, to be

awarded in early June just before our Summer Retreat (June 16-17, 2015). More details on this newly endowed 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 2015.

IMMUNOLOGY SPECIAL SEMINAR

Lynn Wong, PhD

Institute of Experimental Immunology,
University of Zürich
Zürich, Switzerland

(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

“IAPs and RIPs signaling between cell death and inflammation.”

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

11:00 a.m.

Room 7231, Medical Sciences Building
University of Toronto

Candidate for a Faculty Position in Immunology

CONGRATULATIONS

PhD Exam

Korosh Kianizad (Zúñiga-Pflücker lab) – November 19, 2014

Achire Mbanwi (Watts lab) – November 27, 2014

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IGSA

Season's greetings, Immunologists!

We have several events planned for the new year, starting with ice skating followed by a pubnight in January. We will post more details closer to the date and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

Happy Holidays!
IGSA

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (November 2014) ⁽¹⁻⁷⁾

1. Cai, Q., A. Zhao, Y. Yin, L. Ma, Z. Jiao, H. Zhi, S. Lai, S. Cheng, H. Yang, Y. Lu, K. A. Siminovitch, and J. Gao. 2014. Efficient Production of sTNFR1I-gAD Fusion Protein in Large Quantity by Use of the Modified CHO-S Cell Expression System. *Plos One* 9.
2. Clouthier, D. L., A. C. Zhou, and T. H. Watts. 2014. Anti-GITR Agonist Therapy Intrinsically Enhances CD8 T Cell Responses to Chronic Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus (LCMV), Thereby Circumventing LCMV-Induced Downregulation of Costimulatory GITR Ligand on APC. *Journal of Immunology* 193: 5033-5043.
3. Figueiredo, C. A., P. C. Drohomyrecky, S. D. S. McCarthy, D. Leontyev, X.-Z. Ma, D. R. Branch, and S. E. Dunn. 2014. Optimal Attenuation of Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis by Intravenous Immunoglobulin Requires an Intact Interleukin-11 Receptor (vol 9, e101947, 2014). *Plos One* 9.
4. Hirbod, T., X. Kong, G. Kigozi, A. Ndyababo, D. Serwadda, J. L. Prodger, A. A. Tobian, F. Nalugoda, M. J. Wawer, K. Shahabi, O. L. Rojas, J. L. Gommerman, K. Broliden, R. Kaul, and R. H. Gray. 2014. HIV Acquisition Is Associated with Increased Antimicrobial Peptides and Reduced HIV Neutralizing IgA in the Foreskin Prepuce of Uncircumcised Men. *Plos Pathogens* 10.
5. Johnson-Henry, K. C., L. J. Pinnell, A. M. Waskow, T. Irrazabal, A. Martin, M. Hausner, and P. M. Sherman. 2014. Short-Chain Fructo-oligosaccharide and Inulin Modulate Inflammatory Responses and Microbial Communities in Caco2-bbe Cells and in a Mouse Model of Intestinal Injury. *Journal of Nutrition* 144: 1725-1733.

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6. Shalhout, S., D. Haddad, A. Sosin, T. C. Holland, A. Al-Katib, A. Martin, and A. S. Bhagwat. 2014. Genomic Uracil Homeostasis during Normal B Cell Maturation and Loss of This Balance during B Cell Cancer Development. *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 34: 4019-4032.
7. Wong, A. S. L., S. Mortin-Toth, M. Sung, A. J. Canty, O. Gulban, D. R. Greaves, and J. S. Danska. 2014. Polymorphism in the Innate Immune Receptor SIRPalpha Controls CD47 Binding and Autoimmunity in the Nonobese Diabetic Mouse. *Journal of Immunology* 193: 4833-4844.

We'd like to hear from you!
Comments or Questions – Please contact:
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