

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

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VOL I – ISSUE 2

October 2012

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

During this month's department faculty meeting I introduced a few new initiatives, among these was a way for postdoctoral fellows and research associates who are working with faculty members of the Department of Immunology to have a simple way to sign up with the department in order to become better integrated with the Immunology community at the University of Toronto. The weblink is <http://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/postdoctoral/bulletin.htm>.

### **SPECIAL SEMINARS**

Michael A. Rudnicki, PhD, FRSC  
University of Ottawa

(Host: Dr. Norman Iscove)

"Molecular regulation of muscle stem cells in regenerative myogenesis"

Wednesday, November 21, 2012

4:00 p.m.

Room 2173, Medical Sciences Building  
University of Toronto

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Toronto Human Immunology Network**  
presents:

Panel Discussions in Human Immunology  
with Dr. Diane Mathis

(Hosted by the Immunology Graduate Students)

Topic: exploiting Tregs and their products to modulate immunological and non-immunological diseases.

Monday, November 5, 2012

5:00 – 6:00p.m

Room 7231, MSB

*All welcome*

### **UPCOMING SEMINARS**

**EASTON SEMINARS –  
November 2012**

**Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.**

**November 05**

- Diane Mathis, PhD  
*"Treg control of non-immunological processes."*  
(Host: Immunology Graduate Students)

**November 12**

- Frances Lund, PhD  
*"Modulation of allergic responses by effector B cells."*  
(Host: Dr. Jennifer Gommerman)

**November 19**

- Christian Jobin, PhD  
*"Role of environmental cues on microbial status and development of colorectal cancer."*  
(Host: Dr. Alberto Martin)

**November 26**

- Bebhinn Treanor  
*"Visualizing B cell activation: from single molecules to macromolecular clusters"*  
(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)  
*"candidate for cross-appointment to Dept. of Immunology"*

**GRADUATE SEMINARS –  
November 2012**

**Room 3171 MSB at 10:00 a.m.**

**November 05**

- Payam Zarin (Zúñiga-Pflücker, J.C.)
- Daniela Simona Ardelean (Letarte, M.)

**November 12**

- Yuriy Baglaenko Wither, J.
- Xiu Yuan Michael Le (Martin, A.)

**November 19**

- Elisa Porfilio (Gommerman, J.)
- Catherine Schrankel (Rast, J.)

**November 26**

- Jordan Ari Schwartz (Ostrowski, M.)
- Brett A. Shannon (Kaul, R.)

# Department of Immunology Newsletter

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## CONGRATULATIONS

### PhD

Dr. Dilan Dissanayake (Ohashi lab) – September 7, 2012

### Reclassification / Qualifying Exams

Catherine Schrankel (Rast lab) Qualified – September 19th, 2012

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## DEADLINES/REMINDERS

### Awards

OGS: Department Deadline: TBA

CIHR CGSM: Department Deadline: Monday, November 19th, 2012

### Graduate Funding Agreement

Students' portion completed (to be reviewed by Supervisor): ASAP

Approved by Supervisor (to be reviewed by the department): ASAP, before October 26th, 2012

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## IGSA

### UPCOMING IGSA SOCIAL EVENTS

#### **Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> – Charity Games Night**

**Location:** Mike Le's Place, 38 Grenville Street, Party Room on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**Cost:** All donations will be given to Nelly's. Cost to participate in the poker tournament: \$5

**Date & Time:** Thursday October 25, starting at 7-10:30pm

**RSVP:** Jordan Ari Schwartz [[Jordan.schwartz@utoronto.ca](mailto:Jordan.schwartz@utoronto.ca)]

\*We NEED a guest list, so please RSVP!

#### **Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> – Graduate Student Roundtable**

In association with the Global Health Division, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and The Gairdner Foundation

GSAGH invites you to attend:

**Graduate Student Roundtable with the 2012 Canada Gairdner Global Health Award Recipient  
Brian M. Greenwood, MD, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK**

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# Department of Immunology Newsletter

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This event aims to provide graduate students the opportunity to engage with and learn from a leading expert in global health, who has been awarded this prestigious honour due to his "contributions to significantly reducing mortality in children due to meningitis and acute respiratory infection and to contributions to malaria prevention"

<http://old.gairdner.org/awardrecipients/2012-canad-gairdner-award-recipients/brian-m-greenwood-md>

**Date and location:** Friday, October 26, 12noon, Room 208, 155 College Street (HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING). A light lunch will be provided.

**Moderated by:** Sarah Higgins and Chloe McDonald, PhD Candidates, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto and Sandra Rotman Centre for Global Health, MaRS Centre

Co-Chairs, Graduate Student Alliance for Global Health

Please register from: <http://www.eventbrite.ca/event/4200566006>

Critical questions for discussion with Dr. Greenwood may also be pre-submitted via email to [GSAGH.UofT@gmail.com](mailto:GSAGH.UofT@gmail.com).

*\*\*\*Please note: Registration for this event is mandatory and space is limited so register now to secure your seat! Registration is free and available on a first-come first-serve basis\*\*\**

## **Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> – Faculty of Medicine Halloween Party**

**Location:** Hotel Ocho (Phoebe & Spadina - North of Queen)

**Cost:** Free entry for students! Those who RSVP to Simon ([simonwmeng@gmail.com](mailto:simonwmeng@gmail.com)) will receive a free drink ticket!

**Date & Time:** Tuesday October 30, starting at 9pm until last call  
PLEASE ARRIVE IN COSTUME

## **Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> – Trip to the AGO – Frida & Diego: Passion, Politics and Painting**

"The exhibition *Frida & Diego: Passion, Politics and Painting* features more than 80 works on paper and paintings by Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera and more than 60 photographs of the couple, whose shared passion for each other and Mexico's revolutionary culture during the 1920s and 1930s have made them Mexico's most famous artists."

This exhibit is on display for a limited time. IGSA has been given a special group rate from the AGO, and IGSA will further subsidize the cost! Contact Alessandra for sign up details ([alessandra.ferzoco@sri.utoronto.ca](mailto:alessandra.ferzoco@sri.utoronto.ca)).

## **Nov. tba – Wine & Cheese Party**

Come taste and vote for the wine that we'll be drinking at this year's Holiday Party!

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

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### **Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Pub Night**

Come out and mingle with your fellow immunologists over a nice, cold pint of beer, and enjoy some tasty snacks courtesy of IGSA!

### **UPPER YEAR MENTORS**

**Yuriy Baglaenko**, The Toronto Hospital, Western Division, [yuriy.baglaenko@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:yuriy.baglaenko@mail.utoronto.ca)

**Alessandra Ferzoco**, Sunnybrook Research Institute, [alessandra.ferzoco@sri.utoronto.ca](mailto:alessandra.ferzoco@sri.utoronto.ca)

**Eric Gracey**, The Toronto Hospital, Western Division, [egracey@uhnresearch.ca](mailto:egracey@uhnresearch.ca)

**Korosh Kianizad**, Sunnybrook Research Institute, [korosh.kianizad@utoronto.ca](mailto:korosh.kianizad@utoronto.ca)

**Behrouz Moemeni**, Sunnybrook Research Institute, [bmoemeni@sri.utoronto.ca](mailto:bmoemeni@sri.utoronto.ca)

**Amanda Moore**, Sunnybrook Research Institute, [amanda.moore@utoronto.ca](mailto:amanda.moore@utoronto.ca)

**Natalia Pikor**, Medical Sciences Building, [natalia.pikor@utoronto.ca](mailto:natalia.pikor@utoronto.ca)

**Elisa Porfilio**, Medical Sciences Building, [elisa.porfilio@utoronto.ca](mailto:elisa.porfilio@utoronto.ca)

**Patrycja Thompson**, Sunnybrook Research Institute, [patrycja.thompson@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:patrycja.thompson@mail.utoronto.ca)

**Charles Tran**, AMDI-IBCR/PMH, [charles.tran@utoronto.ca](mailto:charles.tran@utoronto.ca)

**Ben Wang**, Canadian Blood Services, [ben.wang@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:ben.wang@mail.utoronto.ca)

These students are here to help you! If you are in your first or second year of graduate school, this upper year student group will serve as your mentorship team, lending their expertise in all areas of grad student life! They will be open to all kinds of questions, offer advice and, most importantly, they will be close by.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of these reps with your questions, or if you would like to set up a practice presentation!

If you are in year 3+ of grad school and are interested in joining this mentorship team, please contact Alessandra ([alessandra.ferzoco@sri.utoronto.ca](mailto:alessandra.ferzoco@sri.utoronto.ca)) or Elisa ([elisa.porfilio@utoronto.ca](mailto:elisa.porfilio@utoronto.ca)).

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The Human Biology Students' Union is hosting a graduate school fair and we need volunteers to promote the Immunology booth on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> in the Stone Lobby of the Medical Sciences Building.

IMMSA is planning another Graduate Shadowing Program this year! This is an opportunity for 1 or 2 immunology undergraduate students to shadow a graduate student in the lab, based on their particular interests in immunological research. It will be a great way for the undergrads to see what a day in the life of a grad student is like, and whether research could be of interest to them in the future!

If you are interested in volunteering your time for either of these events, please contact Alessandra ([alessandra.ferzoco@sri.utoronto.ca](mailto:alessandra.ferzoco@sri.utoronto.ca)) or Elisa ([elisa.porfilio@utoronto.ca](mailto:elisa.porfilio@utoronto.ca)).

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

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### IMMSA

October is here and so is Midterm season! Celebrate and rejuvenate with baked goods from the IMMSA bake sale happening October 24th from 10-4PM and October 26th 12-4PM in MSB Stone Lobby. See you there!

Regards,  
Jennifer and Angela

### Toronto Human Immunology Network

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

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



**Background:** The Toronto Human Immunology was founded in the fall of 2010 and currently has 55 faculty members, led by a director (Tania Watts) and a steering committee (see web site). In April 2011, the network was recognized as a FOCIS center of Excellence. The Network is also one of the founding members of **CHIN**, the CIHR human Immunology network (<https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/cihr-human-immunology-network>).

The **mandate** of the Toronto Human Immunology Network is to facilitate translational human immunology by providing linkages among individuals and groups involved in basic through to clinical Human Immunology research across the city; to provide a forum for discussion of new

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

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developments in translational human immunology; to educate trainees in translational human immunology; to facilitate interactions between those doing trials and those with research questions/assays to study immunology in human cohorts; to facilitate the acquisition and access of our members to shared infrastructure and to provide a mechanism for interacting with national and international groups involved in Human Immunology. The network is also attempting to help coordinate team efforts in human immunology. To date the Network has catalyzed the formation of groups going forward for the Connaught Global Challenge, the Medicine Innovation and Integration grants and the CIHR chronic inflammation grants competition.

**Human Immunology Network events:** The network sponsors **Panel discussions in human immunology**, an adjunct to the Easton seminar series in which 4-5 speakers per year are chosen in the area of Human Immunology and are invited to participate in a round table discussion at the end of the day of their seminar in which specific aspects such as bottlenecks to translation of human immunology are discussed. In addition, the network has an **annual symposium** in which we highlight one particular subspecialty of human immunology. Previous topics have included Population Immunology of viral infections and vaccines (Feb. 2011, cochairs Natasha Crowcroft, Public Health Ontario and Tania Watts, Immunology) and Decoding the Influence of the Microbiota on Health and Disease (May, 2012, cochairs Ken Croitoru and Dana Philpott).

### Upcoming events:

**Day of Immunology April 29, 2013: Café Scientifique - New Immunotherapies for Cancer.** The national human immunology network, CHIN is sponsoring 7 Café Scientifique across the country- our local contribution will be to hold a session on new immunotherapies for cancer, with speakers Naoto Hirano and Marcus Butler. Venue TBA.

**2013 Network symposium: Immunobiology of Chronic viral infection June 4, 2013, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Center** Co-chairs: Gary Levy, U of T Transplantation Institute, and Tania Watts, Immunology. Keynote speakers: Rafick Sékaly (VGTI) and Barbara Rehermann (NIH). *For free registration go to: <http://humanimmunology Symposium.eventbrite.ca/>*

*Suggestions for future panel discussions/symposia are welcome.*

### PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (September 2012) <sup>(1-5)</sup>

1. Chen, G., I. Dimitriou, L. Milne, K. S. Lang, P. A. Lang, N. Fine, P. S. Ohashi, P. Kubes, and R. Rottapel. 2012. The 3BP2 Adapter Protein Is Required for Chemoattractant-Mediated Neutrophil Activation. *Journal of Immunology* 189:2138-2150.
2. Invernizzi, P., M. Ransom, S. Raychaudhuri, R. Kosoy, A. Lleo, R. Shigeta, A. Franke, F. Bossa, C. I. Amos, P. K. Gregersen, K. A. Siminovitch, D. Cusi, P. I. W. de Bakker, M. Podda, M. E. Gershwin, M. F. Seldin, and P. B. C. G. S. G. Italian. 2012. Classical HLA-DRB1 and DPB1 alleles account for HLA associations with primary biliary cirrhosis. *Genes and Immunity* 13:461-468.
3. Larijani, M., and A. Martin. 2012. The biochemistry of activation-induced deaminase and its physiological functions. *Seminars in Immunology* 24:255-263.
4. Ling, A., F. Soares, D. O. Croitoru, I. Tattoli, L. A. M. Carneiro, M. Boniotto, S. Benko, D. J. Philpott, and S. E. Girardin. 2012. Post-transcriptional Inhibition of Luciferase Reporter Assays by the Nod-like Receptor Proteins NLRX1 and NLRC3. *Journal of Biological Chemistry* 287:28705-28716.
5. Ormsby, C. E., D. SenGupta, R. Tandon, S. G. Deeks, J. N. Martin, R. B. Jones, M. A. Ostrowski, K. E. Garrison, J. A. Vazquez-Perez, G. Reyes-Teran, and D. F. Nixon. 2012. Human Endogenous Retrovirus Expression Is Inversely Associated with Chronic Immune Activation in HIV-1 Infection. *Plos One* 7.

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