

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

Image provided by Michael Corrin

VOL III – ISSUE 3

November 2014

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

Just over a week ago, we celebrated the Department of Immunology's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As part of the celebrations, we held an afternoon symposium, with talks given by former graduates from the Barber and Wu labs. This was an exciting and inspiring event, which also allowed us to fully recognize the many contributions made by these pioneering members of our department. The day culminated with a wonderful get together and dinner, with talks from our dean Catherine Whiteside, and former chairs: Rick Miller; Michael Julius; and, Michael Ratcliffe; and we also heard from Robert Painter, former Provost of Trinity College. It was a great trip down memory lane; giving us much needed perspective with which to better appreciate how the department has changed over the years, and to illuminate our future plans.

There is also another anniversary to celebrate; *IMMpress Magazine* will be turning 2-years old! Congratulations to the chief editors, Charles and Yuriy, who created a magnificent product, which we all look forward to reading. With this in mind, be on the lookout for the next issue on neuro-immunology, which will be out shortly.

But our graduate students are not the only ones with wonderful ideas, as our Immunology undergrads have new IMMSA apparel and other Immunology-logo carrying items to sell, such that you too could be wearing official Immunology T-shirts or hoodies, just like the ones our Easton Seminar speakers get, or even better ones, and by that I mean now you can proudly wear a TCR as part of the Immunology-logo, which Tak has been asking for some time. How do you get your new Immunology apparel? Simply go the IMMSA website <http://immsauoft.com>, and place your orders.

As noted in the IGSA section, the Department's holiday party is just around corner - Friday December 12<sup>th</sup>, which as we all know is *the* social event of the year, with this in mind, I want to remind all to start getting your nominations ready for the Miller and Cinader awards; a formal notice will be sent out shortly.

### UPCOMING SEMINARS

#### **EASTON SEMINARS – December 2014**

**Room 2170 MSB at 11:10 a.m.**

##### **December 1, 2014**

- Edward K. Wakeland, PhD  
*"A genomic analysis of systemic autoimmunity."*  
(Host: Immunology Graduate Students)

##### **December 8, 2014**

- Ken Croitoru, MDCM, FRCPC  
*"Of Microbes, Mice and Men: Unraveling the Enigma of IBD."*  
(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

##### **December 15, 2014**

- Timothy L. Denning, PhD  
*"Mucosal Immunity and the Microbiota: How to Play Nicely with Trillions of Your Closest Friends."*  
(Host: Dr. Dana Philpott)

#### **GRADUATE SEMINARS – December 2014**

**Room 2173 MSB at 10:00 a.m.**

##### **December 1, 2014**

- Tze Ho Chan (Supervisor: G. Ehrhardt)
- Marion Parsons (Supervisor: G. Ehrhardt)

##### **December 8, 2014**

- Jong Bok Lee (Supervisor: L. Zhang)
- Sergey Yegorov (Supervisor: R. Kaul)

##### **December 15, 2014**

- Ashleigh Goethel (Supervisor: K. Croitoru/  
D. Philpott)
- Angela Li (Supervisor: C. Robbins)

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

image provided by Michael Corrin

---

### DEADLINES/REMINDERS

CIHR/NSERC CGS-M – December 1

For more information: <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Gov-Funded-Awards.aspx>

---

### SPECIAL SEMINARS

#### *Candidates for a Faculty Position in Immunology*

**Timothy W. Hand, PhD**

Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases  
Mucosal Immunology Section  
NIH/NIAID  
Bethesda, MD

(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

“Long-term immune consequences of gastrointestinal infection.”

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

11:00 a.m.

Room 7231, Medical Sciences Building  
University of Toronto

---

**Chuan Wu, MD, PhD**

Department of Neurology,  
Center for Neurologic Diseases  
Boston, MA

(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

“SGK1 regulates reciprocal differentiation of Th17 and Treg cells.”

Thursday, December 4, 2014

11:00 a.m.

Room 7231, MSB  
University of Toronto

---

**Tracy McGaha, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Medicine -  
Section of Nephrology Cancer Immunology,  
Inflammation, and Tolerance Program  
Georgia Regents University  
Augusta, GA

(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

“Metabolic stress, immune suppression, and prevention of immunogenic cell death.”

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

11:00 a.m.

Room 7231, MSB  
University of Toronto

---

**Brian Ruffell, PhD**

Research Assistant Professor  
Cell & Developmental Biology  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, OR

(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

“Macrophages as central regulators of the chemotherapeutic response.”

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

11:00 a.m.

Room 7231, MSB  
University of Toronto

---

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

image provided by Michael Corrin

### IMMUNOLOGY SPECIAL SEMINAR

**Dr. Fraser Scott**

Senior Scientist,  
Chronic Disease Program,  
Ottawa Hospital Research Institute,  
and Professor, Department of Biochemistry,  
Microbiology & Immunology,  
University of Ottawa  
Ottawa, ON

(Host: Dr. Philippe Poussier)

“M2 macrophages and anti-microbial peptides in type 1 diabetes pathogenesis.”

Monday, December 8th, 2014

4:00 p.m.

Room 7231, Medical Sciences Building  
University of Toronto

---

### IGSA

Hello Immunologists!

Thanks to everyone for donating to the Imm Fall Food Drive! We will be keeping the donation box on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor in MSB until the end of November for those of you who would still like to make a donation.

Speaking of November, there is still time to register for the Immunology *Movember* team! Please visit <https://www.movember.com/ca/register/> and join our team “The ImmuMOgens”. Both men and women are welcome to join and they do not have to be in the department so spread the word to your family and friends!

#### Sports

This year, IGSA will be running the Harry Rosen 8K Spring Run-Off on Saturday April 4, 2015. We would like to register altogether as a Dept. of Imm. team so if you would like to join us, please contact [dsw.lee@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:dsw.lee@mail.utoronto.ca).

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

image provided by Michael Corrin

### Immunology Holiday Retreat

The **Holiday Retreat** is fast approaching and tickets will be available starting next week. It will be held at **Hart House** on **Friday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m.**

Pricing: \$20 students, \$30 post-docs/staff, \$40 faculty (guest prices will match category)

There are meat and vege meal options available. Please arrange for a time to purchase your tickets from one of the IGSA representatives below. The last day to purchase is **Thursday, December 4th**.

MSB/TWH: Clare [clare.so@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:clare.so@mail.utoronto.ca)

TMDT/CBS: Magar [m.ghazarian@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:m.ghazarian@mail.utoronto.ca)

PMH: Tim, Selena [tingxi.guo@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:tingxi.guo@mail.utoronto.ca), [selenacen1989@gmail.com](mailto:selenacen1989@gmail.com)

SickKids: Mark, [mark.gower@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:mark.gower@mail.utoronto.ca)

Sunnybrook: Jasty [jastaran.singh@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:jastaran.singh@mail.utoronto.ca)

This year we will be holding a **Lab Fashion Show Competition**. Please email Jennifer at [jennifer.yam@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:jennifer.yam@mail.utoronto.ca) if your lab would like to participate. Also, please contact Jen if you are interested in donating items to the **Silent Auction**.

Questions can be directed to Sintia, [sintia.xhiku@gmail.com](mailto:sintia.xhiku@gmail.com)

Finally, look out for our new IGSA weekly digest email every Monday for updates on events happening later on in the week.

- IGSA

### IMMSA

Hello everyone! The undergraduate Immunology Students' Association (IMMSA) would like to thank everyone who attended our October events. The academic seminar with Dr. Scott Gray-Owen had wonderful discussion and turnout, with many enthusiastic questions being asked by our audience.

A big thank you to Dr. Gray-Owen once more for giving us his time to encourage us undergraduates. Moreover, our B.L.I.M.P. Games night was a fun-filled night with great food, drink, and board games shared between old and new friends.

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

image provided by Michael Corrin

This month we had our Research Application Seminar presented by Johnathan Lau and River Jiang, and we would like to thank the packed room-full of young, bright-eyed students who came with questions and a willingness to participate in undergraduate research. The seminar slides can be found here: <http://immsauoft.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/BIG-Research-Seminar-2014-reduced-size.pdf>. Pictures of the event will be posted, but here's one from IMMSAgram: <http://instagram.com/p/vovH7jQN-O/?modal=true>. (You need an *Instagram* account to view the pictures.)

As many of you have been asking, we have now finalized the Apparel design contest results and have chosen the designs to be printed this year. Ordering occurs now until December 2nd, 2014. The winner of the contest is Hamza Arshad who voted and won a free IMMSA T-shirt! The IMMSA

Apparel catalogue can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8GmUrxMkHDpCUpQeE50TGU2Zm8/view?usp=sharing&pli=1>

The online ordering form can be found here:

<https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=FmHImX%2ADgHIJYNJDcVLwIA>. Order your apparel today!

Furthermore, upcoming events are the IMMSA-BUSS joint Pub night on Friday, November 28th at the Fox and Fiddle on Bloor, from 6-9pm. Drinks and food are free while supplies last! Feel free to join us for a guaranteed fun night! Also, IMMSA is having an Exam De-Stressor on December 2nd, 5-7pm at MSB7231 with board games, free food and drink to just unwind and catch up with your friends!

Remember to follow us on @IMMSAgram, and be sure to stay tuned for our November showcase of 3 more undergraduate researchers on our website: <http://immsauoft.com/>

If you have comments or concerns or even interesting thoughts to share, please feel free to contact us at [immsa.immunology@gmail.com](mailto:immsa.immunology@gmail.com).

Until next month,  
Johnathan Lau and Karen Jia  
IMMSA Co-Presidents

---

## PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (October 2014) (1-3)

1. Bitnun, A., L. Samson, T.-W. Chun, F. Kakkar, J. Brophy, D. Murray, S. Justement, H. Soudeyns, M. Ostrowski, S. Mujib, P. R. Harrigan, J. Kim, P. Sandstrom, and S. E. Read. 2014. Early Initiation of Combination Antiretroviral Therapy in HIV-1-Infected Newborns Can Achieve Sustained Virologic Suppression With Low Frequency of CD4(+) T Cells Carrying HIV in Peripheral Blood. *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 59: 1012-1019.

2. Danska, J. S. 2014. Sex Matters for Mechanism. *Science Translational Medicine* 6.
3. Huang, S. S. H., D. Banner, S. G. Paquette, A. J. Leon, A. A. Kelvin, and D. J. Kelvin. 2014. Pathogenic influenza B virus in the ferret model establishes lower respiratory tract infection. *The Journal of general virology* 95: 2127-2139.
4. Meiri, D., C. B. Marshall, D. Mokady, J. LaRose, M. Mullin, A.-C. Gingras, M. Ikura, and R. Rottapel. 2014. Mechanistic insight into GPCR-mediated activation of the microtubule-associated RhoA exchange factor GEF-H1. *Nature Communications* 5.
5. Merchant, N., D. Boudana, L. Willoughby, J. J. Lin, S. Rehou, S. Shahrokhi, and M. G. Jeschke. 2014. Management of adult patients with buttock and perineal burns: The Ross Tilley Burn Centre experience. *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* 77: 640-648.
6. Perciani, C. T., D. O. Willer, K. Haq, O. H. Iwajomo, J. K. Chan, R. Pilon, J. M. Antony, P. Sandstrom, and K. S. Macdonald. 2014. Mechanisms of Protection Observed with Varicella Zoster Virus as a Vaccine Vector in the SIV Macaque Model. *AIDS research and human retroviruses* 30 Suppl 1: A44-45.
7. Qiu, W., R. Lam, O. Voytyuk, V. Romanov, R. Gordon, S. Gebremeskel, J. Vodsedalek, C. Thompson, I. Beletskaya, K. P. Battaile, E. F. Pai, R. Rottapel, and N. Y. Chirgadze. 2014. Insights into the binding of PARP inhibitors to the catalytic domain of human tankyrase-2. *Acta Crystallographica Section D-Biological Crystallography* 70: 2740-2753.
8. Tian, S. Y., B. M. Feldman, J. Beyene, P. E. Brown, E. M. Uleryk, and E. D. Silverman. 2014. Immunosuppressive Therapies for the Induction Treatment of Proliferative Lupus Nephritis: A Systematic Review and Network Metaanalysis. *Journal of Rheumatology* 41: 1998-2007.
9. Tsui, F. W. L., H. W. Tsui, F. L. Heras, K. P. H. Pritzker, and R. D. Inman. 2014. Serum levels of novel noggin and sclerostin-immune complexes are elevated in ankylosing spondylitis. *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases* 73: 1873-1879.

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