

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

“Best IMM retreat ever”, I overheard some saying. Indeed, last week’s 7th annual retreat was astounding, and we owe its success to the enormous and extraordinary efforts of our Immunology Graduate Student Association and its co-presidents Alessandra and Elisa. Kudos to all for putting together such a terrific retreat. Additionally, the keynote speaker, Adrian Hayday, was wonderful and helped to make this a truly memorable retreat.

Congratulations to the poster and oral presentation winners. In case you missed them, we will be displaying the winning posters in the 7th floor of the MSB, near the Immunology office.

The retreat together with the presentation of the new *BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize* by this year’s winner Dr. Dirk Brenner, from the Mak lab, the day before our trip to Geneva Park, was a delightful way to start off the week in which we celebrated Immunology at UofT.

This is the last issue of the Immunology Newsletter for this academic year, and we will restart in late September 2013. In the meantime, best wishes for a productive summer.

AWARDS

On June 17th 2013, the *BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture*, entitled: “The regulation of NF- κ B and its implication in autoimmune responses” was

given by Dr. Dirk Brenner, a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Mak’s laboratory. Representatives from BD-Biosciences presented the awards, a \$2,500 lecture prize and a \$500 voucher to the Mak laboratory. Shown above are: JC Zúñiga-Pflücker, Scott Hayes (BD), Tak Mak, Dirk Brenner, and Pedro Schildknecht (BD).



UPCOMING SEMINARS

**EASTON SEMINARS –
Will resume in September**

**GRADUATE SEMINARS –
Will resume in September**

SPECIAL SEMINARS

Dr. Sergei Nedospasov

Lomonosov Moscow State University,
Engelhardt Institute of Molecular Biology,
Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow
German Rheumatism Research Center,
Berlin

(Host: Dr. Jennifer Gommerman)

“TNF physiological functions as defined in engineered mice.”

Friday, July 5, 2013
Room 2172, Medical Sciences Building
University of Toronto

Dr. David Woodland

Chief Scientific Officer of Keystone Symposia,
Silverthorne, Colorado

(Host: Dr. Tania Watts)

“Regulation of T cell Responses to M. tuberculosis Infection.”

Friday, August 2, 2013
2:00 p.m.
Room 3171, Medical Sciences Building
University of Toronto

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Undergraduate Summer Research Presentations

Join us for the Immunology Summer Student Research Program (ISSRP) final presentations on Thursday, July 25th in the Immunology Conference Room (MS7231). Coffee will be served at 9:45am with presentations to start at 10:00am. Students participating in the ISSRP are reminded that they are required to attend all presentations that day.

CONGRATULATIONS

PhD Exam

Dr. Evelyn Pau (Wither Lab) – May 29, 2013

Dr. Henry Becker (Hay and Cybulsky Lab) – June 5, 2013

Reclassification / Qualifying Exams

Kieran Manion (Wither lab) Reclassified – June 7, 2013

DEADLINES/REMINDERS

July 2013 / ASAP (First-Year Students): All first-year students in a degree program admitted for September 2012 should have already had their first supervisory committee meeting. January admits should have their first meeting by August 2013.

September 3, 2013: SGS Graduate Orientation 2013. For more information, see <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/gradroom/gradorientation.htm>

IGSA

UPCOMING IGSA EVENTS

June 28th – Career Development Workshop

Registration for the joint Immunology/Biochemistry career workshop is open until June 27th, but space is limited, so sign up today! <http://www.asbmb.org/careersymposia.aspx>.

Location: Northrop Frye Hall

Time: 9:00am

Cost: Free

July 26th – Faculty of Medicine Summer Social

Longing for another chance to socialize with the diverse array of students in the Faculty of Medicine? Well, here's your chance! Come mingle and celebrate summer at Toronto's fancy Loft 404 in the heart of the downtown.

Location: Loft 404

Time: 7:00pm

Cost: \$26/person

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Late July - IGSA Election + Election Pub

Do you yearn for power and influence beyond your graduate status? Do you have opinions and ideas that need to be heard? Do you read the monthly newsletters and think, "Pssh, I could do that!"? If so, a position on IGSA may be right for you! Stay tuned for details.

August - IMM goes to Wonderland

Come out with IGSA and trade in the ups and downs of lab work for a real roller coaster ride at Canada's Wonderland! Details and cost will be announced closer to the date.

KEEP CALM AND RECLASS

That's right folks, it's that time of year again- birds are singing, the sun is shining, and second-year grads are frantically studying for their reclassification/qualifying exams. But never fear! Your friendly neighbourhood upper year mentors are just an email away. Be sure to make the most of this amazing resource! Check out the October newsletter for the full list:

<http://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/about/newsletter.htm>

IMMSA

We at IMMSA sincerely hope that your Summer is a fun and productive one!

After all the cold and gloomy weather you may be thinking summertime is the perfect season for relaxing in the sun, hanging out with friends, and taking a break from school... and it is! However, IMMSA would like to remind you to stay on top of your academics and career planning. When it comes to admissions for Graduate school, Professional school, Scholarships, etc. summer break might just be the right time to work on application materials. Try to maintain that all-important balance especially during your summer down-time, when you may be tempted to loft around all week. Furthermore, summertime is an excellent opportunity to explore personal interests.

All this continued work into your 'summer vacation time', eh? We understand how this may be depressing, or even cause severe burn-out, so let us at IMMSA cheer you up with a FREE Summer Luncheon on June 24th, from 10am-1pm, at MS2173, right after the Summer IMM250H1 final!

Here's to wishing for better weather as the days pass by for more outdoor activities, longer days for the all-important test prep courses and summer school, and of course, summer research!

Warmest regards,

The Immunology Student Association executives.

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Volunteering with Let's Talk Science Outreach University of Toronto, St. George



Turn kids into Scientists. Become a Let's Talk Science volunteer!

What is Let's Talk Science? Let's Talk Science is a national science outreach program that strives to improve science literacy in the community through innovative, interactive and hands-on educational programs. We motivate and empower youth (Kindergarten through Grade 12) to use science, technology, engineering and mathematics to develop critical skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to thrive in our world.

Why become a volunteer? As a Let's Talk Science volunteer, you have the opportunity to develop your communication, teaching and leadership skills while having fun sharing your excitement for science with youth! You have the flexibility to sign up for events that fit around your schedule, and you might even inspire a future immunologist!

Let's Talk Science (St. George) has also recently partnered with the *Graduate Professional Skills (GPS) Program* from the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto. This means that Let's Talk Science Graduate volunteers are able to *earn up to 7 GPS credits* for their involvement. Learn more here: <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/informationfor/students/profdev/gps.htm>

What do our volunteers do? Throughout the year, our volunteers partake in a variety of outreach activities, including *Immunology Day*, *StemCellTalks Symposium*, the *All Science Challenge*, and a large variety of classroom visits to deliver "hands-on/minds-on" science workshops.

Want to become a Let's Talk Science volunteer? If you are a Graduate student, Post Doctoral Fellow, or Faculty that is interested in getting involved with the Let's Talk Science at the University of Toronto (St. George), simply visit us at <https://lts.escalator.utoronto.ca/home/how-to-volunteer/>. Please contact us at lts.grad@utoronto.ca if you have any questions or comments.

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PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (May 2013) ⁽¹⁻⁸⁾

1. Borbely, E., Z. Hajna, K. Sandor, L. Kereskai, I. Toth, E. Pinter, P. Nagy, J. Szolcsanyi, J. Quinn, A. Zimmer, J. Stewart, C. Paige, A. Berger, and Z. Helyes. 2013. Role of Tachykinin 1 and 4 Gene-Derived Neuropeptides and the Neurokinin 1 Receptor in Adjuvant-Induced Chronic Arthritis of the Mouse. *Plos One* 8.
2. Galicia, G., B. Boulianne, N. Pikor, A. Martin, and J. L. Gommerman. 2013. Secondary B Cell Receptor Diversification Is Necessary for T Cell Mediated Neuro-Inflammation during Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis. *Plos One* 8.
3. Kar, S. P., M. F. Seldin, W. Chen, E. Lu, G. M. Hirschfield, P. Invernizzi, J. Heathcote, D. Cusi, M. E. Gershwin, K. A. Siminovitch, C. I. Amos, and P. B. C. G. S. G. Italian. 2013. Pathway-based analysis of primary biliary cirrhosis genome-wide association studies. *Genes and Immunity* 14:179-186.
4. Lin, G. H. Y., L. M. Snell, M. E. Wortzman, D. L. Clouthier, and T. H. Watts. 2013. GITR-Dependent Regulation of 4-1BB Expression: Implications for T Cell Memory and Anti-4-1BB-Induced Pathology. *Journal of Immunology* 190:4627-4639.
5. Montbarbon, M., M. Pichavant, A. Langlois, E. Erdual, F. Maggiotto, C. Neut, T. Mallevaey, S. Dharancy, L. Dubuquoy, F. Trottein, A. Cortot, P. Desreumaux, P. Gosset, and B. Bertin. 2013. Colonic Inflammation in Mice Is Improved by Cigarette Smoke through iNKT Cells Recruitment. *Plos One* 8.
6. Robertson, S. J., J. Y. Zhou, K. Geddes, S. J. Rubino, J. H. Cho, S. E. Girardin, and D. J. Philpott. 2013. Nod1 and Nod2 signaling does not alter the composition of intestinal bacterial communities at homeostasis. *Gut microbes* 4:222-231.
7. Sabbagh, L., D. Andreeva, G. D. Laramee, N. A. E. Oussa, D. Lew, N. Bisson, Y. Soumounou, T. Pawson, and T. H. Watts. 2013. Leukocyte-specific protein 1 links TNF receptor-associated factor 1 to survival signaling downstream of 4-1BB in T cells. *Journal of Leukocyte Biology* 93:713-721.
8. Spaner, D. E., E. Lee, Y. Shi, F. Wen, Y. Li, S. Tung, L. McCaw, K. Wong, H. Gary-Gouy, A. Dalloul, R. Ceddia, and R. Gorzycynski. 2013. PPAR-alpha is a therapeutic target for chronic lymphocytic leukemia. *Leukemia* 27:1090-1099.

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