

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, DR. JUAN CARLOS ZUNIGA-PFLUCKER

On Monday, March 29th, the Department held its semi-annual faculty meeting, during which we discussed ongoing initiatives for Immunology-affiliated post-doctoral fellows, introduced a new 2nd year graduate course for PhD students to prepare for their Qualifying exams, went over changes to our undergraduate specialist program, and considered the formation of a new Centre for Human Immunology Research and Education. We also heard about future international collaborations, once we can travel again, but were also immensely impressed by the success of the recent Beyond Sciences Initiative annual conference, which was sponsored by UofT Immunology.

We also heard from the student leadership of IMMSA and IGSA, and we shared their excitement about the upcoming Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC), and the Immunology Summer Retreat, respectively. I am also pleased to announce that for our IMM Summer Retreat, we will have **Prof. Akiko Iwasaki**, Yale University, as the Keynote Speaker. It is wonderful to have our distinguished Alumni back with us for this event, much like we did with Prof. Barbara Kee, University of Chicago, at last year's summer retreat.

I am delighted to announce the upcoming **9th Annual BD-Biosciences / Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Award**, with the winner to deliver a lecture on June 14th, a day before our annual Department of Immunology Summer Retreat, June 15. Details for nominating our postdocs will be shared shortly.

With this in mind, we are always eager to reach out to all postdocs working with Immunology PI's, please contact immunology.communications@utoronto.ca about any new recruits to your lab, and of course please encourage your new and current postdocs to go to <https://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/postdoctoral-program-information> to register with us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTON SEMINARS – via Zoom Webinar 11:05 - noon

April 5, 2021 - Mark Anderson, MD, PhD
[Professor of Medicine,](#)
[Robert B. Friend and Michelle M. Friend Endowed](#)
[Chair in Diabetes Research, Diabetes Center,](#)
[University of California, San Francisco](#)

"Using outliers to unlock autoimmunity"

Host: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker, PhD

April 19, 2021 - Falk Nimmerjahn, PhD
[Chair of Genetics, Division of Genetics](#)
[Department of Biology](#)
[University of Erlangen-Nuremberg](#)

"Neighborhood matters: Organ specific pathways of IgG activity."

Host: Tracy McGaha, PhD

SPECIAL SEMINARS – via Zoom

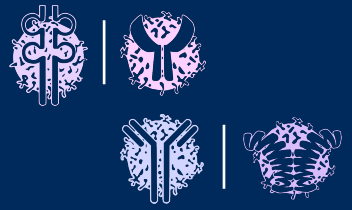
April 7, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Ivan Maillard, MD, PhD
[Professor, Vice-Chief for Research](#)
[Division of Hematology/Oncology, Department of](#)
[Medicine](#)
[University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of](#)
[Medicine](#)

"Notch signaling in mature B cells: from homeostasis to malignancy"

Host: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker, PhD





PHD RESEARCH SEMINAR – via Zoom

April 7, 2021 - 11:00-12:00

Sintia Teichman - PhD Research Seminar

"The Role of Notch Signaling on Recent Thymic Emigrant Cell Maturation and Function in a T Cell Transfer Model of Colitis"

Supervisor: Dr. JC Zúñiga-Pflücker

April 29, 2021 - 12:00-1:00

SeongJun James Han - PhD Research Seminar

"E3 Ubiquitin Ligase Cbl-b deficient T cells resist Treg cell-mediated suppression and enhance anti-tumor Immunity"

Supervisor: Dr. Pam Ohashi

STUDENT SEMINARS –via Quercus

Mondays, 10:00-11:00

April 5, 2021

In Vitro Characterization of Tumour Associated Macrophages in Hepatocellular Carcinoma

**Lawrence Wood
(MacParland Lab)**

The role of APC-derived 4-1BBL on memory CD8 T cell formation in influenza infection

**Karen Yeung
(Watts Lab)**

April 12, 2021

title TBD

**Michelle Zuo
(Gommerman Lab)**

Multiparametric cellular analysis of lung allograft rejection using mass cytometry

**Jamal-Roderick Al-Refaei
(Martinu Lab)**

title TBD

**Ke Bei
(Wall lab)**

April 19, 2021

Biomarkers in the Pathogenesis of Kawasaki's Disease

**Bettina Camara
(Yeung Lab)**

Imaging Mass Cytometry and Inflammatory Signalling in Pyoderma Gangrenosum

**David Croitoru
(Piguet Lab)**

April 26, 2021

Investigating the Role of the Gut and Type I Interferon in Promoting Flares in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

**Zoha Faheem
(Wither lab)**

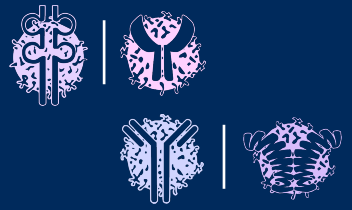
Investigating the dura mater during brain inflammation

**Alexandra Florescu
(Gommerman Lab)**

Characterizing the role of dual specificity phosphatases in adipose tissue inflammation

**Natasa Ilincic
(Martin Lab)**





IGSA

Dear Immunologists,

Happy Spring 2021! As we enjoy the weather warming up and the city slowly coming back to life, please remember your responsibility to uphold safety etiquette. Stay protected with a mask in all public settings and continue to limit large gatherings. With the third wave of the pandemic looming over us, it is imperative that we stay vigilant. Normalcy and brighter days are at the horizon and we can absolutely get through this!

Not only is Spring the season of rainy days, but also the season of cleaning and refreshing our homes and habits. This also includes personal well-being. This past year has been incredibly challenging but remember to find those moments of time in the week to be proud of yourself for everything you have overcome, try something new, and be kind to yourself. IGSA is always here to help you accomplish your personal and professional goals!

This past month, our team led several initiatives to create warm memories such as our cheeky and hilarious **Virtual PowerPoint Battle**, inspired by Tiktok of course. The topics, aesthetics, and banter had all of the participants in fits of laughter. We also hosted a **Virtual Cooking Class** taught by our very own and very talented, Tiffany Kong who showed eager culinary students how to cook a delicious bean and herb soup with incredible results. If you missed these events, don't worry because we will definitely host them again!

We also continued our regular **virtual HIIT and Yoga Sessions** led by a personal trainer that has you feeling invigorated and super sweaty by the end! Look out for our April sessions that are just around the corner.

For second-year graduate students in the PhD stream, our Mentorship and Career Development Team organized a virtual **Qualifications Exam Advice Panel** led by highly knowledgeable upper year students and Dr. Gommermann who answered any and all questions related to their upcoming Exam. This event was recorded, so please contact us if you missed the event or if you still have additional questions!

For the month of April, we will continue to provide new events to encourage wellness, positivity, and productivity. For students interested in industry careers, we will be hosting a seminar to help navigate internships during the pandemic. The Graduate Peer Support Network will also release more seminars to address topics on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, which we will actively encourage you all to attend! Stay tuned for our April social events!

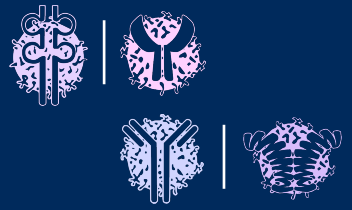
Remember to check in on your loved ones and stay safe!

With love,

Rashi Gupta and Anthony Wong

IGSA Co-presidents 2020-2021





IMMSA

Hi everyone!

Thank you to those of you who came to the IMMSA x MIMSA industry seminar and the immunotherapy seminar with Dr. Coburn.

IMMSA is currently holding our spring elections! The voting starts on April 5th and ends on April 13th. All students taking at least 0.5 FCE are allowed to vote. Good luck to all the candidates who are running!

Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC) is back this year! It will be held on May 1st 9am - 6pm. This year, we have students presenting from the University of Toronto, McGill University, Guelph University, University of Windsor, etc. Below is the zoom registration link, so feel free to drop by and learn about the research that is taken place by your peers at other universities!

RSVP: https://utoronto.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtceiqjgtGdca_wLReJHejDNa1iPDWbij

We know that it is currently a stressful time with exams soon approaching, but we hope you will still be able to find time for yourself and relax.

Please also submit course evaluations to provide feedback to your courses!

Good luck with your final evaluations!

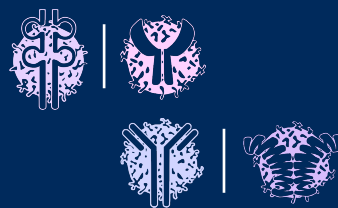
Best regards,

Anita Tia and Phoebe Liu

IMMSA 2020-2021 Co-presidents

<http://immsauoft.com> | [@immstauoft](https://twitter.com/immstauoft) | <http://facebook.com/IMMSA.UofT>





PUBLICATIONS

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Qaiyum Z, Lim M, Inman RD. 2021. The gut-joint axis in spondyloarthritis: immunological, microbial, and clinical insights. *Seminars in Immunopathology*. **Online Ahead of Print**.

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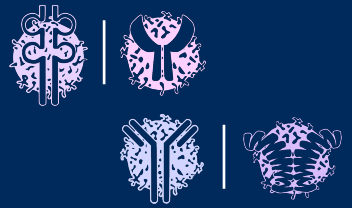
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