

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

VOL IV – ISSUE 6

June 2016

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

We had a magnificent sun-filled couple of days by the shores of charming Lake Couchiching for our 10th 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 **Helen** and **Dennis**. Kudos to all for putting together such a terrific retreat, which also featured the “*best ever*” retreat video production. Additionally, the keynote speaker, **Jason Cyster**, delivered a wonderful lecture and helped to make this a truly memorable retreat.

Congratulations to the oral and poster presentation winners. In case you missed them, we will be displaying the winning posters in the 7th floor of the MSB, near the Immunology office. The award for the best oral presentation went to **Rahul Shinde** (McGaha lab), while the 1st place poster presentation award went to **James Han** (Ohashi lab), 2nd place to **Anh Cao** (Treanor lab), and 3rd place to **Lindsay Cho** (Yeung lab). See below for more about the retreat from IGSA.

The retreat together with the presentation of the 4th *BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture* by this year's winner Dr. **Ali A. Sater**, from the Watts 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 this [UHN article](#) featuring our very own **Eleanor Fish**, who was recently selected as a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences.

This month another excellent issue of [IMMpress Magazine](#) was released, which will be a must read for the summer. Once again, congrats to the *IMMpress* team for giving us another stunning 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 2016. In the meantime, best wishes for a productive summer.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

July 2016

Special Seminar with Dr. Anand Balasubramani the NEW Associate Editor of *Science Immunology*

Tuesday July 26th, 2016

Location “TBA” at 11:10 a.m.

“TBA ”

(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

AWARDS

On June 20th 2016, the *BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture*, entitled: “A new function for TRAF1 in regulation of TLR signaling underlies the role of TRAF1 in rheumatic disease ” was given by Dr. **Ali A. Sater**, a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Watts’ laboratory. A Representative from BD-Biosciences presented the following awards, a \$2,500 lecture prize and a \$500 voucher to the Watts laboratory. Shown on the right are: Scott Hayes (BD), Ali and Tania.





CONGRATULATIONS

PhD

Daniel Chapman (Williams lab) – May 3, 2016

MSc

Milica Tanic (Zuniga-Pflucker lab) – May 9, 2016

Reclassification

Elizabeth Foerster (Philpott lab) – May 17, 2016

Rodney Rousseau (Kaul lab) – May 25, 2016

William Chu (Watts lab) – May 31, 2016

Qualifying

Kogulan Yoganathan (Anderson/Zuniga-Pflucker labs) – May 18, 2016

FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE

Conflict can often make us feel uneasy or alone. Conflict can also push us to think creatively and challenge our assumptions. The [Graduate Conflict Resolution Centre](#) is here to support the U of T graduate community in taking steps to prevent and address conflict. Connect confidentially with a trained G2G (grad-to-grad) Peer Advisor to talk about options for addressing a concern, how to start a difficult conversation and/or university supports and resources. Visit gradcrc.utoronto.ca to make an appointment.

REMINDERS

As of Thursday July 2, 2015 summer hours begin in the Department of Immunology. Staff will generally be in the office between 8:45 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday. Summer hours are in effect until Labour Day.

GPD April-June 2016 Update

Dr. Nana Lee and Darrin Gao participated a whole day “Leaders in Graduate Education” meeting where a selected number of 50 faculty and students discussed various issues in graduate education. Among other topics, Dr. Lee made suggestions for a university-wide GPD-IDP form implementation and the fostering of skills in strategic communications and networking, and highly supported a university-wide GPS web space. Darrin spoke about the importance of experiential learning objectives and the many initiatives with community outreach through his student consulting organizations. Another half day meeting revolved around “Core Competencies” where participants teased out industry’s business competencies to implement in GPS programming.

Summer GPD for PDFs and PhDs hosted a full house with 21 participants over 2 full days.

A site visit to Janssen Pharmaceuticals has been planned for July for a select few.

Our first internship for Applied Immunology MSc student, Alice Yang, is with VivaVax, a biotech start-up as Technology Research and Development Associate. Congratulations to Alice for using her GPD skills in networking and pursuing her own interests!



Dr. Nana Lee's Invited Speaking Engagements

Dept of Cell System Biology Career Panel and Mini Communications Workshop

10th Annual U of Toronto Teaching and Learning Symposium

Computational Biology Conference Trainee Workshop

Canadian Society of Microbiologists Conference Trainee Workshop

Graduate Career Consortium, Berkeley, California

IGSA

Dear Immunology Family,

We hope everyone had an IMM-azing time and enjoyed the beautiful weather at our 10th annual retreat on Jun 21-22, 2016!

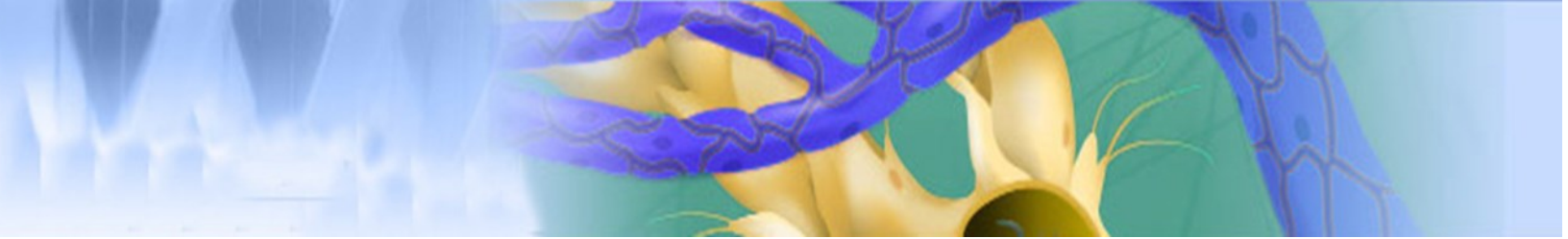
As a quick recap, the first day of the retreat consisted of an oral symposium, and a panel discussion with representatives from StemCELL, Biolegend, eBioscience/Affymetrix/Thermo Fisher, and Miltenyi Biotec. Later, some of us participated in #IMMstagram race, poster session, and cocktail reception and the annual bonfire. Congratulations to James Han, Anh Cao and Lindsay Cho for presenting the top three posters! The posters will be showcased on the 7th floor of the Medical Sciences Building for the next year.

On day two, four teams competed in the case competition, followed by a second oral symposium and an exciting keynote speech from Dr. Jason Cyster. Congratulations to IMMagine Solutions for winning the \$500 prize for the case competition and Dr. Rahul Shinde for presenting the Best Oral Talk. Thank you to all of our faculty and postdoctoral fellows who gave talks at the retreat. We hope everyone had the chance to learn something new and make new friends at YMCA Geneva Park and we hope to see you again next year.

Thank you to everyone who filled out the feedback forms, your thoughts are greatly appreciated! We will take all your suggestions into consideration for our next retreat. We would also like to thank everyone that helped us with the retreat including our sponsors, the judges for the poster session and case competition, chairs for the oral symposiums and a shout out to the IGSA executive committee for their hard work!

Best wishes,

Team IGSA



PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (May 2016)

1. Cui, A., G. Quon, A. M. Rosenberg, R. S. M. Yeung, Q. Morris, and B. S. Consortium. 2016. Gene Expression Deconvolution for Uncovering Molecular Signatures in Response to Therapy in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. *Plos One* 11.
2. Galligan, C. L., E. C. Keystone, and E. N. Fish. 2016. Fibrocyte and T cell interactions promote disease pathogenesis in rheumatoid arthritis. *Journal of Autoimmunity* 69: 38-50.
3. Guo, T., K. Chamoto, M. Nakatsugawa, T. Ochi, Y. Yamashita, M. Anczurowski, M. O. Butler, and N. Hirano. 2016. Mouse and Human CD1d-Self-Lipid Complexes Are Recognized Differently by Murine Invariant Natural Killer T Cell Receptors. *Plos One* 11.
4. Kim, D., Y.-G. Kim, S.-U. Seo, D.-J. Kim, N. Kamada, D. Prescott, D. J. Philpott, P. Rosenstiel, N. Inohara, and G. Nunez. 2016. Nod2-mediated recognition of the microbiota is critical for mucosal adjuvant activity of cholera toxin. *Nature Medicine* 22: 524-530.
5. Mouawad, C. A., M. F. Mrad, G. A. El-Achkar, A. Abdul-Sater, G. M. Nemer, C. Creminon, S. Lotersztajn, and A. Habib. 2016. Statins Modulate Cyclooxygenase-2 and Microsomal Prostaglandin E Synthase-1 in Human Hepatic Myofibroblasts. *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry* 117: 1176-1186.
6. Papp, E., K. Balogun, N. Banko, H. Mohammadi, M. Loutfy, M. H. Yudin, R. Shah, J. MacGillivray, K. E. Murphy, S. L. Walmsley, M. Silverman, and L. Serghides. 2016. Low Prolactin and High 20-alpha-Hydroxysteroid Dehydrogenase Levels Contribute to Lower Progesterone Levels in HIV-Infected Pregnant Women Exposed to Protease Inhibitor-Based Combination Antiretroviral Therapy. *Journal of Infectious Diseases* 213: 1532-1540.
7. Ramachandran, S., D. Haddad, C. Li, M. X. Le, A. K. Ling, C. C. So, R. M. Nepal, J. L. Gommerman, K. Yu, T. Ketela, J. Moffat, and A. Martin. 2016. The SAGA Deubiquitination Module Promotes DNA Repair and Class Switch Recombination through ATM and DNAPK-Mediated gamma H2AX Formation. *Cell Reports* 15: 1554-1565.
8. Revelo, X. S., S. Winer, and D. A. Winer. 2016. Starving Intestinal Inflammation with the Amino Acid Sensor GCN2. *Cell Metabolism* 23: 763-765.
9. Robbins, C. S., and R. Besla. 2016. Primitive Macrophages Drive Coronary Development. *Circulation Research* 118: 1454-1456.
10. Spaner, D. E., G. Wang, L. McCaw, Y. Li, P. Disperati, M.-A. Cussen, and Y. Shi. 2016. Activity of the Janus kinase inhibitor ruxolitinib in chronic lymphocytic leukemia: results of a phase II trial. *Haematologica* 101: e192-195.

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