

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

VOL V – ISSUE 6

February 2017

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

I am delighted to share that the External Review of the Department of Immunology went very well, our department and academic programs received rave reviews, and our distinguished reviewers provided us some very insightful recommendations. I will be sharing the Self-Study and the reviewers' comments as soon as I receive the final reply from the Dean's office. Once again, I want to thank the great support from our office and the academic leads of our undergraduate and graduate programs.

Speaking of the great office staff, I would like to wish **Lauren Parkes**, our Undergraduate and Communications Assistant, best wishes as she takes a year leave to go to the University of British Columbia, and to **William Hsia**, our Chair's Assistant, for his year-long secondment to Simcoe Hall. We will be recruiting new staff members to take over their positions. Additionally, I am delighted to welcome **Bethany Babinchak**, as our HR and Financial assistant.

WELCOME

Staff

Bethany Babinchak, HR and Financial Assistant

UPCOMING SEMINARS

EASTON SEMINARS

March 2017

Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

Monday March 6th, 2017

Galit Alter, Ph.D.

"Exploring the multifaceted role of IgG glycosylation"

(Host: Dr. Bebhinn Treanor)

Monday March 13th, 2017

March Break-No Easton Seminar

Monday March 20th, 2017

Faculty Meeting-No Easton Seminar

Monday March 27th, 2017

Steven Bensinger, Ph.D.

"Decoding the crosstalk between metabolism, inflammation and immunity"

(Host: Dr. David Brooks)

HUMAN IMM PANEL DISCUSSION

Room 7231 MSB at 5:00 p.m.

Monday March 6th, 2017

Galit Alter, Ph.D.

"Exploring the multifaceted role of IgG glycosylation"

(Host: Dr. Tania Watts)

HUMAN IMMUNOLOGY

The Toronto Human Immunology Network nominated two trainees, Eric Gracey, PDF, Inman lab and Tian Sun, PhD student Gommerman and Philpott labs to represent our network at the FOCIS FCE fusion event in Chicago this June. Congratulations to Eric and Tian on receiving the FOCIS trainee travel awards for this year.

Upcoming Panel discussions in Human Immunology: (Discussions take place in room 7231 at 5-6pm and follows the 11am Easton seminar of the speakers:

Galit Alter Monday March 6th, 2017

This year, the **Jim Watts travel award in Human Immunology** will be presented for the first time. A travel award to be used toward the conference of your choice, for the best human immunology focused poster or talk at the Department Retreat presented by a trainee (grad student or post-doc)... trainees- please plan on attending and presenting your human immune system focused work!

DEADLINES/REMINDERS

Graduate Admissions

The first round of admissions is complete, and responses to offers are rolling in from our new students. Faculty will soon receive a list of entering students and rotation schedules will begin to be set.

The final deadline to apply for September 2017 is May 1, 2017.

UPCOMING AWARD DEADLINES

OGS (Domestic and International) – March 13, 2017. 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 (open to Dept. of Imm only) – March 13, 2017. Applicants must apply for OGS to be considered for this award.

Faculty of Medicine QEII-GSST – To apply for this award, students must complete an OGS application (due March 13, 2017) and complete an online Faculty of Medicine QEII-GSST Cover Page (due 4:00pm on Thursday March 31, 2017). For more information, please visit the Graduate and Life Science Education (GLSE) website: <http://www.glse.utoronto.ca/fom-qeii-gsst-competition>

STUDENT SEMINARS

March 2017

Room 4171 MSB at 10:00 a.m.

Monday March 6th, 2017

Laabiah Wasim (Supervisor: B. Treanor)

Ashton Trotman-Grant

(Supervisor: J.C. Zuniga-Pflucker)

Monday March 13th, 2017

Aaron Trotman-Grant (Supervisor: D. Philpott)

Sintia Xhiku (Supervisor: J.C. Zuniga-Pflucker)

Monday March 20th, 2017

Mohammad Saleh (Supervisor: M. Ostrowski/J.C. Zuniga-Pflucker)

Sharon Ling (Supervisor: R. Yeung)

Monday March 27th, 2017

Scott Lien (Supervisor: P. Ohashi)

Jaclyn Law (Supervisor: D. Brooks)



FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE

English Language Writing and Support

ELWS provides graduate students with advanced training in academic writing and speaking. ELWS offers five types of support designed to target the needs of both native and non-native speakers of English: non-credit courses, single-session workshops, individual writing consultations, writing intensives, and a list of additional resources for academic writing and speaking.

All ELWS programs are free. While the workshops function on a drop-in basis, writing centre consultations require an appointment, and courses and writing intensives require registration.

Check out the Winter 2017 workshop schedule at <https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/>

IMMSA

Hello fellow immunologists!

This month we officially opened registration for the 9th annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC)! This conference is an opportunity for undergraduate students from across Ontario and Quebec to present their research project and meet other immunology students. OQUIC will be held from May 6-7 at the U of T Bahen Centre for Information Technology and is free of charge for all registrants. In addition, we will have keynote speakers including Dr. André Veillette (Université de Montréal) and Dr. Jayne Danska (U of T). For more information and details on how to become involved, please visit our website: <http://immsauoft.com/?p=1601>. We are accepting abstracts on a rolling basis until late April.

In March we will be hosting a graduate school info seminar for all undergrads interested in graduate school in the Department of Immunology. We will also have an academic seminar with Dr. Eleanor Fish, who will speak on her research interests. Later in March we will hold our executive elections for senior positions, a pub night, and the annual BioJeopardy event against other biomedical course unions.

Please follow us on social media for all event details! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at immsa.immunology@gmail.com.

Regards,

Natalie Hoffmann & Conan Chua

Immunology Students Association (IMMSA) Co-Presidents 2016-17

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



IGSA

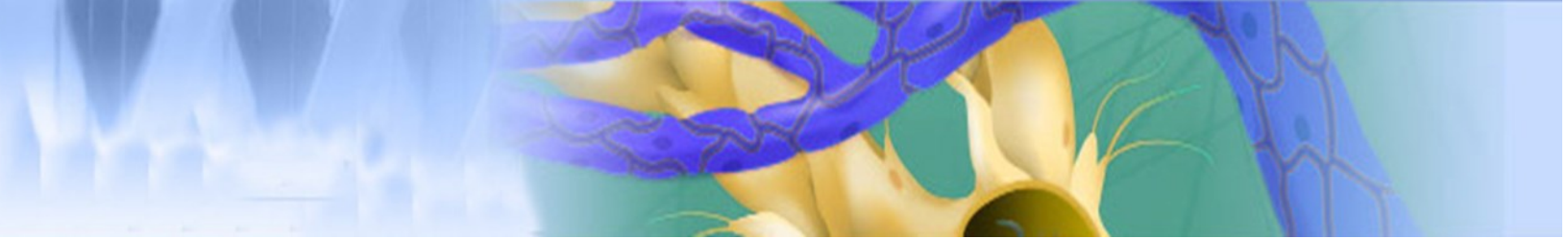
IGSA would like to extend a thank you to everyone who attended the events in February. We kicked off the month with some IMMense competition with our annual Interdepartmental Trivia Night. While an Immunology team did not take first place this year, it was a tight competition between the three immunology teams that were formed. Later in the month, we held our second ever Immunology on Tap event at Tranzac, which turned out to be a great success once again. A special thanks to Lis Foerster and Justin Chan for their hard work organizing and presenting at Immunology on Tap. Other speakers included Kieran, Angela Zhou and our MC Dave Prescott who all killed it with great talks on general immunology and the life of a graduate student. This February, IGSA organized a Valentine's Day fundraiser for charity where students could send candy and short message to friends in the department. We managed to raise \$200 for the Heart & Stroke Foundation, thanks to everyone who participated this year!

If you missed out on any of the awesome events in February, never fear, IGSA has more events coming at you in March. Kicking off the month will be IGSA's first ever student Bowling Night! Make sure you come out to Danforth Bowl Thursday March 9th at 7pm for some subsidized bowling, snacks and drinks! The following Thursday we have our annual IGSA does St. Paddy's Day celebration at Pogue Mahone starting at 7pm. Enjoy some pub fair and drinks with your friends in the department to celebrate everyone's favourite excuse to wear green!

Lastly, a reminder to mark your calendars for the Summer Retreat this year, happening June 20-21, 2017.

All the best,

Team IGSA



PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (January 2017)

1. Abdullahi, A., P. Chen, M. Stanojic, A. R. Sadri, N. Coburn, and M. G. Jeschke. 2017. IL-6 Signal From the Bone Marrow is Required for the Browning of White Adipose Tissue Post Burn Injury. *Shock* 47: 33-39.
2. Abdul-Sater, A. A., M. I. Edilova, D. L. Clouthier, A. Mbanwi, E. Kremmer, and T. H. Watts. 2017. The signaling adaptor TRAF1 negatively regulates Toll-like receptor signaling and this underlies its role in rheumatic disease. *Nature Immunology* 18: 26-35.
3. Hao, Z. Y., Y. Sheng, G. S. Duncan, W. D. Y. Li, C. Dominguez, J. Sylvester, Y. W. Su, G. H. Y. Lin, B. E. Snow, D. Brenner, A. You-Ten, J. Haight, S. Inoue, A. Wakeham, A. Elford, S. Hamilton, Y. Liang, J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker, H. H. He, P. S. Ohashi, and T. W. Mak. 2017. K48-linked KLF4 ubiquitination by E3 ligase Mule controls T-cell proliferation and cell cycle progression. *Nature Communications* 8.
4. Paun, A., C. Yau, and J. S. Danska. 2017. The Influence of the Microbiome on Type 1 Diabetes. *Journal of Immunology* 198: 590-595.
5. Shih, J. G., S. Shahrokhi, and M. G. Jeschke. 2017. Review of Adult Electrical Burn Injury Outcomes Worldwide: An Analysis of Low-Voltage vs High-Voltage Electrical Injury. *Journal of Burn Care & Research* 38: E293-E298.
6. Winer, D. A., S. Winer, H. J. Dranse, and T. K. T. Lam. 2017. Immunologic impact of the intestine in metabolic disease. *Journal of Clinical Investigation* 127: 33-42.
7. Zhen, A., V. Rezek, C. Youn, B. Lam, N. Chang, J. Rick, M. Carrillo, H. Martin, S. Kasparian, P. Syed, N. Rice, D. G. Brooks, and S. G. Kitchen. 2017. Targeting type I interferon-mediated activation restores immune function in chronic HIV infection. *Journal of Clinical Investigation* 127: 260-268.

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