

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

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VOL II – ISSUE 9

May 2014

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

Over the weekend of May 9-10, the Undergraduate Immunology Student Association (IMMSA) hosted the 6th annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC). I want to congratulate the outgoing IMMSA co-presidents, **Lucy Chau** and **Heng Sun**, and the fabulous IMMSA executive council for their phenomenal organizational work in delivering a very successful event. You can read more about the conference, which had over 20 undergraduate presenters, under the IMMSA section below.

Additionally, during the OQUIC event, I had the pleasure of presenting the *Immunology Undergraduate Service Award* to **Lucy Chau**. This is a new departmental award meant to recognize outstanding contributions to the department by an undergraduate student.

A final exciting note, on Monday May 26th, at the start of the Easton Seminar, I will announce the winner of the 2nd annual *BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize*, and as noted below the BD-BIPDLP will take place on Monday June 16th, same time & place as the Easton Seminars.

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Save the date:**

Mark your calendars to be sure to [register](#) and attend the Department of Immunology's 2014 Summer Retreat, which will take place on **June 17-18, 2014**, again by the shores of beautiful lake Couchiching in Orillia Ontario. We have **Prof. Charles Surh** as our keynote speaker, and will again have lots of great talks and fun activities.

### **SPECIAL SEMINARS**

#### **Brent Johnston, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Dept. Microbiology & Immunology  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, NS

(Hosts: Drs. Dana Philpott & Thierry Mallevey)

*"Regulation of immune responses and NKT cell function by the chemokine receptor CXCR6."*

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

3:00 p.m.

Room 4279 Medical Sciences Bldg.

#### **Nancy H. Ruddle, PhD**

John Rodman Paul Professor Emerita  
and Senior Research Scientist  
Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases  
Yale University School of Public Health  
New Haven, CT

*"What is the Role of HEVs and Lymphatic vessels in Chronic Inflammation?"*

(Host: Dr. Jennifer Gommerman)

Thursday, June 19, 2014

2:00 p.m.

Room 4279 Medical Sciences Bldg.



**Biosciences Immunology  
Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize**

#### **Presenter: TBA**

*Title: TBA*

Monday, June 16, 2014

11:00 a.m.

Room 2172, Medical Sciences Bldg.

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### CONGRATULATIONS

#### PhD

Dr. Janice Sarmiento - April 22, 2014 (Poussier lab)

Dr. Haydn Liang - April 24, 2014 (Zúñiga-Pflücker lab)

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#### May 2014 / ASAP (Reclassifying and Qualifying students):

Your supervisor and each member of your supervisory committee will need to submit a [Reclassification / Qualifying Approval Form](#). You also need to suggest examiners by filling out an [Examining Committee Pre-approval Form](#) – to be approved by the Graduate Coordinator. These forms must be submitted **4 weeks prior to your proposed exam date**. The Graduate Office will then contact your proposed examiners and make arrangements for the exam according to the date you and your committee have chosen.

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#### POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS:

- Reminder to all PDFs in Immunology labs to [register](#) for the Immunology Summer Retreat
- Position available in Dr. Watts lab, details [here](#)

#### IGSA

Hello Immunologists!

Welcome to spring (we think?!)

If you haven't yet registered for this year's Departmental Retreat (June 17-18th at Geneva Park), please do so at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1161Hz9WENzwZzyKkO58xuLgWqTeW5k5Wosbx9nsdmiY/viewform>

Registration is open until **May 30th!**

We hope to see you there, for all kinds of departmental traditions, some great talks and some good laughs.

—IGSA

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### IMMSA

#### The 6th annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC)

##### Event Summary

The 6th Annual Ontario Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC) was held at the University of Toronto Bahen Centre for Information Technology on May 9th-10th, 2014. Each year, OQUIC brings together students from universities across both provinces to foster scientific communication and their passion for research and discovery in the field of immunology. Over 50 students and faculty members were in attendance in listening to the 23 invited research presentations. Amongst the universities participating in this year's knowledge-exchange include: McGill University, McMaster University, Queen's University, as well as the University of Toronto. In addition to student presentations, OQUIC featured exciting keynote addresses from world-class immunologists as well as evening socials in the heart of downtown Toronto. OQUIC's opening keynote featured an inspiring address from Dr. Joaquin Madrenas, Professor and Chair of McGill University's Department of Microbiology and Immunology. This was followed by a closing keynote from Dr. Tania Watts of University of Toronto, who gave participants great insight in immunological research. Chair of University of Toronto's Department of Immunology, Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker, was also present to congratulate the winning presentations in the conference. OQUIC proved to be a stimulating combination of academic dialogue and social activities. Undergraduate participants were encouraged to build upon their research careers and students connected with immunology enthusiasts throughout Ontario and Quebec.

##### OQUIC Winning Presentations:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Charles Yin, McMaster University, *Signal Transduction Mechanisms of the Macrophage Scavenger Receptor A (SR-A)*

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Rui Hu, University of Toronto, *Identifying Factors Responsible for B-cell Ig Class Switch Recombination*

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Hannah Guak, McGill University, *Metabolic Profiling of Differentially Activated Dendritic Cells*

For more information regarding OQUIC, please visit IMMSA's website: <http://immsauoft.com/>

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### PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (April 2014) <sup>(1-11)</sup>

1. Chao, G. Y. C., R. H. Wallis, L. Marandi, T. Ning, J. Sarmiento, A. D. Paterson, and P. Poussier. 2014. Iddm30 Controls Pancreatic Expression of Ccl11 (Eotaxin) and the Th1/Th2 Balance within the Insulitic Lesions. *Journal of Immunology* 192:3645-3653.
2. Davani, D., Z. Pancer, H. Cheroutre, and M. J. H. Ratcliffe. 2014. Negative Selection of Self-Reactive Chicken B Cells Requires B Cell Receptor Signaling and Is Independent of the Bursal Microenvironment. *Journal of Immunology* 192:3207-3217.
3. Davani, D., Z. Pancer, and M. J. H. Ratcliffe. 2014. Ligation of Surface Ig by Gut-Derived Antigen Positively Selects Chicken Bursal and Peripheral B Cells. *Journal of Immunology* 192:3218-3227.
4. Gommerman, J. L., J. L. Browning, and C. F. Ware. 2014. The Lymphotoxin Network: Orchestrating a Type I interferon response to optimize adaptive immunity. *Cytokine & growth factor reviews* 25:139-145.
5. Jiang, Z. Z., M. W. Hu, Z. B. Wang, L. Huang, F. Lin, S. T. Qi, Y. C. Ouyang, H. Y. Fan, H. Schatten, T. W. Mak, and Q. Y. Sun. 2014. Survivin is essential for fertile egg production and female fertility in mice. *Cell Death & Disease* 5.
6. Kowalczyk, A., C. A. D'Souza, and L. Zhang. 2014. Cell-extrinsic CTLA4-mediated regulation of dendritic cell maturation depends on STAT3. *European journal of immunology* 44:1143-1155.
7. Markle, J. G., and E. N. Fish. 2014. SeXX matters in immunity. *Trends in Immunology* 35:97-104.
8. Revelo, X. S., H. Luck, S. Winer, and D. A. Winer. 2014. Morphological and Inflammatory Changes in Visceral Adipose Tissue During Obesity. *Endocrine Pathology* 25:93-101.
9. Sheppard, N. C., R. B. Jones, B. J. Burwitz, F. A. Nimityongskul, L. P. Newman, M. B. Buechler, J. S. Reed, S. M. Piaskowski, K. L. Weisgrau, P. A. Castrovinci, N. A. Wilson, M. A. Ostrowski, B. Park, D. F. Nixon, E. G. Rakasz, and J. B. Sacha. 2014. Vaccination against Endogenous Retrotransposable Element Consensus Sequences Does Not Protect Rhesus Macaques from SIVsmE660 Infection and Replication. *Plos One* 9.

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10. Yamamoto, K., V. Gandin, M. Sasaki, S. McCracken, W. Li, J. L. Silvester, A. J. Elia, F. Wang, Y. Wakutani, R. Alexandrova, Y. D. Oo, P. J. Mullen, S. Inoue, M. Itsumi, V. Lapin, J. Haight, A. Wakeham, A. Shahinian, M. Ikura, I. Topisirovic, N. Sonenberg, and T. W. Mak. 2014. Largen: A Molecular Regulator of Mammalian Cell Size Control. *Molecular Cell* 53:904-915.
11. Zarin, P., G. W. Wong, M. Mohtashami, D. L. Wiest, and J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker. 2014. Enforcement of gammadelta-lineage commitment by the pre-T-cell receptor in precursors with weak gammadelta-TCR signals. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 111:5658-5663.

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