

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

image provided by Lori Waters

VOL III – ISSUE 7

March 2015

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

At our upcoming Departmental Faculty Meeting, we will have the pleasure of having our new Dean of Medicine Prof. Trevor Young, share with us his vision for medical research at the University of Toronto. We will also learn more about our newest initiatives, the integration of the Department of Immunology's research enterprise and the new *Applied Immunology* M.Sc. program from our Research Projects Officer.

I want to extend my best wishes to those up for the IMMSA In-Course Scholarship, which is an initiative from our undergraduate student leadership to recognize the excellence among our undergraduate students in Immunology. Good luck to our IMMSA Biojeopardy team, details below. Additionally, take note of the upcoming **OQUIC** event, which will again feature the research accomplishments from our undergraduates, as they present their work and compete with their peers across Ontario and Quebec.

We are now entering reclass/qualifying exam season, with this in mind, I would like to encourage our 2<sup>nd</sup> year graduate students to have their proposals approved and submitted on time, and thank our faculty, in particular members of the graduate committee, for making time to read the proposals and participate in the examination process.

Lastly, please note the call for nominations for the **3rd Annual BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize**. The winner of this prize will deliver a lecture on June 15th, a day before our annual *Department of Immunology Summer Retreat*, June 16-17th.

### UPCOMING SEMINARS

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

##### **April 06**

- Easter Monday – No Seminar

##### **April 13**

- Robert Vonderheide, MD, DPhil  
*"Inflammatory networks and immune surveillance of cancer."*  
(Host: Dr. Naoto Hirano)

##### **April 20**

- Martin F. Flajnik, PhD  
*"Emergence and evolution of secondary lymphoid tissues."*  
(Host: Dr. Jonathan Rast)

##### **April 27**

- Tobias R. Kollman, MD, PhD  
*"tba"*  
(Host: Dr. Eleanor Fish)

#### **GRADUATE SEMINARS – April 2015 Room 2173 MSB at 10:00 a.m.**

##### **April 06**

- Tiantian Zhao (Supervisor: B. Treanor)
- Rodney Rousseau (Supervisor: R. Kaul)

##### **April 13**

- Minsoo Yoon (Supervisor: R. Yeung)
- Seong Jun Han (Supervisor: P. Ohashi)
- Lysa Langevin (Supervisor: R. Yeung)

##### **April 20**

- Miki Gams (Supervisor: C. Guidos)
- Kelly Tai (Supervisors: J. Jongstra-Bilen/Cybulsky)
- Kaveh Farrokhi (Supervisor: G. Levy)

##### **April 27**

- Elisabeth Foerster (Supervisor: D. Philpott)
- Yu-Han Chang (Supervisor: T. Watts)
- Alicia Fisch (Supervisor: R. Yeung)

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### WELCOME

#### Staff:

Arlayna Clarke, Secretary, Department of Immunology.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Departmental Faculty Meeting:  
Monday, March 23rd, 11:10am, Seeley Hall, Trinity College.

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### **BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize**

#### Call for Nominations:

The Department of Immunology is pleased to announce that it is now accepting nominations of outstanding postdoctoral fellows for the *BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize*. This award is made possible by a generous gift from BD Biosciences.

**Award:** The award consists of a \$2,500 prize for the postdoctoral fellow, and a \$500 gift certificate from BD Biosciences for the laboratory of the principal investigator.

**Nominations:** Faculty members of the Department of Immunology can nominate a postdoc in their lab. Please provide a nominating letter, and a CV of the nominated postdoctoral fellow, to be submitted electronically to [chair.immunology@utoronto.ca](mailto:chair.immunology@utoronto.ca).

**Deadline:** May 8, 2015 (5:00 pm) is the deadline for nominations. The winner will be announced on May 25, 2015, before the start of the Easton Seminar.

**Date of Lecture & Award Presentation:** Monday, June 15, 2014 is when the BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture, and prize presentation will take place.

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### SPECIAL SEMINARS

#### **Dr. Robert Silverman**

Department of Cancer Biology  
Lerner Research Institute  
Cleveland Clinic  
Cleveland, Ohio

(Host: Dr. Eleanor Fish)

*“RNase L Activates the NLRP3  
Inflammasome During Viral  
Infections.”*

Wednesday, April 1, 2015  
4:00 p.m.  
Room 7231, MSB  
University of Toronto

#### **Lena Serghides, PhD**

Scientist, Toronto General  
Research Institute  
University Health Network  
Toronto, ON

(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-  
Pflücker)

*“HIV and Pregnancy:  
Why do HIV+ pregnant women  
have more adverse birth  
outcomes?”*

Thursday, April 23, 2015  
11:00 a.m.  
Room 4279, MSB  
University of Toronto

*A candidate for cross-  
appointment to the Department  
of Immunology*

#### **Daniel De Carvalho, PhD**

Department of Medical  
Biophysics  
Princess Margaret Cancer  
Centre  
Toronto, ON

(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-  
Pflücker)

*“Mechanistic insight into the  
durable antitumor effect of  
DNA demethylating agents in  
colorectal cancer: Importance  
of the virus defense sensing  
pathways.”*

Thursday, April 30, 2015  
11:00 a.m.  
Room 4279, MSB  
University of Toronto

*A candidate for cross-  
appointment to the Department  
of Immunology*

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### UNDERGRADUATE

#### **Scholarship in Immunology as a Platform for Sustainable International Partnership**

The major objective of this collaborative scholarship program is to cultivate the next generation of leaders in Canada, Kenya and India, who will apply both academic expertise and cultural/societal understanding to reduce the burden of disease in specific areas of global health. Areas of focus are: (1) women’s health, (2) infectious diseases, (3) cancer, and (4) life sciences technology commercialization/implementation. This initiative will build on existing academic and research expertise, and existing graduate programs at the respective institutions.

By partnering with Engineers Without Borders, The Elizabeth Fry Society, Studio Y within the MaRS Discovery District, The Centre for International Exchange (CIE), Community Action for Families, and the Dream Team, scholars and interns will learn of local community issues and engage in outreach activities beyond their scientific and academic studies. The Impact Centre at the University of Toronto will act as a partner for the program by acting as a platform where research discoveries are developed and translated to products for commercialization. The intent is to engage The Impact Centre in activities that will provide for innovative solutions to health and social issues in Canada, Kenya and India. Internship placements will be for academic credit at the University of Toronto.

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### Toronto Human Immunology Network

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

email: [humanimmunology@utoronto.ca](mailto:humanimmunology@utoronto.ca)

presents:

#### Panel Discussions in Human Immunology

**Dr. Robert Vonderheide, MD, DPhil**  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA

(Host: Dr. Naoto Hirano)

Topic: "Who responds to immune therapy and how can we extend its reach?"

Monday, April 13, 2015  
Room 7231, MSB  
5:00-6:00 p.m.  
*All welcome*

**Dr. Tobias R. Kollman, MD, PhD**  
Senior Clinician Scientist, CFRI  
Associate Professor  
Pediatric Infectious & Immunological Diseases  
BC Children's Hospital  
& University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, BC

(Host: Dr. Eleanor Fish)

Topic: "tba"

Monday, April 27, 2015  
Room 7231, MSB  
5:00-6:00 p.m.  
*All welcome*

**IGSA** Hello immunologists!

Spring is finally here! We have several events lined up for you this month and we hope to see you there!

#### **1) BBI with Dr. Jen Gommerman**

The OGS deadline is soon approaching and IGSA is here for you! To give you more perspective on how to write THE award-winning scholarship application, our next Blackboard Immunology session will feature Dr. Jen Gommerman. Dr. Gommerman has served on numerous scholarship

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committee panels and will be facilitating a one-of-a-kind interactive workshop - come prepared with working copies of your current CV/research proposal for advice from Dr. Gommerman as well as Upper-year students in our department. This event is guaranteed to be useful for all interested in improving their chances of securing scholarships and funding (students and postdocs included)!

Date: March 24, 2015

Location: Fox and Fiddle (280 Bloor Street West)

Time: 6-9PM

\*\*Spaces are limited, so please RSVP to Eddy ([eddy.chen@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:eddy.chen@mail.utoronto.ca)) or Jasty ([jastaran.singh@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:jastaran.singh@mail.utoronto.ca)) if you would like to attend.

### **2) Interdepartmental Trivia Night**

Looking for a chance to prove your brains in fields beyond Immunology? Have a smart friend you can ride on the coat tails of? Like to laugh at know it alls who know not quite all? All kinds are welcome at the Interdepartmental Trivia Night. Teams of 4-5 will square off against the best minds grad school has to offer, and some other people.

Date: March 25, 2015

Location: O'Grady's Tap & Grill

Time: 7:30PM

\*\*Please register your teams with Mark: [mark.gower@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:mark.gower@mail.utoronto.ca)

### **3) IGSA PIETokine Storm**

IGSA is excited to bring you its first ever PIETokine Storm fundraiser to support the Canadian Cancer Society! Let off some steam, have some fun and pie that person who used up the last of your antibodies. Or maybe pie the entirety of the lab next to you just because you can.

Here's how it works. **\$5 buys you a pie and a target.** On **April 1st** IGSA will deliver that pie directly into your targets face.

But choose your target wisely, for \$10 that pie can redirected back at you instead! \$15 re-redirects. \$20 re-re-redirects and so forth.

All proceeds go to charity. As an added bonus all money spent on pies goes towards meeting our benchmark goals. **For every \$50 raised above the first \$100 there will be a public pieing.** To get all the details, or see the list of benchmarks check out the website :

[www.igsauoft.com/pietokine](http://www.igsauoft.com/pietokine)

- IGSA



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### IMMSA

Hello Immunology undergrads!

Firstly, please be reminded that our In-course Immunology scholarship's deadline is March 20th at 11:59pm. Getting that out of the way, we would like to thank everyone who came out to IMMSA's Graduate School Seminar hosted by Dr. Gommerman. It was a very informative talk which expanded our perspectives on research with the Immunology department. For more information see: <http://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/graduate/admissions.htm>

For upcoming events we have:

An Academic talk entitled "FGL2, an important regulator of transplant tolerance and viral hepatitis" with Dr. Gary Levy at Trinity College's JCR at 12:00-1:30pm on March 26th (Thursday). Free food and beverages will be provided. After this academic talk, IMMSA is co-hosting **BIOJEOPARDY** with BUSS, LMPSU, CSBSU, MGYSU and UPSA, which will also take place on March 26th, 4-7pm at LM159. Biojeopardy will be one of the most fun events for cross-POST collaborations, so please don't miss it! We need Immunology Undergraduates to come and beat the other science POSTs to win that sweet trophy!

Furthermore, we have our end-of-term Spring elections on March 27th (Friday), 4-6pm at MSB7231. Positions Available: Two Co-Presidents (please run in pairs), One Vice-President, One Secretary, One Sr. Events Coordinator, One Sr. Treasurer, One 4th-Year Representative, One 3rd-Year Specialist Representative, One 3rd-Year Major Representative, and One Sr. Webmaster. Free food and beverages will be given.

Don't forget to check out <http://instagram.com/immsagram> . If you have any photos you would like to send in for immsagram please email them to [immsa.immunology@gmail.com](mailto:immsa.immunology@gmail.com). We are also now accepting abstracts for OQUIC 2015, please email us at [immsa.immunology@gmail.com](mailto:immsa.immunology@gmail.com) for more information on registration. OQUIC is a two day, all expenses paid (including transportation, food, accommodation), conference that features undergraduate researchers in the field of immunology.

Best regards,

**Karen Jia & Johnathan Lau**

Immunology Students Association (IMMSA) Co-Presidents

<http://immsauoft.com> | [@IMMSA\\_UofT](https://www.instagram.com/immsagram) | <http://facebook.com/IMMSA.UofT>

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### PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (February 2015) (1-4)

1. Clark, C. A., K. A. Spitzer, and C. A. Laskin. 2015. Obstetric Antiphospholipid Syndrome: Has the Black Swan Swallowed a Red Herring? *Journal of Rheumatology* 42: 155-157.
2. Paget, C., M. T. Chow, N. A. Gherardin, P. A. Beavis, A. P. Uldrich, H. Duret, M. Hassane, F. Souza-Fonseca-Guimaraes, D. A. Mogilenko, D. Staumont-Salle, N. K. Escalante, G. R. Hill, P. Neeson, D. S. Ritchie, D. Dombrowicz, T. Mallevaey, F. Trottein, G. T. Belz, D. I. Godfrey, and M. J. Smyth. 2015. CD3(bright) signals on gamma delta T cells identify IL-17A-producing V gamma 6V delta 1(+) T cells. *Immunology and Cell Biology* 93: 198-212.
3. Rahbar, R., A. Lin, M. Ghazarian, H.-L. Yau, S. Paramathas, P. A. Lang, A. Schildknecht, A. R. Elford, C. Garcia-Batres, B. Martin, H. K. Berman, W. L. Leong, D. R. McCreedy, M. Reedijk, S. J. Done, N. Miller, B. Youngson, W.-K. Suh, T. W. Mak, and P. S. Ohashi. 2015. B7-H4 Expression by Nonhematopoietic Cells in the Tumor Microenvironment Promotes Antitumor Immunity. *Cancer Immunology Research* 3: 184-195.
4. Van Limbergen, J., K. Geddes, P. Henderson, R. K. Russell, H. E. Drummond, J. Satsangi, A. M. Griffiths, D. J. Philpott, and D. C. Wilson. 2015. Paneth cell marker CD24 in NOD2 knockout organoids and in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). *Gut* 64: 353-354.

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