

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

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May 2017

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

Earlier this month, over the weekend of May 6-7, the Undergraduate Immunology Student Association (IMMSA) hosted the 9th annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC). I want to congratulate the outgoing IMMSA co-presidents, **Natalie Hoffmann** and **Conan Chua**, and the amazing IMMSA executive council for their wonderful organizational work in putting together a very successful event, which featured keynote talks from Profs. **André Veillette** (U. de Montréal) and **Jayne Danska**.

Additionally, during the OQUIC event, I had the pleasure of presenting the 4th annual Immunology Undergraduate Service Award to **Natalie Hoffmann**, IMMSA's co-president. This departmental award meant to recognize outstanding contributions to the department by an academically accomplished undergraduate student.

I am also delighted to announce that this year's winner of the "The Immunology Undergraduate Prize", which is given to a student with the best academic standing in both IMM340/1 and IMM350/1 third year immunology courses, are **Goodness Madu** and **Yuki Leung**, who tied with a near perfect set of marks for both courses. Congratulations to both, who will be presented with this award at the Department of Immunology Winter Retreat, to be held on Friday, December 15, 2017 (yes, do mark your calendars for the social event of the year).

Speaking of important events, I am delighted to announce that the winner of the 5th Annual BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize is Dr. **Sue Tsai** (Winer lab), and as noted on the right margin, the BD-BIPDLP will take place on Monday June 19th. Congratulations to Sue, and we look forward to an exciting talk, just a day ahead of the upcoming Department of Immunology Summer Retreat (June 20-21), see below for more details from the IGSA organizers.

I am thrilled to say that for this year's Department of Immunology Summer Retreat, we have two Keynote Speakers, Prof. **Ulrich von Andrian** (Harvard Medical School) and Nobel Laureate Prof. **Rolf Zinkernagel**.

UPCOMING

PhD Research Presentation

Room 7231 MSB at 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday June 7, 2017

Ben Xuhao Wang

Supervisor: Dr. Eleanor Fish

"Influenza A Virus NS1 Inhibits Type I IFN Responses"

Special Seminar

BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize

Room 2173 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

Monday June 19, 2017

Dr. Sue Tsai, Ph.D.

**"The insulin receptor signaling pathway as a critical
regulator of T cell function "**

So please be sure to register and participate in what will be a most IMMazing couple of days by the shores of Lake Couchiching in Orillia.

Lastly, please join me in giving a warm welcome to our newly reconstituted Department of Immunology Office staff, listed below.

Administrative Staff

Ian Marquez, Acting Graduate Assistant
Graduate.Immunology@utoronto.ca

Ayanna Vaughan, Acting Undergraduate Assistant
undergraduate.immunology@utoronto.ca

Jessica Bartels, Acting Departmental Assistant
Reception.immunology@utoronto.ca

Bethany Babinchak, Financial Coordinator
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DEADLINES/REMINDERS

Reclass/Qualifying exam season is well underway! Students are reminded to ensure your examiners receive your proposal no later than two weeks before your exam. A big “thanks!” to all those faculty who are participating in exams this year.

Graduate Admissions

The final admissions deadline for September 2017 has passed, and the Admissions Committee will be reviewing applications over the next few weeks. Faculty will receive information on our incoming students as soon as it is available.

FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE

Graduate Professional Skills (GPS)

Program The GPS program is an initiative of the School of Graduate Studies, designed to help all graduate students become fully prepared for their future.

GPS focuses on skills beyond those conventionally learned within a disciplinary program, skills that may be critical to success in the wide range of careers that graduates enter, both within and outside academe.

For more information please visit their website at:

<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Professional-Development.aspx>



HUMAN IMMUNOLOGY

Reminder for trainees: to be eligible for the Jim Watts travel award in Human Immunology they must present a human immunology poster or talk at the **Departmental Retreat: June 20-21, 2017 - YMCA Geneva Park, Orillia, Ontario.**

Award Description:

This year, the **Jim Watts travel award in Human Immunology** will be presented for the first time. This travel award (\$1000) to be used toward the academic conference of your choice. Awarded for the best human immunology focused presentation at the Department Retreat presented by a trainee (grad student or post-doc).

Criteria:

- ◆ Students/post docs should indicate if they want to be judged for the Jim Watts travel award when they submit their abstract (post docs giving oral presentation can also be considered)
- ◆ Subject of poster presentation or talk must be focused on human immune system (i.e. analysis of human immune system rather than mouse models of human disease)
- ◆ Judges will rank human immunology presentations and select 1 winner
- ◆ Funds will be administered by Department of Immunology - and awarded upon provision of **original** receipts for attendance at the conference using the Department of Immunology expense form and subject to normal U of T travel expense regulations
- ◆ Conference attended by the awardee should be an academic, immunology related conference, subject to the approval of their PI



IGSA

Calling all Immunologists,

The month of May spun off with an excellent night of ping pong, pool and friendly competition amongst immunologists. Jerry, Mahmoud, Nyrie and others lit up the ping pong table with some fierce smashes and spectacular returns. Others chose to test their trigonometry by playing all the angles in billiards. A big thanks to Jerry Shen for organizing the event! To round out the month of May 30 or so Immunologists met at the Blue Jays stadium to watch the Jays round the bases. Looks like Parshin planned the game well since the Jays were starting to turn around their almost disaster of a season just in time for us to watch!

Baseball did not end at Roger's stadium on Monday night but instead will continue in the form of the summer softball season. IGSA hopes everyone is as excited as us about Immuno-dominating the league this year. Practices are commencing first week of June. IGSA will make sure to keep you posted for the start of the season.

The reason of the summer season for everyone who is anyone in Immunology is the **11th Annual Department of Immunology Retreat on June 20th-21st at Geneva Park in Orillia**. The last chance to register for the retreat is **Thursday June 1st** so make sure you register before the deadline. We are bringing back the case competition this year so make sure to sign for the competition when you register for the retreat for your chance to compete against your fellow students to win a monetary prize. This year the Immunology retreat is boasting two great keynote speakers, Nobel Laureate Dr. Rolf Zinkernagel and microscopy king Dr. Ulrich von Andrian. If you have already registered to present a poster in the poster competition and you do human immunology make sure to let Mark (mark.gower@mail.utoronto.ca) know if you would like to compete for the \$1000 Jim Watt's Travel Award to be used by the winner to travel to a conference of their choice. As with the last ten retreats this year's is sure to be a good time with great colleagues, we can't wait to see you there!

Much love,

IGSA



IMMSA

Hello immunologists!

We would like to thank everyone for their participation in the 9th annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC)! We welcomed undergraduate students from across Ontario and Quebec, where they presented the results from their immunology-based research projects. We also heard inspiring keynote presentations from Dr. André Veillette (Université de Montréal) and Dr. Jayne Danska (U of T).

Congratulations to the winners of OQUIC 2017:

1st place - Harry Yang (McGill University)

2nd place - Janna Shapiro (McGill University)

3rd place - Xiaotang Gao (UofT)

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer, and we look forward to classes starting up again in September. Congratulations to all graduating IMM Specialists, Majors, and Minors and good luck for future endeavours!

Please follow us on social media for all club and 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 | <http://facebook.com/IMMSA.UofT>



PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (April 2017)

1. Abdullahi, A., M. Stanojic, A. Parousis, D. Patsouris, and M. G. Jeschke. 2017. MODELING ACUTE ER STRESS IN VIVO AND IN VITRO. *Shock* 47: 506-513.
2. Gorczynski, R. M., H. Sadozai, F. Zhu, and I. Khatri. 2017. Effect of infusion of monoclonal antibodies to tumour necrosis factor-receptor super family 25 on graft rejection in allo-immune mice receiving autologous marrow transplantation. *Immunology* 150: 418-431.
3. Gorczynski, R. M., F. Zhu, Z. Q. Chen, O. Kos, and I. Khatri. 2017. A comparison of serum miRNAs influencing metastatic growth of EMT6 vs 4THM tumor cells in wild-type and CD200R1KO mice. *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment* 162: 255-266.
4. Kahr, W. H. A., F. G. Pluthero, A. Elkadri, N. Warner, M. Drobac, C. H. Chen, R. W. Lo, L. Li, R. Li, Q. Li, C. Thoeni, J. Pan, G. Leung, I. Lara-Corrales, R. Murchie, E. Cutz, R. M. Laxer, J. Upton, C. M. Roifman, R. S. M. Yeung, J. H. Brumell, and A. M. Muise. 2017. Loss of the Arp2/3 complex component ARPC1B causes platelet abnormalities and predisposes to inflammatory disease. *Nature Communications* 8.
5. Kan, N., E. D. Silverman, J. Kingdom, N. Dutil, C. Laskin, and E. Jaeggi. 2017. Serial echocardiography for immune-mediated heart disease in the fetus: results of a risk-based prospective surveillance strategy. *Prenatal Diagnosis* 37: 375-382.
6. Wang, B. X., S. A. Grover, P. Kannu, G. Yoon, R. M. Laxer, E. A. Yeh, and E. N. Fish. 2017. Interferon-Stimulated Gene Expression as a Preferred Biomarker for Disease Activity in Aicardi-Goutieres Syndrome. *Journal of Interferon and Cytokine Research* 37: 147-152.

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