

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

image provided by Michael Corrin

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June 2015

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

We had a wonderful sun-filled couple of days by the shores of beautiful Lake Couchiching for our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Department of Immunology summer retreat. The weather was not the only thing that was brilliant, so were the talks, posters, and organization of this event, for which we owe its success to the enormous and extraordinary efforts of our Immunology Graduate Student Association and its co-presidents **Sintia** and **Simon**. Kudos to all for putting together such a terrific retreat, which also featured the “*best ever*” retreat video production. Additionally, the keynote speaker, **John Cambier**, was wonderful and helped to make this a truly memorable retreat.

Our thanks to **Mayra Cruz-Tleugabulova** for taking the group pictures from the retreat, and you can check them out [here](#).

Congratulations to the oral and poster presentation winners. In case you missed them, we will be displaying the winning posters in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the MSB, near the Immunology office. The award for the best oral presentation went to **Leesa Pennell** (Fish lab), while the 1<sup>st</sup> place poster presentation award went to **Sherine Ensan** (Robbins lab), 2<sup>nd</sup> place to **Angela Zhou** (Watts lab), and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to **Magar Ghazarian** (Winer lab).

The retreat together with the presentation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> *BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize* by this year’s winner Dr. **David Prescott**, from the Philpott lab, the day before our trip to Geneva Park, was a delightful way to start off the week in which we celebrated Immunology at UofT.

Speaking of celebrating Immunology at UofT, please check out the UofT Bulletin [article](#) featuring our very own **Anh Cao**, who will be joining our graduate program this fall, and was a 4<sup>th</sup> year student in the Treanor lab, in which he will continue to work.

This month another excellent issue of *IMMpress Magazine* was released, and faculty and alumni should be on the look out for their own copy arriving shortly, which will be a must read for the summer. Once again, congrats to the new *IMMpress* team for giving us another outstanding and very timely issue.

Lastly, this is the last issue of the Immunology Newsletter for this academic year, and we will restart in late September 2015. In the meantime, best wishes for a productive summer.

### **Awards**

On June 15<sup>th</sup> 2015, the *BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture*, entitled: “Tissue-Specific Roles of the Pattern Recognition Receptor NOD2” was given by Dr. **David Prescott**, a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Philpott’s laboratory. A representative from BD-Biosciences presented the following awards, a \$2,500 lecture prize and a \$500 voucher to the Philpott laboratory. Shown on the right are: Scott Hayes (BD), Dave and Dana.



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### CONGRATULATIONS

#### Reclassification

Dennis Lee (Gommerman lab) – May 27, 2015

Immunology Summer Student Research Program Final Presentations

Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 – 9:00am in MS7231

Join us for the final presentations of the 2015 Immunology Summer Student Research Program. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.”

### NOTICE

As of Thursday July 2, 2015 summer hours begin in the Department of Immunology. Staff will generally be in the office between 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday. Summer hours are in effect until Labour Day.

### IGSA

Hello Immunologists!

We hope everyone had a great time at the retreat if you had the chance to attend and congratulations once again to all our winners in the poster and oral sessions.

**Upcoming IGSA events:** 1) IGSA election pub (date TBD). An election announcement and details regarding how to run will be sent out before the election.

2) Softball team: The Immunodominators will be playing in the intramural league this summer. If you didn't sign up but want to know more, please contact Dennis ([dsw.lee@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:dsw.lee@mail.utoronto.ca)).

3) Annual Interdepartmental Boat Cruise:

**Date:** August 21, 2015

**Time:** 8PM

**Location:** Cruise Toronto & Great Lakes Schooner (249 Queens Quay West)

We have rented the Obsession III for your cruising pleasure again this summer! Early bird tickets are \$30. Talk to your department reps about how to purchase tickets, get them fast, the boat capacity is limited!

4) Annual picnic: in August, keep on the lookout for more details

Have a good summer!!

### PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (May 2015) <sup>(1-7)</sup>

1. Ahn, J. J., J. O'Mahony, M. Moshkova, H. E. Hanwell, H. Singh, M. A. Zhang, R. A. Marrie, A. Bar-Or, D. A. Sadovnick, S. E. Dunn, and B. L. Banwell. 2015. Puberty in females enhances the risk of an outcome of multiple sclerosis in children and the development of central nervous system autoimmunity in mice. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal* 21: 735-748.
2. Berinstein, N. L., S. Bhella, N. M. Pennell, M. C. Cheung, K. R. Imrie, D. E. Spaner, V. Milliken, L. Zhang, K. Hewitt, A. Boudreau, M. D. Reis, A. Chesney, D. Good, Z. Ghorab, L. K. Hicks, E. Piliotis, and R. Buckstein. 2015. Prolonged clinical remissions in patients with relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma treated with autologous stem cell transplantation incorporating rituximab. *Annals of Hematology* 94: 813-823.
3. Dworski, S., A. Berger, C. Furlonger, J. M. Moreau, M. Yoshimitsu, J. Trentadue, B. C. Y. Au, C. J. Paige, and J. A. Medin. 2015. Markedly perturbed hematopoiesis in acid ceramidase deficient mice. *Haematologica* 100.
4. Guo, T., K. Chamoto, and N. Hirano. 2015. Adoptive T cell therapy targeting CD1 and MR1. *Frontiers in Immunology* 6.
5. Rahim, M. M. A., P. Chen, A. N. Mottashed, A. B. Mahmoud, M. J. Thomas, Q. Zhu, C. G. Brooks, V. Kartsogiannis, M. T. Gillespie, J. R. Carlyle, and A. P. Makriganis. 2015. The mouse NKR-P1B:Clr-b recognition system is a negative regulator of innate immune responses. *Blood* 125: 2217-2227.
6. Saleiro, D., S. Mehrotra, B. Kroczyńska, E. M. Beauchamp, P. Lisowski, B. Majchrzak-Kita, T. D. Bhagat, B. L. Stein, B. McMahon, J. K. Altman, E. M. Kosciuczuk, D. P. Baker, C. Jie, N. Jafari, C. B. Thompson, R. L. Levine, E. N. Fish, A. K. Verma, and L. C. Platanias. 2015. Central Role of ULK1 in Type I Interferon Signaling. *Cell Reports* 11: 605-617.
7. Xu, H. C., J. Huang, V. Khairnar, V. Duhan, A. A. Pandya, M. Grusdat, P. Shinde, D. R. McIlwain, S. K. Maney, J. Gommerman, M. Loehning, P. S. Ohashi, T. W. Mak, K. Pieper, H. Sic, M. Speletas, H. Eibel, C. F. Ware, A. V. Tumanov, A. A. Kruglov, S. A. Nedospasov, D. Haeussinger, M. Recher, K. S. Lang, and P. A. Lang. 2015. Deficiency of the B Cell-Activating Factor Receptor Results in Limited CD169(+) Macrophage Function during Viral Infection. *Journal of Virology* 89: 4748-4759.

We'd like to hear from you!  
Comments or Questions – Please contact:  
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