

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

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VOL II – ISSUE 3

November 2013

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

“Ahh-choo” followed by “Bless you”, oh the sounds of the flu-season, and also a reminder that the next issue of *IMMpress Magazine* is nearly here, and it will be extremely influential on how we think about viral pandemics, evolution, graduate life, exercise and science policy, as well as on many other exciting topics. But before its release, I want to reaffirm the Department of Immunology’s commitment to continue to support this extraordinary initiative and to thank the *IMMpress* team for putting together another phenomenal issue.

But our graduate students are not the only ones with wonderful ideas, as our Immunology undergrads have new IMMSA apparel and coffee mugs and other Immunology-logo carrying items to sell, such that you too could be wearing official Immunology T-shirts or hoodies, just like the ones our Easton Seminar speakers get, or even better ones. How? Simply go the IMMSA website <http://immsauoft.com>.

As noted in the IGSA section, the Department’s holiday party is just around corner - Friday December 13th, which as we all know is *the* social event of the year, with this in mind, I want to remind all to start getting your nominations ready for the Miller and Cinader awards; a formal notice will be sent out shortly.

Last week Friday, we had a wonderful symposium in honor of Prof. Michelle Letarte’s career-long research, mentoring, educational, and artistic achievements. Once again, on behalf of the Department of Immunology, I want to express our endless gratitude for the many years of service and for continuing to serve as co-coordinator of *Immunology Tonight*, until the end of the academic year.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

EASTON SEMINARS –

December 2013

Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

December 02

- Sergio Baranzini, PhD
“*Functional Genomics approaches in multiple sclerosis.*”
(Host: Dr. Shannon Dunn)

December 09

- Barbara Kee, PhD
“*Common requirements for ID proteins in the development of innate lymphoid cells.*”
(Host: Dr. Thierry Mallevaey)

December 16

- Joan E Wither, MD, PhD, FRCPC
“*B cells behaving badly: B cell function and tolerance in SLE.*”
(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

GRADUATE SEMINARS –

December 2013

Room 3171 MSB at 10:00 a.m.

December 02

- Martin Prince Alphonse (Supervisor: R. Yeung)
- Derek Clouthier (Supervisor: T. Watts)

December 09

- Mayra Cruz Tleugabulova (Supervisor: T. Mallevaey)
- Nichole Escalante (Supervisor: T. Mallevaey)

December 16

- Vineet Joag (Supervisor: R. Kaul)
- Ashleigh Goethel (Supervisors: D. Philpott and K. Croitoru)

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SPECIAL SEMINARS

OCI Seminar Series Presents:

Dr. Sergei Nedospasov

Lomonosov Moscow State University,
Engelhardt Institute of Molecular Biology,
Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow
German Rheumatism Research Center, Berlin

(Hosts: Dr. Tak Mak and
Dr. Jennifer Gommerman, Dept. of Immunology,
University of Toronto)

Title: "Unexpected physiological functions of TNF
and lymphotoxin from distinct cellular sources"

Location: Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, 6th
Floor Auditorium, Room 604

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2013

Time: 4:00 p.m.

J. (Quim) Madrenas, MD, PhD, FCAHS

Professor and Chairman
Department of Microbiology & Immunology
Director,
Microbiome & Disease Tolerance Centre
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec

(Host: Dr. Michael Julius)

"Taming a Superbug: Systems Immunobiology
of *S. aureus* Commensalism."

Thursday, December 12, 2013

11:00 a.m.

Room 4279, Medical Sciences Building
University of Toronto

Dr. Eyal Grunebaum, MD

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics,
University of Toronto
Head, Division of Immunology & Allergy
Director, Paediatric Clinical Immunology & Allergy
Residency Program
Scientist, Developmental & Stem Cell Biology,
Research Institute,
The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, ON

(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

"Inherited purine defects- models for
immunodeficiency and much more."

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

11:00 a.m.

Room 3171, Medical Sciences Building
University of Toronto

*"A candidate for cross-appointment to the Department
of Immunology"*

CONGRATULATIONS

PhD Exam

Dr. Angie Marsh – October 22 (MacDonald Lab)

MSc Exam

Valentin Sotov– October 2 (Letarte Lab)

DEADLINES

CIHR/NSERC CGS-M – December 1

For more information: <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Gov-Funded-Awards.aspx>

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IGSA

Hello Immunologists!

It's been a great November so far! We hope you have all had the chance to attend and enjoy some of the events we've held. Thanks to all who have donated to *Movember*! An update on the funds raised will be in the next newsletter.

As mentioned in the IGSA newsletter, this year's Holiday Party is on December 13th at 6pm. Tickets can be purchased through the following IGSA members:

Nyrie (PGCRL) nyrie.israelian@mail.utoronto.ca

Nichole (MSB) nichole.escalante@mail.utoronto.ca

Linda (CBS/TMDT) fei.zhao@mail.utoronto.ca

Jerry (MSB) junyu.zhou@mail.utoronto.ca

Tracy (Sunnybrook) tracy.in@mail.utoronto.ca

Please make sure to get your tickets in advance! The **deadline** for ticket sales is **December 5th**. Email one of the reps to set up a time when you can meet them and pay for your tickets. Tickets will not be put on hold and must be paid for to reserve them.

Prices:

Faculty = \$35

PDF/Tech = \$25

Students = \$15

IGSA would like to remind all second years that are thinking about re-class exams in the new year about mock re-class or qual exams that we will run. If you're interested in having a mock exam or talking to some upper year students about re-classification and qualifying exams, please contact Tracy, our peer-to-peer counsellor at: tracy.in@mail.utoronto.ca.

We hope to see you at the Holiday Party!

-- IGSA

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IMMSA

Hi Immunologists,

Winter is almost here, and the fall semester is coming to an end. But IMMSA is on the way to start our first In-Course Scholarship.

The scholarship is organized by IMMSA in association with the Department of Immunology and the New College Student Council, which awards up to 5 distinctive undergraduate immunology students who excel academic excellence in the 2012/2013 academic year. Each winner will be awarded \$100 and officially featured on IMMSA & the Department of Immunology promotional materials.

Application will start on our website <http://www.immsauoft.com> by the end of the month, and more information will be made available.

Last but not least, IMMSA wishes all of you succeed in exams!

Lucy Chau & Heng Sun,

IMMSA Co-Presidents 2013



Toronto Human Immunology Network

<http://www.humanimmunology.utoronto.ca>

email: humanimmunology@utoronto.ca

News from the Toronto Human Immunology Network:

Save the date: The 2014 Toronto Human Immunology Network Symposium will be held on **Friday May 16, 2014** from **1-5pm** at **Mt. Sinai Hospital Auditorium**, and will focus on Immunophenotyping of Human Immunity, co-chaired by Kathy Siminovitch and Cindy Guidos, with invited speakers: Mark Davis (Stanford), Holden Maecker (Stanford) and Soumya Raychaudhuri (Broad Institute).

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PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (October 2013) ⁽¹⁻⁷⁾

1. Berger, T., T. Ueda, E. Arpaia, I. I. C. Chio, E. A. Shirdel, I. Jurisica, K. Hamada, A. You-Ten, J. Haight, A. Wakeham, C. C. Cheung, and T. W. Mak. 2013. Flotillin-2 deficiency leads to reduced lung metastases in a mouse breast cancer model. *Oncogene* 32:4989-4994.
2. Frelin, C., R. Herrington, S. Janmohamed, M. Barbara, G. Tran, C. J. Paige, P. Benveniste, J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker, A. Souabni, M. Busslinger, and N. N. Iscove. 2013. GATA-3 regulates the self-renewal of long-term hematopoietic stem cells. *Nature Immunology* 14:1037-+.
3. Mohtashami, M., D. K. Shah, K. Kianizad, G. Awong, and J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker. 2013. Induction of T-cell development by Delta-like 4-expressing fibroblasts. *International Immunology* 25:601-611.
4. Rubino, S. J., J. G. Magalhaes, D. Philpott, G. M. Bahr, D. Blanot, and S. E. Girardin. 2013. Identification of a synthetic muramyl peptide derivative with enhanced Nod2 stimulatory capacity. *Innate Immunity* 19:493-503.
5. Smeets, M. F. M. A., C. Mackenzie-Kludas, M. Mohtashami, H.-H. Zhang, J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker, and D. J. Izon. 2013. Removal of myeloid cytokines from the cellular environment enhances T-cell development in vitro. *International Immunology* 25:589-599.
6. Talaei, N., Y.-H. Cheung, C. Landolt-Marticorena, B. Noamani, T. Li, and J. E. Wither. 2013. T Cell and Dendritic Cell Abnormalities Synergize to Expand Pro-Inflammatory T Cell Subsets Leading to Fatal Autoimmunity in B6.NZBc1 Lupus-Prone Mice. *Plos One* 8.
7. Tsalikis, J., D. O. Croitoru, D. J. Philpott, and S. E. Girardin. 2013. Nutrient sensing and metabolic stress pathways in innate immunity. *Cellular Microbiology* 15:1632-1641.

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