

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

VOL V – ISSUE 7

March 2017

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

Spring is upon us, although the weather may not be cooperating, and we are now entering reclass/qualifying exam season. With this in mind, I want to encourage our 2nd year graduate students to have their proposals approved and submitted on time, and thank our faculty, in particular members of the graduate committee, for making time to read the proposals and participate in the examination process.

I am delighted to say that we are now accepting nominations for the 5th **Annual BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize**, with the winner of this prize to deliver a lecture on June 19th, a day before our annual Department of Immunology Summer Retreat, June 2-21st; please see details below.

With this in mind, we are trying to reach out to all postdoctoral fellows working in labs of PI's affiliated with Department of Immunology, please let us know at immunology.communications@utoronto.ca about any new recruits to your lab, and of course please encourage your new and current postdocs to go to <http://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/content/postdoctoral-fellow-registration> to register with us.

Next week, April 7th, we will have the pleasure to hear from our **IMM450** 4th year Immunology Research Project Students, as well as from our **IMM1450** 1st year Applied Immunology MSc Research Project Students presentations.

We now know who will be leading IMMSA next year, so to the incoming new undergraduate executive, *Congratulations*, I look forward to working with you. To the retiring IMMSA council, *Thanks* for a terrific year, *Natalie* and *Conan*, you were both exceptional co-presidents.

Additionally, please note the upcoming **OQUIC** event (May 6th - 7th), which will again feature the research accomplishments from our undergraduates, as they present their work and compete with their peers across Ontario and Quebec.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

EASTON SEMINARS

April 2017

Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

Monday April 3rd, 2017

Thomas Braciale, Ph.D.

"Dendritic Cells in the Host Response to Stress"

(Host: Tania Watts)

Monday April 17th, 2017

Dr. Dorian McGavern, Ph.D.

"Real-Time Insights into Regulation and Function of Pathogen-Specific Immunity

(Host: Dr. David Brooks)

Monday April 24th, 2017

Dr. Lisa Osborne, Ph.D.

"Host-Multibiome Interactions Regulate Intestinal Immunity and Inflammation"

(Host: Jayne Danska)

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.

STUDENT SEMINARS

April 2017

Room 4171 MSB at 10:00 a.m.

Monday April 3rd, 2017

Alicia Kilfoy (Supervisor: C. Guidos)

Lisa Hung (Supervisor: T. Eiwegger)

Monday April 17th, 2017

Mengdi Guo (Supervisor: D. Brooks)

Dario Ferri (Supervisor: J. Wither)

Monday April 24th, 2017

Ellie Doroshenko (Supervisor: S. Dunn)

Mengyao Shi (Supervisor: G. Ehrhardt)

RECLASS/QUALIFYING EXAMS

2017 reclass/qualifying exams will take place during the last two weeks of May. 2nd year students who are going forward with a reclass/qual exam should, at this point, have a draft of your proposal ready to hand off to your committee. [Proposal approval forms](#) should be submitted to graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca by your supervisor and each of your supervisory committee members no later than **April 28th, 2017**. Scheduling of exams and assigning of examiners is underway – your exam date, time, and exam committee composition will be communicated to you in the coming weeks.

FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE

The [Safety Abroad Office](#) works with students, staff and faculty to minimize risk by:

- Providing Safety Abroad Workshops
- Monitoring international security situations
- Assisting students with emergencies abroad
- Offering a 24-hour emergency line

Students who will be travelling abroad for research purposes, to attend conferences, etc, should register with the [Safety Abroad Database](#) so that U of T can provide you with assistance and support in the event of an emergency while you are abroad.



IMMSA

Hi everyone!

We hope you all had a productive month! IMMSA held numerous events for the undergraduate IMM students in March, including a academic seminar with Dr. Eleanor Fish, a grad school info seminar, and our spring executive elections.

We would like to officially announce the new IMMSA Exec for 2017-2018:

Co-Presidents: Lucy Shao and Sonya Kim

Vice-President: Derek Tsang

Secretary: Christina Truong

Sr. Events Coordinator: Vernon Li

Sr. Treasurer: Terra Morel

Sr. Web Master: Lina Oh

4th Year Representative: Wendy Wang

3rd Year Specialist Representative: Stephanie Stelea

3rd Year Major Representative: Francis Arias

Graphics Designer: Kitty Liu

ASSU Representatives: Kevin Ong and Afia Adofo

Congratulations to everyone elected!

We are looking forward to 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.

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

Dear Immunologists,

Hopefully spring is here to last! March saw the first IGSA Bowling Night in a few years, and it was a big success. We saw some spectacular five pin bowling, with some teams playing seriously and others testing out unconventional bowling techniques to the amusement of many. We also held our annual St. Paddy's Day Pub, for which there was a fantastic turnout. Big thank you to social reps Jerry, Parshin and Yoojin for organizing such fun events.

Our chemotactic crawlers will be dishing out some hematopoetic justice in the Race Roster Spring Run-off 5K/8K at High Park on Saturday April 8, 2017! In more news, IGSA's major upcoming event in April is Billiards Night the week of April 20th where immunologists will have the opportunity to compete amongst themselves for personal and departmental glory.

April 29, 2016 is World Immunology Day! Justin Chan and Oksana Okorokov are leading the charge in recruiting graduate volunteers to a plethora of high schools in the Toronto area to educate and inspire youth about the importance of immunology and scientific research.

Lastly, registration for the 11th Annual Summer Retreat will begin in April! Please keep an eye out for our upcoming emails. We are planning to build on the case competition from last year, with a few alterations to keep it exciting, as well as providing excellent talks and fun outdoor activities. A reminder the retreat is on June 20-21, 2017 so make sure to mark it in your calendars!

May you pipettes be forever calibrated,

Team IGSA



Immunology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize

Call for Nominations:

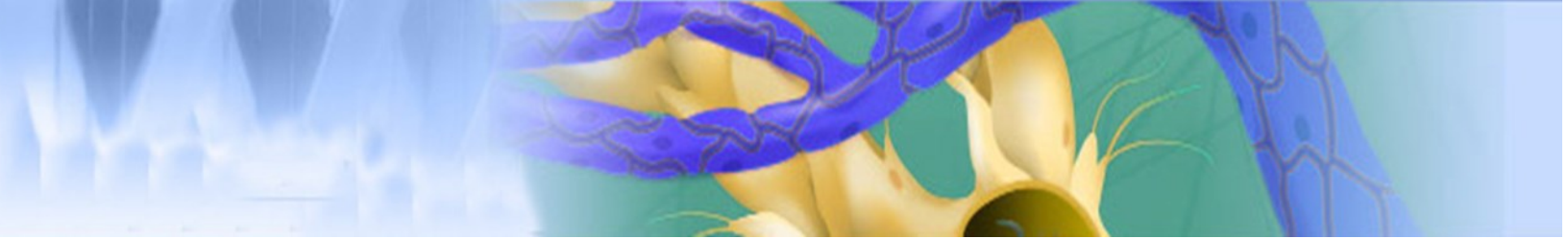
The Department of Immunology is pleased to announce that it is now accepting nominations of outstanding postdoctoral fellows for the *BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize*. This award is made possible by a generous gift from BD Biosciences.

Award: The award consists of a \$2,500 prize for the postdoctoral fellow, and a \$500 gift certificate from BD Biosciences for the laboratory of the principal investigator.

Nominations: Faculty members of the Department of Immunology can nominate a postdoc in their lab. Please provide a nominating letter, and a CV of the nominated postdoctoral fellow, to be submitted electronically to chair.immunology@utoronto.ca.

Deadline: **May 5, 2017** (5:00 pm) is the deadline for nominations. The winner will be announced on May 19, 2017.

Date of Lecture & Award Presentation: **Monday, June 19, 2017** is when the BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture, and prize presentation will take place.



PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (February 2017)

1. Chamoto, K., T. X. Guo, S. W. Scatty, Y. Kagoya, M. Ancruzowski, C. H. Wang, M. A. Rahman, K. Saso, M. O. Butler, P. P. L. Chiu, J. P. Julien, and N. Hirano. 2017. Key Residues at Third CDR3 beta Position Impact Structure and Antigen Recognition of Human Invariant NK TCRs. *Journal of Immunology* 198: 1056-1065.
2. Curry, A., I. Khatri, O. Kos, F. Zhu, and R. Gorczynski. 2017. Importance of CD200 expression by tumor or host cells to regulation of immunotherapy in a mouse breast cancer model. *Plos One* 12.
3. Konde, M. K., D. P. Baker, F. A. Traore, M. S. Sow, A. Camara, A. A. Barry, D. Mara, A. Barry, M. Cone, I. Kaba, A. A. Richard, A. H. Beavogui, S. Gunther, M. Pintilie, E. N. Fish, and C. European Mobile Lab. 2017. Interferon beta-1a for the treatment of Ebola virus disease: A historically controlled, single-arm proof-of-concept trial. *Plos One* 12.
4. McCaw, L., Y. H. Shi, G. Z. Wang, Y. J. Li, and D. E. Spaner. 2017. Low Density Lipoproteins Amplify Cytokine-signaling in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Cells. *Ebiomedicine* 15: 24-35.

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