

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

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VOL II – ISSUE 5

January 2014

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

I trust that you all had a restful, albeit likely very cold break, and now back in full swing, ready for another great year of Immunology research. As we start the winter term, I wanted to share a remarkable milestone for our department's undergraduate teaching mission, one of our courses, IMM 250, The Immune System and Infectious Diseases, coordinated by Profs. Gommerman and Philpott, has yet again reached a class enrollment of nearly 1000 students, which is very telling regarding the relevance and appeal of the course, as well as the quality of instruction, which has fueled an increased interest in Immunology by undergraduate students. With this in mind, we continue to have increasing numbers of undergraduates looking for a summer research experience, as such I am encouraging our faculty members to consider welcoming more undergraduates that belong to our Immunology program into their laboratories. Please see below for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Toronto Human Immunology Network presents:

PANEL DISCUSSIONS IN HUMAN IMMUNOLOGY

Glenn Dranoff, MD
Division of Hematologic Neoplasia
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, MA

<http://www.dfhcc.harvard.edu/membership/profile/member/213/0/>

(Host: Dr. Naoto Hirano)

"Mechanisms of Protective Tumor Immunity."

All Welcome

Monday, February 3, 2014

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Room 7231, Medical Sciences Building
1 King's College Circle, University of Toronto

UPCOMING SEMINARS

EASTON SEMINARS –

February 2014

Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

February 03

- Glenn Dranoff, MD
"Mechanisms of Protective Tumor Immunity."
(Host: Dr. Naoto Hirano)

February 10

- Troy Randall, PhD
"Role of the omentum in peritoneal immune response to tumors and other antigens"
(Host: Immunology Graduate Students)

February 17 - Family Day

February 24

- Kenneth M. Murphy, MD, PhD
"Dendritic cell diversification in immune defense."
(Host: Dr. Jennifer Gommerman)

GRADUATE SEMINARS –

February 2014

Room 3171 MSB at 10:00 a.m.

February 03

- Angela Zhou (Supervisor: T. Watts)
- Shang Xiang (Supervisor: M. Anderson)

February 10

- Andrey Mikhaylov (Supervisor: R. Yeung)
- Justen Russell (Supervisor: K. MacDonald)

February 17 - Family Day

February 24

- Tian Sun (Supervisors: J. Gommerman & D. Philpott)
- Charles Maisonneuve (Supervisor: D. Philpott)

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SPECIAL SEMINARS

Simon A. Hirota, PhD

Assistant Professor
Dept. of Physiology & Pharmacology
Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology
& Infectious Diseases
Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases
University of Calgary
Calgary, AB

(Hosts: Dr. Thierry Mallevaey
and Dr. Dana Philpott)

“Xenobiotic sensing and the regulation of
intestinal mucosal homeostasis.”

Friday, February 7, 2014
11:00 a.m.
Room 4279 Medical Sciences Building
University of Toronto

Navdeep S. Chandel, PhD

Professor of Medicine & Cell Biology
Northwestern University
Department of Medicine/Division of Pulmonary
& Critical Care Medicine
Chicago, IL

<http://www.biology.northwestern.edu/igp/faculty/chandel/index.html>

(Host: Dr. Tak Mak)

“Mitochondrial metabolism regulates
immunity.”

Friday, February 28, 2014
9:30 a.m.
Room 7231 Medical Sciences Building
University of Toronto

CONGRATULATIONS

PhD

Dr. Behrouz Moemeni – December 13, 2013 (Julius lab)
Dr. Stephen Huang – December 17, 2013 (Kelvin lab)

Reclassification Exam

Ashleigh Goethel – December 16, 2013 (Philpott/Croituru labs)

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, indicating how many students are being recruited, and available projects, if known.

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Faculty Supervisors - Immunology Summer Student Research Program 2014

Faculty members who would like to have an undergraduate summer student in their lab this year are asked to send a message to undergraduate.immunology@utoronto.ca indicating the project title or area of research, and number of students sought.

IGSA

Happy New Year Immunologists!

We hope you all had a relaxing holiday and are ready to take on 2014! We have a number of events and announcements for January so let's get to it!

- January 28th: Blackboard Immunology with Dr. Robbins at Fox and the Fiddle, 6pm. Light refreshments and a discussion of Dr. Robbins' career path to the Department of Immunology. Come with your questions! RSVP to Jasty (jastaran.singh@mail.utoronto.ca).

- January 29th: Ice skating, 7pm at the Natrel Rink (Harbourfront). IGSA will cover rentals and there will be a pub night to follow. RSVP (and let us know if you need rental skates) to Nichole (nichole.escalante@mail.utoronto.ca).

We have a number of events coming up in February as well so be sure to look out for announcements!

A reminder to grad students that IMMSA is partnering with IGSA to give IMM undergraduate students the chance to get to know more about the lab and research. Each interested undergrad will be paired with one grad student and shadow them for a day during reading week (February 18-21). Interested graduate students are asked to send Kieran an e-mail (kieran.manion@mail.utoronto.ca) with their availability for the week.

IGSA is recruiting interested students from the department for this year's IMM retreat video. If you're interested in acting, writing, filming, or final production of the retreat video, please get in touch with Kieran (kieran.manion@mail.utoronto.ca).

Finally, IGSA would like to remind second year students about our upper year mentors and that we are willing to set up practice exams (for those re-classifying or qualifying this spring/summer). If you have any questions about the program or want to participate, please send Tracy an e-mail (tracy.in@mail.utoronto.ca). We are also available to answer any questions about the new committee forms, committee meetings and grad school in general!

Here's to another great year in the Department of Immunology!

-- IGSA

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PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (December 2013) (1-10)

1. Akram, A., and R. D. Inman. 2013. Co-expression of HLA-B7 and HLA-B27 alleles is associated with B7-restricted immunodominant responses following influenza infection. *European Journal of Immunology* 43:3254-3267.
2. Amini-Nik, S., and M. G. Jeschke. 2013. What's New in Shock? December 2013. *Shock (Augusta, Ga.)* 40:441-443.
3. Awong, G., J. Singh, M. Mohtashami, M. Malm, R. N. La Motte-Mohs, P. M. Benveniste, P. Serra, E. Herer, M. R. van den Brink, and J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker. 2013. Human proT-cells generated in vitro facilitate hematopoietic stem cell-derived T-lymphopoiesis in vivo and restore thymic architecture. *Blood* 122:4210-4219.
4. Boulianne, B., O. L. Rojas, D. Haddad, A. Zaheen, A. Kapelnikov, N. Thanh, C. Li, R. Hakem, J. L. Gommerman, and A. Martin. 2013. AID and Caspase 8 Shape the Germinal Center Response through Apoptosis. *Journal of Immunology* 191:5840-5847.
5. Dokouhaki, P., N. W. Schuh, B. Joe, C. A. D. Allen, S. D. Der, M.-S. Tsao, and L. Zhang. 2013. NKG2D regulates production of soluble TRAIL by ex vivo expanded human gamma delta T cells. *European Journal of Immunology* 43:3175-3182.
6. Hiyama, Y., A. H. Marshall, R. Kraft, A. Arno, and M. G. Jeschke. 2013. Fenofibrate does not affect burn-induced hepatic endoplasmic reticulum stress. *Journal of Surgical Research* 185:733-739.
7. Jones, R. B., H. Song, Y. Xu, K. E. Garrison, A. A. Buzdin, N. Anwar, D. V. Hunter, S. Mujib, V. Mihajlovic, E. Martin, E. Lee, M. Kuciak, R. A. S. Raposo, A. Bozorgzad, D. A. Meiklejohn, L. C. Ndhlovu, D. F. Nixon, and M. A. Ostrowski. 2013. LINE-1 Retrotransposable Element DNA Accumulates in HIV-1-Infected Cells. *Journal of Virology* 87:13307-13320.
8. McFall, E., M. M. Tu, N. Al-Khattabi, L.-H. Tai, A. S. St-Laurent, V. Tzankova, C. W. Hall, S. Belanger, A. D. Troke, A. Wight, A. B. Mahmoud, H. S. Zein, M. M. A. Rahim, J. R. Carlyle, and A. P. Makrigiannis. 2013. Optimized Tetramer Analysis Reveals Ly49 Promiscuity for MHC Ligands. *Journal of Immunology* 191:5722-5729.
9. Selvanantham, T., N. K. Escalante, M. C. Tleugabulova, S. Fieve, S. E. Girardin, D. J. Philpott, and T. Mallevey. 2013. Nod1 and Nod2 Enhance TLR-Mediated Invariant NKT Cell Activation during Bacterial Infection. *Journal of Immunology* 191:5646-5654.
10. Zanello, G., A. Goethel, K. Forster, K. Geddes, D. J. Philpott, and K. Croitoru. 2013. Nod2 Activates NF- κ B in CD4(+) T Cells but Its Expression Is Dispensable for T Cell-Induced Colitis. *Plos One* 8.

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