

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

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VOL II – ISSUE 10

June 2014

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

“Best rainy IMM retreat ever”, I overheard some saying. Indeed, even with the unprecedented bit of rain, the 8th 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 Kieran and Darrin. Kudos to all for putting together such a terrific retreat. Additionally, the keynote speaker, Charlie Surh, was wonderful and helped to make this a truly memorable retreat.

Congratulations to the oral and poster 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 award for the best oral presentation by a graduate student went to by Dan Chapman (Williams lab), and by a postdoctoral fellow to Xavier Revelo (Winer lab). The 1st place poster presentation award went to Justen Hoffman Russell (MacDonald lab), and we had a tie for a 2nd place, with awards going to Ben Wang (Fish lab) and Mayra Cruz Tleugabulova (Mallevaey lab).

The retreat together with the presentation of the 2nd *BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize* by this year’s winner Dr. Antoaneta Belcheva, from the Martin 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.

Speaking of celebrating Immunology at UofT, please check out the [U of T Bulletin article](#) featuring our very own Jen Gommerman, which as pointed out

below by Tania Watts in the Toronto Human Immunology Network section, includes the official announcement that Jen Gommerman (lead PI) and colleagues have received the 2013-2014 Connaught Global Challenge award of \$1M, for their proposal on Global Migration and Chronic Inflammatory Disease.

This month another excellent issue of *IMMpress Magazine* was released, and faculty and alumni should be on the lookout for their own copy arriving shortly, which will be sent along with a copy of the Department of Immunology’s Strategic Plan, both will be great reads for the summer. Once again, congrats to the *IMMpress* team for their brilliant initiative in creating another outstanding and very timely issue.

As most of you know, this year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Department of Immunology, and we will be celebrating this milestone on November 14th, 2014 – so please mark your calendars.

Lastly, this is the last issue of the Immunology Newsletter for this academic year, and we will restart in late September 2014. In the meantime, best wishes for a productive summer.

Mark Your Calendar

November 14th, 2014 for the celebration of 30th Anniversary of the Department of Immunology.

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Awards

On June 16th 2014, the *BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture*, entitled: "Gut microbial metabolism drives transformation of Msh2-deficient colon epithelial cells" was given by Dr. Antoaneta Belcheva, a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Martin's laboratory. A representative from BD-Biosciences presented the following awards, a \$2,500 lecture prize and a \$500 voucher to the Martin laboratory. Shown on the right are: Alberto Martin, Scott Hayes (BD), Antoaneta Belcheva, and JC Zúñiga-Pflücker.



SPECIAL SEMINARS

Mansour Haeryfar, PhD

Canada Research Chair in Viral Immunity & Pathogenesis
Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology
Western University, London, ON
<http://publish.uwo.ca/~mhaeryfa/>

(Host: Dr. Jennifer Gommerman)

"Inhibition of mTOR to Boost Antitumor Immunity: Towards Resolving a Paradox?"

Monday, July 7, 2014
2:00 p.m.
MSB Room 4171
University of Toronto

Todd Allen, PhD

Associate Professor in Medicine
Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT, and Harvard, Cambridge, MA
<http://www.hms.harvard.edu/DMS/virology/fac/allen.php>
<http://ragoninstitute.org/portfolio-item/allen-lab/>

(Host: Dr. Rupert Kaul)

"Viral Signatures of Immune Control of HIV and HCV."

Tuesday, July 8, 2014
2:00 p.m.
MSB Room 4171
University of Toronto

Jim Kaufman, PhD

Professor,
Department of Pathology
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, UK
<http://www.path.cam.ac.uk/research/investigators/kaufman/>

(Host: Dr. Christopher Paige)

"Some new concepts from the MHC: generalists and *specialists*?"

Monday, July 21, 2014
11:00 a.m.
MC Room 254
University of Toronto

CONGRATULATIONS

MSc

Korris Lee – May 8, 2014 (Rottapel lab)
Daniel Chan – May 16, 2014 (Yeung lab)

Reclassification / Qualifying Exams

Jasty Singh – May 27, 2014 (Zuniga-Pflucker lab)

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DEADLINES/REMINDERS

July 2014 / ASAP (First-Year Students): All first-year students in a degree program admitted for September 2013 should have already had their first supervisory committee meeting. January admits should have their first meeting by August 2014.

September 2, 2014: SGS Graduate Orientation 2014. More information will be available at <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/>

IGSA

Hello immunologists!

Nature Jobs Blog. Part 1. Where do all the alumni go?

<http://blogs.nature.com/naturejobs/2014/05/22/where-do-all-the-alumni-go>

It seems we've finally made it to summer! We hope that everyone enjoyed the retreat if you had the chance to attend and we look forward to seeing you this summer at our events. These include:

- IGSA election pub (in July, date TBD). An election announcement and details regarding how to run will be sent out in July before the election.
- Summer social (date TBD) we are in the planning phase of getting an interdepartmental event scheduled. Keep your eyes on your email for more details
- Softball team: there is a softball team for our department playing in the intramural league this summer. If you didn't sign up but want to know more, contact Eric (eric.gracey@utoronto.ca)
- Annual picnic: in August, keep on the lookout for more details

Have a great summer everyone!

- **IGSA**

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Toronto Human Immunology Network

<http://www.humanimmunology.utoronto.ca>

email: humanimmunology@utoronto.ca

On June 17, 2014, Dr. Paul Young, VP research and innovation at the University of Toronto announced the 2013-2014 Connaught Global Challenge award of \$1M to Dr. Jen Gommerman and colleagues for their proposal on Global Migration and Chronic Inflammatory Disease.

The Toronto Human Immunology Network looks forward to working with Dr. Gommerman and colleagues on this important initiative.

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (May 2014) (1-12)

1. Duvvuri, B., V. R. Duvvuri, C. Wang, L. Chen, L. E. Wagar, V. Jamnik, J. Wu, R. S. M. Yeung, J. Grigull, T. H. Watts, and G. E. Wu. 2014. The Human Immune System Recognizes Neopeptides Derived from Mitochondrial DNA Deletions. *Journal of Immunology* 192: 4581-4591.
2. Irrazabal, T., A. Belcheva, S. E. Girardin, A. Martin, and D. J. Philpott. 2014. The Multifaceted Role of the Intestinal Microbiota in Colon Cancer. *Molecular Cell* 54: 309-320.
3. Irving, A. T., H. Mimuro, T. A. Kufer, C. Lo, R. Wheeler, L. J. Turner, B. J. Thomas, C. Malosse, M. P. Gantier, L. N. Casillas, B. J. Votta, J. Bertin, I. G. Boneca, C. Sasakawa, D. J. Philpott, R. L. Ferrero, and M. Kaparakis-Liaskos. 2014. The Immune Receptor NOD1 and Kinase RIP2 Interact with Bacterial Peptidoglycan on Early Endosomes to Promote Autophagy and Inflammatory Signaling. *Cell Host & Microbe* 15: 623-635.
4. Jeschke, M. G., R. Pinto, D. N. Herndon, C. C. Finnerty, and R. Kraft. 2014. Hypoglycemia Is Associated With Increased Postburn Morbidity and Mortality in Pediatric Patients*. *Critical Care Medicine* 42: 1221-1231.

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5. Lahiji, A., M. Kucerova-Levisohn, R. Holmes, J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker, and B. D. Ortiz. 2014. Adapting in vitro embryonic stem cell differentiation to the study of locus control regions. *Journal of Immunological Methods* 407: 135-145.
6. Male, V., I. Nisoli, T. Kostrzewski, D. S. J. Allan, J. R. Carlyle, G. M. Lord, A. Wack, and H. J. M. Brady. 2014. The transcription factor E4bp4/Nfil3 controls commitment to the NK lineage and directly regulates Eomes and Id2 expression. *Journal of Experimental Medicine* 211: 635-642.
7. Pennell, L. M., and E. N. Fish. 2014. Immunoregulatory Effects of Interferon-beta in Suppression of Th17 cells. *Journal of Interferon and Cytokine Research* 34: 330-341.
8. Perova, T., I. Grandal, L. M. J. Nutter, E. Papp, I. R. Matei, J. Beyene, P. E. Kowalski, J. K. Hitzler, M. D. Minden, C. J. Guidos, and J. S. Danska. 2014. Therapeutic Potential of Spleen Tyrosine Kinase Inhibition for Treating High-Risk Precursor B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. *Science Translational Medicine* 6: 236ra62.
9. Shah, D. K., and J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker. 2014. An Overview of the Intrathymic Intricacies of T Cell Development. *Journal of Immunology* 192: 4017-4023.
10. Szitter, I., E. Pinter, A. Perkecz, A. Kemeny, J. Kun, L. Kereskai, C. Pietra, J. P. Quinn, A. Zimmer, A. Berger, C. J. Paige, and Z. Helyes. 2014. Role of neurokinin 1 receptors in dextran sulfate-induced colitis: studies with gene-deleted mice and the selective receptor antagonist netupitant. *Inflammation Research* 63: 399-409.
11. Wang, L., D. Opland, S. Tsai, C. T. Luk, S. A. Schroer, M. B. Allison, A. J. Elia, C. Furlonger, A. Suzuki, C. J. Paige, T. W. Mak, D. A. Winer, M. G. Myers, Jr., and M. Woo. 2014. Pten deletion in RIP-Cre neurons protects against type 2 diabetes by activating the anti-inflammatory reflex. *Nature Medicine* 20: 488-496.
12. Zuniga-Pflucker, J. C. 2014. New role identified for LRR-containing proteins in T cell development. *The Journal of Experimental Medicine* 211: 746-747.

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