

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

VOL VII – ISSUE 3

November/December 2018

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

Early this week, student leadership, staff and faculty from Department of Immunology gathered for our semi-annual meeting, during which I presented a working outline for our new departmental Strategic Plan (2019-2023). This document will build on the achievements and guiding principles from our first and current [plan](#) from 2014. I look forward to continuing our discussions, as we develop a plan that enables us to further excel in the future. Along with the new Strat Plan, the meeting also featured a number of new initiatives to improve the educational mission serving our undergraduate and graduate students, as well as postdoctoral fellows affiliated with our department. I will continue share more details of the plan as the process moves along.

It is with mixed feelings that I share with you that our Undergraduate Assistant and Communications Officer, **Mariam Irshad**, will be leaving the Department of Immunology for a new position in the University's advancement office. I am very grateful for Mariam's excellent contributions to our department; please join me in wishing her all the best in the new position.

The Fall term is nearly over, and I know that our first-year rotating PhD graduate students are busily contemplating their lab choices. My thanks to IGSA for helping to make the process an informed and fun one.

The holidays are nearly upon us as is the need to find the perfect gift, a great solution can be found in the IMMSA website (<http://immsauoft.com>), where you can find IMMspired apparel and other Immunology-logo carrying items. You or your loved ones could be wearing Immunology T-shirts or hoodies, just like the ones our Easton Seminar speakers get.

As noted in the IGSA section, the Department's holiday party is just around corner – Thursday December 13th, which as we all know is *the* social event of the year, with this in mind, I want to remind all to send in your nominations for the Miller and Cinader awards (Dec 7th deadline). I am looking forward to seeing all those fabulous musical numbers and amazing lab material centerpieces, and to a wonderful evening hosted by Profs. **Crome and Mortha**.

UPCOMING EASTON SEMINARS

December 2018

MSB 2172 at 11:10 a.m.

Monday, December 3

Dr. Shan Liao, PhD

"Targeting Lymph Flow to Improve Immune Protection in Inflammation and Cancer"

Host: **Dr. Jennifer Gommerman, PhD**

Monday, December 10

Dr. Anjana Rao, PhD

"TET Methylcytosine Oxidases in Immune Responses and Cancer"

Host: **Dr. Michele Anderson, PhD**

Monday, December 17

Dr. Naoto Hirano, MD, PhD

"Engineering Opportunities in Cancer Immunotherapy"

Host: **Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker, PhD**

Monday, December 24 & 31 — Holiday Break

CONGRATULATIONS

PhD

Miho Tanaka (Carlyle lab) – November 27

Applied MSc – November 6 Convocation

Megan Gusdal (Yeung lab)

Karen Legg (Gommerman lab)

April Lewtak (Zuniga-Pflucker lab)

Oksana Okorokov (Guidos lab)

Gregory Pavlatos (Serghides lab)

Renuka Rikeisha Ramlogan (Yeung lab)

Candice Tang (Epelman lab)

Matthew White (Juvet lab)

Chu Yin (Judi) Yang (Ehrhardt lab)

STUDENT SEMINARS

December 2018

Irene Lau & Leslie Leung

December 3, 2018
10:00am–11:00am
MSB 2173

Lewis Liu & Priya Makhijani

December 10, 2018
10:00am–11:00am
MSB 2173

Andrew Mazzanti & Carolina Munoz Grajales

December 17, 2018
10:00am–11:00am
MSB 2173

**Monday, December 24 & 31 — No
Seminars (Holiday Break)**

News from GPD

Thank-you those who participated in GPD this semester and bringing great ideas to our post-it brainstorming design session.

Congratulations also to our Three Minute Thesis winners!

Guts to glory: a new model for food allergy research by Lisa Hung and

Very early onset inflammatory bowel disease: genetics and the immune system by Jaclyn Law.

See everyone at the holiday party!

Cheers,

Nana



GRADUATE NEWS

REMINDERS

Rotations are wrapping up this week and lab decisions will be made next week, starting December 3rd. Students should email their preferred PIs starting Monday – but don't panic if you don't hear back right away! Faculty may be receiving multiple requests and should be given 24-48 hours to respond.

DEADLINES

CGS-M applications are due **Monday December 3 before 8:00pm**. Applications must be completed (**including references!**) and submitted online through Research Portal by this deadline in order to be considered.

IMM450 students – the application deadline for Advanced Standing in the Applied MSc (May 2019 start) is **Friday March 1st, 2019**.

FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE

Sexual and Gender Diversity Office

The Sexual & Gender Diversity Office (<http://sgdo.utoronto.ca/>) develops partnerships to build supportive learning and working communities at the University of Toronto by working towards equity and challenging discrimination. The Office provides innovative education, programming, resources and advocacy on sexual and gender diversity for students, staff and faculty across the University's three campuses. Check out their website for event and discussion group listings, including Q21: A Conversation Café, 'Gender Talk' Discussion Group, LGBTQ+ Students of Colour Discussion Group, LGBTQ+ International Students Group.

IMMSA

Hello Immunologists,

Happy pre-exam season! We hope your semester has been going well and wish you continued success in your studies! In the month of November, we were pleased to host Immunology undergrads at our **fall pub night** in collaboration with the Laboratory and Pathobiology Student's Union. We were also delighted to host **Prof. Dana Philpott** for this month's iteration of our **Lunch and Learn** series and would like to thank her for spending time with our undergraduate students discussing her important research and life experience. We hope you enjoyed both events and we'd like to thank all you all for attending!

For the month of December, we will be holding our annual **Undergraduate Graduate School Information Session** in MSB 7231 on Dec 3rd, 3pm – 5pm featuring **Prof. Jen Gommerman**, Associate Chair of Graduate Studies, as well as graduate students from our very own Immunology department. We will also be starting our highly anticipated **annual apparel sale!** More details on these upcoming events will be posted on our Facebook page so be sure to follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/immsa.uoft>.

All the best,

Joaquin Francis Arias & Kitty Liu

IMMSA Co-Presidents 2018-2019

IGSA

November ending,

Busy with experiments,

Oh, already dark?

Dear Immunologists,

We hope you had an amazing November! To start off this busy month, Dr. Thierry Mallevaey, along with Andrew and Derek, hosted a grant-writing help session to help our first year graduate students sharpen their competitive edges. Following, our immunologists spent a “lit” night at the museum as Derek hosted an outing to Friday Night Live at the ROM. Anthony organized our first Coffee Talk of the year, led by Dr. Jennifer Gommerman, providing insight into how to select a graduate committee. Meanwhile, throughout these past months, our immunologists, led by Nate Winsor, have been dominating in our volleyball league, having won three out of three matches against other graduate departments! Further, led by Saad, our graduate students reached out to high schools in the GTA for our annual Immunology Day outreach event. In preparation for the Holiday Retreat, our graduate students indulged in a fine sommelier experience at our annual Wine Tasting Night, carefully planned and hosted by your maître d’s Andrew and Rysa. Finally, to end the month off, our first year graduate students rejoiced at the End-of-Rotations Pub Night hosted by Lewis.

As November ends, we enter ♪ the most, wonderful time, of the year! ♪ That means that our Annual Departmental Holiday Retreat is quickly approaching. The retreat will be held on Thursday, December 13th at Hart House. Tickets are quickly selling, so be sure to grab yours from your site representative before the deadline on December 5th! We are still accepting entries for the centerpiece competition, so if you want a chance for eternal immunology glory, enter before Dec 7th!

Further, if you’d like to provide an item or service for our Silent Auction, let us know (tao.chan@mail.utoronto.ca or lisa.hung@mail.utoronto.ca)! Further, we’ll be having a raffle for big prizes from our sponsors, and we’ll be accepting any non-perishable food items or toys to donate in exchange for raffle tickets. Finally, we’ll be accepting ornaments to decorate the Christmas tree at the event; if you’re interested in sprucing up our tree, let us know!

We hope to see you all at the Holiday Retreat!

Tao Chan and Lisa Hung

IGSA Co-Presidents 2018-2019



PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (October 2018)

1. An, Y.J., Adams, J.R., Hollern, D.P., Zhao, A., Chang, S.G., Gams, M.S., Chung, P.E.D., He, X.P., Jangra, R., Shah, J.S., et al. (2018). Cdh1 and Pik3ca Mutations Cooperate to Induce Immune-Related Invasive Lobular Carcinoma of the Breast. *Cell Reports* 25, 702-+.
2. Fayad, Z.A., Swirski, F.K., Calcagno, C., Robbins, C.S., Mulder, W., and Kovacic, J.C. (2018). Monocyte and Macrophage Dynamics in the Cardiovascular System JACC Macrophage in CVD Series (Part 3). *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* 72, 2198-2212.
3. Lavine, K.J., Pinto, A.R., Epelman, S., Kopecky, B.J., Clemente-Casares, X., Godwin, J., Rosenthal, N., and Kovacic, J.C. (2018). The Macrophage in Cardiac Homeostasis and Disease JACC Macrophage in CVD Series (Part 4). *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* 72, 2213-2230.
4. MacParland, S.A., Liu, J.C., Ma, X.Z., Innes, B.T., Bartczak, A.M., Gage, B.K., Manuel, J., Khuu, N., Echeverri, J., Linares, I., et al. (2018). Single cell RNA sequencing of human liver reveals distinct intrahepatic macrophage populations. *Nature Communications* 9.
5. Perciani, C.T., Sekhon, M., Hundal, S., Farah, B., Ostrowski, M.A., Anzala, A.O., McKinnon, L.R., Jaoko, W., MacDonald, K.S., Inst Tropical Infect Dis, U.G., and Kenyan, A.V.I.-I. (2018). Live Attenuated Zoster Vaccine Boosts Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV)-Specific Humoral Responses Systemically and at the Cervicovaginal Mucosa of Kenyan VZV-Seropositive Women. *Journal of Infectious Diseases* 218, 1210-1218.
6. Schwartz, J.A., Zhang, H.L., Ende, Z., Deymier, M.J., Lee, T., Singer, J., Mazzulli, T., Hunter, E., and Ostrowski, M.A. (2018). Characterization of the Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cell Response to Transmitted/Founder and Nontransmitted Variants of HIV-1. *Journal of Virology* 92.
7. Snell, L.M., MacLeod, B.L., Law, J.C., Osokine, I., Elsaesser, H.J., Hezaveh, K., Dickson, R.J., Gavin, M.A., Guidos, C.J., McGaha, T.L., and Brooks, D.G. (2018). CD8(+) T Cell Priming in Established Chronic Viral Infection Preferentially Directs Differentiation of Memory-like Cells for Sustained Immunity. *Immunity* 49, 378-+.
8. Vinaik, R., Stanojic, M., and Jeschke, M.G. (2018). NLRP3 Inflammasome Modulates Post-Burn Lipolysis and Hepatic Fat Infiltration via Fatty Acid Synthase. *Scientific Reports* 8.
9. Yang, S.Y.C., Lheureux, S., Karakasis, K., Burnier, J.V., Bruce, J.P., Clouthier, D.L., Danesh, A., Quevedo, R., Dowar, M., Hanna, Y., et al. (2018). Landscape of genomic alterations in high-grade serous ovarian cancer from exceptional long- and short-term survivors. *Genome Medicine* 10.
10. Zarin, P., In, T.S., Chen, E.L., Singh, J., Wong, G.W., Mohtashami, M., Wiest, D.L., Anderson, M.K., and Zuniga-Pflucker, J.C. (2018). Integration of T-cell receptor, Notch and cytokine signals programs mouse T-cell effector differentiation. *Immunology and Cell Biology* 96, 994-1007.

We'd like to hear from you!
Comments or questions – please contact:
immunology.communications@utoronto.ca