

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

We are now in the midst of the 2021 Winter term, and I wanted to highlight a brand-new course, *Origins of Immunology* (IMM 221), which the Department is now offering to our undergraduates in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Prof. T.J. Yi is the course coordinator, and he has put together an exciting examination of some pivotal discoveries in Immunology, which will appeal to anyone wanting to learn more about our chosen field of study.

TJ is also running our MSc in Applied Immunology course, *Techniques in Immunology* (IMM1436), which has moved from in person to online format with remarkable deftness. TJ, together with Profs. Clemenza and Singh are the backbone for our undergraduate teaching, and their expertise and abilities are highly appreciated by our students and me. I would like to also thank all our status-only faculty members who are equally dedicated to teaching our phenomenal Specialist, Major and Minor Immunology undergraduate students.

Speaking of gratitude, I would like to share our appreciation to the Speck family (Juan and Stefania) for their philanthropic support of Prof. Tania Watts' COVID19 related research. Receiving this type of financial support is always heartwarming and extremely enabling for cutting-edge research.

Lastly, we continue to reach out to all Post-Doctoral Fellows conducting research in Immunology faculty labs. With this in mind, please encourage your postdocs to contact Dr. Tania Watts (Associate Chair, Postdoctoral) and she will register them with the Department. Of note, we will soon be making an announcement for a new *IMM Postdoctoral Joint Project Award* competition and would like to have all eligible candidates in our register.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### EASTON SEMINARS – Zoom Webinar

11:05 - noon

#### February 1, 2021 – Omar F. Khan, PhD

Assistant Professor, Medicine by Design Investigator,  
Institute of Biomedical Engineering  
Assistant Professor, Department of Immunology,  
University of Toronto

**"Applied Immunology through Biomedical Engineering"**

Host: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker, PhD

#### February 22, 2021 – Russell Jones, PhD

Professor, Center for Cancer and Cell Biology  
Program Lead, Metabolic and Nutritional  
Programming, Center for Cancer and Cell Biology, Van  
Andel Research Institute

**"Metabolic regulation of T cell responses: implications for adaptive immunity".**

Host: Pam Ohashi, PhD, FRSC

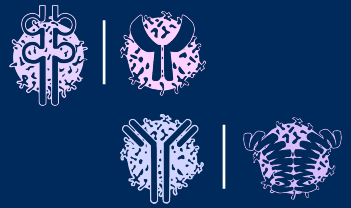
### Beyond Sciences Initiative (BSI) Conference

**February 20-21, 27 2021**

Free Online Registration

<https://www.beyondsciences.org/conference2021/>





**STUDENT SEMINARS – Quercus - 10:00-11:00**

**February 1, 2021**

**Non-canonical Inflammasome signalling in the gastrointestinal epithelium**

Jessica Bruce  
(Philpott Lab)

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**Investigating the role of ILCs in T1D**

Sarah Colpitts  
(Crome Lab)

**February 8, 2021**

**Discovery of new cell surface antigens on plasma cells using monoclonal VLRB antibodies K318 and J260**

Shilan Dong  
(Ehrhardt Lab)

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**Investigating the role of Microbiome-reactive T cells and the Regulation of Autoimmunity in Systemic Autoimmune Rheumatic Diseases**

Rashi Gupta  
(Wither Lab)

**February 15, 2021**

**No Student Seminar (Family Day)**

**February 22, 2021**

**Single cell transcriptomics reveals a modular macrophage structure conserved across organs and species**

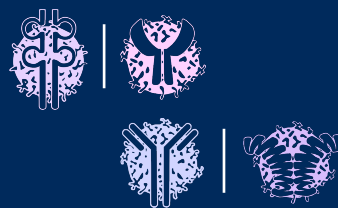
Homaira Hamidzada  
(Epelman Lab)

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**Measuring the antibody response to SARS-CoV-2 in acute and convalescent patient saliva**

Baweleta Isho  
(Gommerman Lab)





## GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATES

### ADMISSIONS

Applications for programs beginning September 2021 are now being evaluated. Faculty interested in taking on a new graduate student in September 2021 are reminded to email [graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca](mailto:graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca).

#### **Applied Immunology MSc (Advanced Standing Entry) – May 2021 start**

Undergraduate students in IMM450Y1 could be eligible for Advanced Standing entry in the Applied Immunology MSc. *The application fee and document deadlines are February 15, and March 1, 2021, respectively.*

Please visit our [website](#) for detailed information of admission requirements.

### AWARD DEADLINES

**OGS (Domestic and International) – March 1, 2021**

For more information on this competition, please visit the [SGS website](#).

**QEII / Aventis Pasteur (DoI students only)**

Complete an [OGS application](#) and to be considered for this award

Deadline: March 1, 2021

**QEII / Dr. Dina Gordon Malkin** (grad students studying haematology or oncology whose supervisors are members of the Temerty FoM)

Complete an [OGS application](#), and a [Malkin cover page](#)

(email [graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca](mailto:graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca) for details)

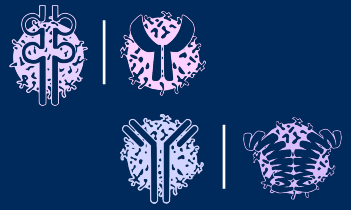
Deadline: March 1, 2021

**QEII / Temerty Faculty of Medicine (TFoM students)**

Complete an [OGS application](#), and this [Faculty of Medicine cover page](#)

Deadline: March 1, 2021 (TFoM cover page due March 31, 2021 at 4:00pm)





## IGSA

Dear Immunologists,

January is known to be the month for reflection and striving to adhere to New Year resolutions. We hope you are all making progress on 2021 goals but if January has not transpired exactly how you planned, you are not alone. We have all, at some point in our life, promised ourselves to commit to goals starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, but quickly became discouraged at our lack of consistency. We have all, at some point, felt disappointed at ourselves and lost the motivation to continue trying. However, be kind to yourself for having the courage to try and trust the journey which can involve pauses and challenges.

As we enter February, let us all continue to work towards our global mission to conquer the pandemic while remaining resilient. As our numbers begin to lower again, please remember our responsibility as scientists to uphold guidelines and act as role models for our communities. We are all eager to, one day, see our loved ones in person, dine in restaurants, and enjoy outdoor activities and we can achieve that with patience and discipline! In the meantime, IGSA will continue to host incredibly exciting social events as well as seminars catered to supporting mental and physical health, supporting academic and professional development, and promoting awareness of important social issues.

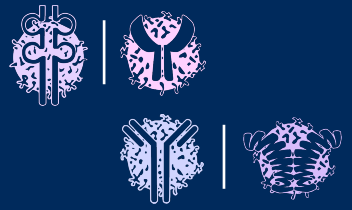
For the month of January, our team came together to assemble tasty goodie bags for our first-year graduate students filled with delicious milk and dark chocolate bars from Soma, lip balm to prevent chapped lips in this freezing weather, sticky notes to remind yourself to take care and hydrate, and the latest edition of *IMMpress magazine*!

We have a far more jam-packed February planned, so please stay tuned to your emails for our upcoming virtual social events, mentorship and career workshops, mental health programming, and outreach initiatives that you can take part in. We continue to encourage you all, especially our first-year students, to engage with IGSA and the graduate student community whenever you can.

With love,

Rashi Gupta and Anthony Wong  
Your IGSA Co-Presidents 2020-21





## IMMSA

Hello immunologists!

We hope that you are now settling back into the groove of online classes again.

We are delighted to announce that the 'one-on-one coffee chat with professor' raffle is back! We will have two winners this semester. The second winner will have to choose a professor other than the one chosen by the first winner. The format of the raffle remains the same - students who participate in our events can win a chance to have a one on one chat over virtual coffee with a professor of his/her choice at the end of the semester.

We will be hosting a virtual games night with Immunology Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) on February 12th. We will have multiple games including among us, agar.io, skribbl.io, etc. If you are looking for a way to chat with graduate students, feel free to join us at 7pm on discord! The link to join will be available on the Facebook events page in the coming days.

In addition, we will be hosting a seminar focused on immunotherapy the week after reading week. Look out for more details in the upcoming weeks on our social media!

Lastly, we have decided to extend the deadline for OQUIC applications to February 12th at 11:59 pm. So if you were unable to put together your abstract before the initial deadline, you still have time to do so! We look forward to learning about the undergraduate research that has been conducted recently.

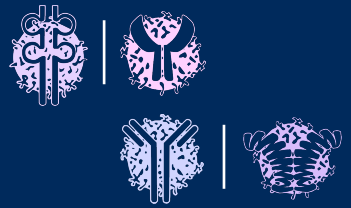
We are excited to see everyone at our events this semester!

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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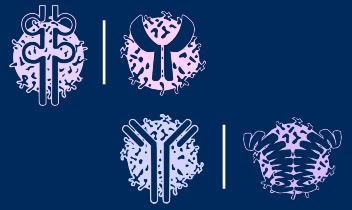
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Rujas E, Cui H, Sicard T, Semesi A, Julien JP. 2020. Structural characterization of the ICOS/ICOS-L immune complex reveals high molecular mimicry by therapeutic antibodies. *Nature Communications*. **11(1)**.

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