

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

VOL IV – ISSUE 2

February 2016

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

As part of the ongoing implementation of the Department of Immunology's Strategic Plan, a restructuring of our office organization was put in motion. In keeping with this initiative, I am please to announce that Lauren Parkes is now our new Undergraduate Assistant, and will also be responsible for organizing the Easton Seminar Series, and other departmental events. Additionally, Olembe Wickham is our new Financial and HRIS Assistant. Please join me in welcoming them to the Department of Immunology.

You will also notice that a very familiar face is no longer in our office, as I mentioned at our Holiday Party, Lynne Omoto is now retired from the Department of Immunology. After nearly 30 years working with us, she will be truly missed by all. Please join me in wishing Lynne all the best as she pursues new goals.

I am delighted to announce that Prof. Jennifer Gommerman is being recognized with the 2015-16 Continuing Excellence in Graduate Teaching & Mentorship award. This honour recognizes sustained contribution to graduate student mentorship, teaching and supervision.

I want to highlight three other items: 1) we will be having our next Departmental Faculty Meeting on March 21st, 2) to all our 2nd year graduate students please note the upcoming deadlines regarding setting up your reclassification/qualifying exams, and 3) to all IMM450 undergrads, please note the announcement for this year's OQUIC, details below.

WELCOME

Staff:

Lauren Parkes, Undergraduate Assistant

Olembe Wickham, Financial and HRIS Assistant

Faculty:

Dr. Thomas Eiwegger, Associate Professor (Hospital for Sick Children)

UPCOMING SEMINARS

EASTON SEMINARS

March 2016

Room 2170 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

March 7th, 2016

Slava Epelman, Ph.D.

"The Origin and Function of Resident Cardiac Macrophages"

(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

March 14th, 2016

March Break—No Seminar

March 21st, 2016

Faculty Meeting – No Seminar

March 28th, 2016

Easter Monday—No Seminar

STUDENT SEMINARS

March 2016

Room 4171 MSB at 10:00 a.m.

March 7th, 2016 (Note: 10:30 a.m. start time)

Tian Zhao (Supervisor: B. Treanor)

March 14th, 2016

Minsoo Yoon (Supervisor: C. Guidos)

Vineet Joag (Supervisor: R. Kaul)

March 21st, 2016 (Note: 10:30 a.m. start time)

Ashleigh Goethel (Supervisor: K. Croitoru)

March 28th 2016

Edouard Al-chami (Supervisor: J. Gommerman)

Albert Nguyen (Supervisor: J. Gommerman)

Bao Anh Cao (Supervisor: B. Treanor)

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CONGRATULATIONS

Faculty:

Dr. Jennifer Gommerman, the 2015-16 Continuing Excellence in Graduate Teaching & Mentorship Award

UPCOMING EVENTS

Departmental Faculty Meeting

Monday, March 21, 2016

11:10 a.m.

Seeley Hall

Trinity College

UPCOMING AWARD DEADLINES

OGS (Domestic and International) – March 21, 2016. For more information on this competition, please visit the SGS website: <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Ontario-Graduate-Scholarship.aspx>

QEII-GSST Aventis Pasteur (Dept. of Imm only) – March 21, 2016. Applicants must apply for OGS to be considered for this award.

Faculty of Medicine QEII-GSST – March 31, 2016. For more information, please visit the Graduate and Life Science Education (GLSE) website: <http://www.glse.utoronto.ca/fom-qeii-gsst-competition>

#techtalks

Just a few weeks ago, we unveiled our new and improved graduate student directory. One of the biggest improvements is that we have made the directory searchable, allowing you to easily find the specific information that you may be looking to obtain.

To help maintain the privacy of our students, the directory now requires UTORid authentication. This means that only valid UofT staff and students can access the information.

You can find a direct link under "Graduate" menu of our website.

GPD Highlights

U of Toronto's student newspaper discovers GPD, article written on Feb 22.

<http://thevarsity.ca/2016/02/21/what-comes-next/>

LSCDS invited Dr. Nana Lee to give a session on Feb 17 "How Will They Remember You?"

<http://www.lscds.org/weblog/2016/02/22/lessons-learned-networking-201-strategies-get-most-out-lscds-networking-reception-and-beyond/>

Dr. Nana Lee was also an invited speaker on Feb 5 entitled "Success after Graduate School" with The Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative (CHVI) Research and Development Alliance Coordinating Office Early Investigators Professional Development Symposium.



RECLASSIFICATION/QUALIFYING TRANSFER EXAMS

For 2nd year grad students planning reclassification/qualifying transfer exams, please be reminded that exams must take place in May/June 2016. Failure to complete the reclass/qualifying exam within 24 months of your initial registration means that you will need to complete an MSc and then re-apply to the PhD program. We aim to do all the exams in May/June as they are very difficult to schedule in July/August and we need to leave time for re-examinations if they are required. Questions?

Email graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca.

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

The final admissions deadline for September 2016 programs – MSc, PhD in Fundamental Immunology, and MSc in Applied Immunology – is May 20th, 2016.

Faculty who are recruiting grad students for September 2016 are encouraged to send a message to graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca, indicating how many students are being recruited, and available projects, if known.

FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE

Welcome to the new Health & Wellness Centre St. George campus!

U of T's Health & Wellness Centre now offers students a single point of entry for access to all services previously offered through Health Services and Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS). All students needing physical or mental health care, travel medicine, immunizations, nutritional care, family planning or gynecological care, first aid and other services will find referrals in one space – staying on track with their current health care plan and getting new services that meet their needs.

The Health & Wellness Centre is located on the second floor of the Koffler Student Services Centre at 214 College Street (use the St. George Street entrance). [Click here](#) for contact information and hours.

IGSA

Dear Immunologists,
Happy Leap Year!

This month, IGSA raised over \$200.00 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation during our **Valentine's Charity Fundraiser**. We hope you enjoyed your personalized candy grams! In addition, our 2 teams of graduate students did a fantastic job at the **FacMed Trivia Night**, but a team from LMP took the title.

We're looking forward to seeing you on **Thursday, March 17th, 2016** after IMMtonight for the **St. Patrick's Day Pub Night at The Green Room!** We'll also be holding our very own Immunology Charity Paint Night so please stay tuned for details this coming month.

Lastly, a reminder to mark your calendars for the Summer Retreat this year between June 21-22, 2016.

Work hard, play harder,
Team IGSA



IMMSA

Dear Undergraduate Immunology Students:

We hope you had a relaxing yet productive reading week!
IMMSA has lots of great events left for this semester, but first a short recap since January:

We invited Jonathan from the career centre to give a **career development talk** where we learned about career planning and exploration. We also hosted a **graduate school information session** where Dr. Gommerman, Korosh Kianizad and Kate Sedore discussed the thesis and course based graduate programs the department offers.

Coming up next month on March 7th, we have invited **Dr. Lena Serghides** for an **academic seminar** where she will be discussing her research on HIV-malaria co-infection and the impact of HIV infection on anti-malaria immune responses. We will also have **our career panel** with MolGen and BUSS where students will be given the opportunity to network with individuals from the industry and various other non-traditional careers. We will also be having a **joint pub night** with Biochemistry at the end of March, as well as the annual **Bio Jeopardy** competition!

In May, we will be hosting the **8th annual Ontario Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC)**, where undergraduates from across the two provinces will come together to present their undergraduate research and hear from two fantastic keynotes: **Dr. Michael Julius and Dr. Connie Krawczyk**.

We would like to **thank** the department for their continuing guidance, especially **Dr. Alberto Martin, Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker**, and **Dr. Jennifer Gommerman**. We would also like to thank our **superb executive** for their hard work and the **general student body** for their support and engagement.

Looking forward to an amazing finish to the semester!

Best wishes,

Andrea Macikunas & Vivian Tia

Immunology Students Association (IMMSA) Co-Presidents

<http://immsauoft.com> | [@IMMSA UofT](#) | <http://facebook.com/IMMSA.UofT>



PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (January 2016)

1. Burchell, A. N., V. G. Allen, R. Grewal, P. A. MacPherson, A. Rachlis, S. Walmsley, S. Mishra, S. L. Gardner, J. Raboud, C. Cooper, K. Gough, S. B. Rourke, R. Rousseau, I. Salit, and D. H. S. Tan. 2016. Enhanced syphilis screening among HIV-positive men (ESSAHM): a study protocol for a clinic-randomized trial with stepped wedge design. *Implementation Science* 11.
2. Dionne, N., S. Dib, B. Finsen, E. Denarier, T. Kuhlmann, R. Drouin, M. Kokoeva, T. J. Hudson, K. Siminovitch, H. C. Friedman, and A. C. Peterson. 2016. Functional Organization of an Mbp Enhancer Exposes Striking Transcriptional Regulatory Diversity Within Myelinating Glia. *Glia* 64: 175-194.
3. Jiang, Y., X. Xiong, J. Danska, and J. Parkinson. 2016. Metatranscriptomic analysis of diverse microbial communities reveals core metabolic pathways and microbiome-specific functionality. *Microbiome* 4.
4. Joag, V. R., L. R. McKinnon, J. Liu, S. T. Kidane, M. H. Yudin, B. Nyanga, S. Kimwaki, K. E. Besel, J. O. Obila, S. Huibner, J. O. Oyugi, J. Arthos, O. Anzala, J. Kimani, M. A. Ostrowski, R. Kaul, and H. I. V. R. G. Toronto. 2016. Identification of preferential CD4(+) T-cell targets for HIV infection in the cervix. *Mucosal Immunology* 9: 1-12.
5. Li, R., A. Rezk, L. M. Healy, G. Muirhead, A. Prat, J. L. Gommerman, A. Bar-Or, and M. C. B. C. M. Team. 2016. Cytokine-Defined B Cell Responses as Therapeutic Targets in Multiple Sclerosis. *Frontiers in Immunology* 6.
6. McGaha, T. L., and M. C. I. Karlsson. 2016. Apoptotic cell responses in the splenic marginal zone: a paradigm for immunologic reactions to apoptotic antigens with implications for autoimmunity. *Immunological Reviews* 269: 26-43.
7. Mohtashami, M., P. Zarin, and J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker. 2016. Induction of T Cell Development In Vitro by Delta-Like (Dll)-Expressing Stromal Cells. In *T-Cell Development: Methods and Protocols*. R. Bosselut, and M. S. Vacchio, eds. 159-167.
8. Pikor, N. B., A. Prat, A. Bar-Or, and J. L. Gommerman. 2016. Meningeal Tertiary Lymphoid Tissues and Multiple Sclerosis: A Gathering Place for Diverse Types of immune Cells during CNS Autoimmunity. *Frontiers in Immunology* 6.
9. Wang, H., J. J. Kim, E. Denou, A. Gallagher, D. J. Thornton, M. S. Shajib, L. Xia, J. D. Schertzer, R. K. Grencis, D. J. Philpott, and W. I. Khan. 2016. New Role of Nod Proteins in Regulation of Intestinal Goblet Cell Response in the Context of Innate Host Defense in an Enteric Parasite Infection. *Infection and Immunity* 84: 275-285.
10. Xiu, F., L. Diao, P. Qi, M. Catapano, and M. G. Jeschke. 2016. Palmitate differentially regulates the polarization of differentiating and differentiated macrophages. *Immunology* 147: 82-96.

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