

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

image provided by Frances Yeung

VOL III – ISSUE 9

May 2015

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

Over the weekend of May 2-3, the Undergraduate Immunology Student Association (IMMSA) hosted the 7th annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC). I want to congratulate the outgoing IMMSA co-presidents, **Karen Jia** and **Johnathan Lau**, and the fabulous IMMSA executive council for their phenomenal organizational work in delivering a very successful event, which featured keynote talks from Profs. Irah King (McGill) and Tak Mak.

Additionally, during the OQUIC event, I had the pleasure of presenting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *Immunology Undergraduate Service Award* to **Brando Sit**, IMMSA's webmaster. This departmental award is meant to recognize outstanding contributions to the department by an undergraduate student.

Last year, the Department of Immunology received a generous endowed gift targeted for the creation of a new award, "*Undergraduate Immunology Prize*", to be given to a student with the best academic standing in both IMM340/1 and IMM350/1 third year immunology courses. I am pleased to announce that the winner is **Dario Ferri**. Congratulations to Dario, who will be presented with this award at the Department of Immunology Winter Retreat, to be held on December 11, 2015, at the Hart House.

And a final exciting note, I am delighted to announce that the winner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual

*BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize* is Dr. **David Prescott** (Philpott lab), and as noted below, the BD-BIPDLP will take place on Monday June 15<sup>th</sup>, same time & place as the Easton Seminars. Congratulations to Dave, and we look forward to an exciting talk, just ahead of the upcoming Department of Immunology Summer Retreat, see below for more details from the IGSA organizers.

Lastly, please join me in giving a warm welcome to our first cohort of graduate students enrolled in our new M.Sc. degree in Applied Immunology.

### UPCOMING SEMINARS



**Biosciences Immunology  
Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize**

Presenter: **David Prescott, PhD**

*"Tissue-Specific Roles of the Pattern Recognition Receptor NOD2."*

Monday, June 15, 2015

11:00 a.m.

Room 2172, Medical Sciences Bldg.

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### WELCOME

We'd like to welcome our inaugural, and pioneering, advanced-standing entry class for the Master's in Applied Immunology graduate program who started their studies at the beginning of May.

- Alexey Gurevich – ( Grunebaum lab)
- Leslie Leung – (Gommerman lab)
- Qi (Alice) Yang – (Anderson lab)

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### CONGRATULATIONS

#### PhD

Dr. Daniel Burke (Fish lab) – April 2, 2015

Dr. Monan Angela Zhang (Dunn lab) – April 29, 2015

#### Reclassification

Sergey Yegorov (Kaul lab) – April 7, 2015

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### IGSA

Hello Immunologists!

The department's annual retreat is fast approaching! This year's retreat runs from Tuesday June 16th to Wednesday June 17th and will be held at Geneva Park. Please join us for two days of fun and bonding as the department competes in the annual IMMazing Race and as we listen to presentations of the very exciting work performed by our fellow Immunologists, and to a brilliant keynote speaker.

Registration for the retreat is only open until **Friday, May 29th**, so please sign up using the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jdPSdlAGhURcgl-tTLFPCzSIXDJ3-lcPkjNTSWzclEc/viewform>

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We also want to extend an invitation to all senior year PhD students, Post Docs and professors to present their work at the retreat. Preference will be given to those who have not presented in the last 2 years, but everyone is welcome to indicate their interest in presenting. Please email Sintia ([sintia.xhiku@gmail.com](mailto:sintia.xhiku@gmail.com)) or Simon ([simonweng@gmail.com](mailto:simonweng@gmail.com)) if you would like to showcase your work.

Also, if anyone is interested in being part of our retreat video (as an actor, producer or editor) please let us know!

-- IGSA

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### IMMSA

Hello Immunology undergrads!

We hope you had a great academic year, and are enjoying your summer!

The month of May has been quite eventful on the undergraduate front. Here are some quick highlights:

#### OQUIC

The 7th Ontario Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC) took place from May 2nd to May 3rd. Undergraduate students performing research in immunology from the University of Toronto, McGill University, McMaster University, and Science Abroad gathered to present their findings. Topics ranged from antiviral immunity to yeast epigenetics to rheumatoid arthritis. Highlights included keynote speeches from Dr. Irah King and Dr. Tak Wah Mak, and a dinner followed with a pub night to wind down and mingle with fellow students and faculty.

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The 7<sup>th</sup> annual  
Ontario-Quebec  
Undergraduate Immunology  
Conference





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We are pleased to announce the winners of this year's presentations: Brandon Sit (University of Toronto), Kelly Wong (University of Toronto) in second place, and Caitlyn Hui (McGill University) in third place. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who attended!

### **Department of Immunology Undergraduate Service Award**

Each year, this award is presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding undergraduate leadership and commitment to the Department of Immunology. Many congratulations to Brandon Sit, who, along with his work with IMMSA, was recognized for putting forth the undergraduate research highlight over social media in order to reach more students and bring to light the current work being done at the University of Toronto.

Speaking of which, the undergraduate immunology research highlights feature is still up and running! We encourage you to take a look at April's issue at [http://immsauoft.com/?page\\_id=1035](http://immsauoft.com/?page_id=1035). Don't forget to check out <http://instagram.com/immsagram>. If you have any photos you would like to send in for immsagram please email them to [immsa.immunology@gmail.com](mailto:immsa.immunology@gmail.com). We'd appreciate the input!

Lastly, as your new co-presidents, we'd like to assure you that plans to provide a rich undergraduate experience with academic talks, research seminars, and social activities are in motion. We also look forward to working with the Department of Immunology as well as with the Immunology Graduate Students Association.

Thank you and best regards,

Andrea Macikunas & Priscilla Yung

IMMSA Co-Presidents

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### PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (April 2015) <sup>(1-11)</sup>

1. Belcheva, A., T. Irrazabal, and A. Martin. 2015. Gut microbial metabolism and colon cancer: Can manipulations of the microbiota be useful in the management of gastrointestinal health? *Bioessays* 37: 403-412.
2. Benchimol, E. I., D. G. Manuel, T. To, D. R. Mack, G. C. Nguyen, J. L. Gommerman, K. Croitoru, N. Mojaverian, X. Wang, P. Quach, and A. Guttman. 2015. Asthma, Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, and Inflammatory Bowel Disease amongst South Asian Immigrants to Canada and Their Children: A Population-Based Cohort Study. *Plos One* 10.
3. Boudil, A., I. R. Matei, H.-Y. Shih, G. Bogdanoski, J. S. Yuan, S. G. Chang, B. Montpellier, P. E. Kowalski, V. Voisin, S. Bashir, G. D. Bader, M. S. Krangel, and C. J. Guidos. 2015. IL-7 coordinates proliferation, differentiation and Tcr $\alpha$  recombination during thymocyte beta-selection. *Nature Immunology* 16: 397-405.
4. Camargo, J. F., A. Bhimji, D. Kumar, R. Kaul, R. Pavan, A. Schuh, M. Seftel, J. H. Lipton, V. Gupta, A. Humar, and S. Husain. 2015. Impaired T Cell Responsiveness to Interleukin-6 in Hematological Patients with Invasive Aspergillosis. *Plos One* 10.
5. Clayton, K. L., M. B. Douglas-Vail, A. K. M. N.-u. Rahman, K. E. Medcalf, I. Y. Xie, G. M. Chew, R. Tandon, M. C. Lanteri, P. J. Norris, S. G. Deeks, L. C. Ndhlovu, and M. A. Ostrowski. 2015. Soluble T Cell Immunoglobulin Mucin Domain 3 Is Shed from CD8(+) T Cells by the Sheddase ADAM10, Is Increased in Plasma during Untreated HIV Infection, and Correlates with HIV Disease Progression. *Journal of Virology* 89: 3723-3736.
6. Derking, R., G. Ozorowski, K. Sliepen, A. Yasmeen, A. Cupo, J. L. Torres, J.-P. Julien, J. H. Lee, T. van Montfort, S. W. de Taeye, M. Connors, D. R. Burton, I. A. Wilson, P.-J. Klasse, A. B. Ward, J. P. Moore, and R. W. Sanders. 2015. Comprehensive Antigenic Map of a Cleaved Soluble HIV-1 Envelope Trimer. *Plos Pathogens* 11.
7. Liang, H. C. Y., and J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker. 2015. Hematopoiesis: from start to immune reconstitution potential. *Stem Cell Research & Therapy* 6: 52.
8. Luck, H., S. Tsai, J. Chung, X. Clemente-Casares, M. Ghazarian, X. S. Revelo, H. Lei, C. T. Luk, S. Y. Shi, A. Surendra, J. K. Copeland, J. Ahn, D. Prescott, B. A. Rasmussen, M. H. Y. Chng, E. G. Engleman, S. E. Girardin, T. K. T. Lam, K. Croitoru, S. Dunn, D. J. Philpott, D. S. Guttman, M.

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- Woo, S. Winer, and D. A. Winer. 2015. Regulation of Obesity-Related Insulin Resistance with Gut Anti-inflammatory Agents. *Cell Metabolism* 21: 527-542.
9. Marsh, A. K., A. P. Ambagala, C. T. Perciani, J. N. H. Russell, J. K. Chan, M. Janes, J. M. Antony, R. Pilon, P. Sandstrom, D. O. Willer, and K. S. MacDonald. 2015. Examining the Species-Specificity of Rhesus Macaque Cytomegalovirus (RhCMV) in Cynomolgus Macaques. *Plos One* 10.
  10. Nakatsugawa, M., Y. Yamashita, T. Ochi, S. Tanaka, K. Chamoto, T. Guo, M. O. Butler, and N. Hirano. 2015. Specific Roles of Each TCR Hemichain in Generating Functional Chain-Centric TCR. *Journal of Immunology* 194: 3487-3500.
  11. Nelles, M. E., and C. J. Paige. 2015. CD4(+) T cell plasticity engenders robust immunity in response to cytokine therapy. *Oncoimmunology* 4.

*We'd like to hear from you!*  
*Comments or Questions – Please contact:*  
[Immunology.newsletter@utoronto.ca](mailto:Immunology.newsletter@utoronto.ca)