

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

Happy New Year!

As we start 2021, I would like to reflect on how members of the Department of Immunology were treated to a fabulous end-of-year Immunology Holiday gathering, even if it was not held at the Hart House. Nevertheless, this year's Zoom-enabled event was just as magical. I would like to thank **Rashi Gupta** and **Anthony Wong** and many IGSA members for organizing a truly heart-warming evening.

During the evening festivities, which were kicked off by MCs **Kate Sedore** and **Korosh Kianizad**, several of our students were recognized for their achievements, including: **Michael St. Paul** (Ohashi lab) with the *Hardi Cinader Prize*, **Yoojin Choi** (Kaul lab) with the *Richard G. Miller Award*, **Pailin Chiaranunt** (Mortha lab) with the *Immunology Outreach Award*, and **Juliette Lee** with the *Undergraduate Immunology Prize*. Additionally, **Thierry Mallevaey** was honoured as this year's recipient of the *Gillian E. Wu Graduate Mentorship in Immunology Award*. The centerpiece competition winners were from the **Gommerman lab**. Congratulations to all the winners.

I look forward to 2021 being another year to remember, but of course for much better reasons.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTON SEMINARS – Zoom Webinar – 11:05-noon

January 4, 2021 - Chao Wang, PhD

Scientist, Sunnybrook Research Institute
Assistant Professor, Department of Immunology,
University of Toronto

"CD5Like, a new paradigm in IL-12/IL-23 family?"

Host: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker, PhD

January 11, 2021 - Kevin Urdahl, MD, PhD

Professor, Center for Global Infectious Disease
Research, Seattle Children's Hospital

"Assessing immunity against Mycobacterium tuberculosis in an ultra-low dose mouse model"

Host: David Brooks, PhD

January 18, 2021 - Shane Crotty, PhD

Professor, Division of Vaccine Discovery, La Jolla
Institute for Immunology

"Adaptive immunity and immune memory to SARS-CoV-2 in humans: CD4 T cells, CD8 T cells, memory B cells, and antibodies up to 8 months after COVID-19"

Host: Jean-Philippe Julien, PhD

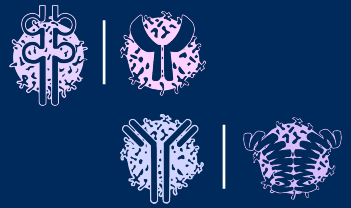
January 25, 2021 - Dan Littman, MD, PhD

Helen L. and Martin S. Kimmel Professor of Molecular
Immunology, Department of Pathology
Professor, Department of Microbiology, NYU
Grossman School of Medicine

Talk Title: TBD

Host: Dana Philpott, PhD





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

January 4, 2021

Exploring the role of innate lymphoid cells in kidney homeostasis and transplantation

Julia Szusz (Crome Lab)

Assessing the impact of the microbiota on the intestinal epithelium under homeostasis and regeneration

Derek Tsang (Philpott Lab)

January 11, 2021

The role of Notch signaling on thymic hematopoietic stromal cells development

Helen Wang (Zuniga-Pflucker Lab)

Lessons from Cdc42 and the Inflammasome

Ryder Whittaker Hawkins (Rottapel Lab)

January 18, 2021

Evaluating the effect of a specific bacterial community on immune checkpoint inhibitor-mediated anti-tumour responses

Matthew Wong (Martin Lab)

Title TBD

Stephanie Wong (Ohashi Lab)

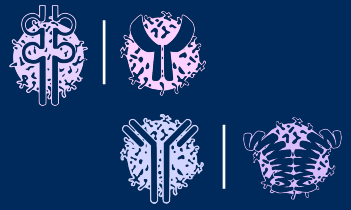
January 25, 2021

Human Liver Transcriptional Mapping via Single Cell and Single Nucleus RNA Sequencing Reveals Hepatic Parenchymal Cell Identity

Jawairia Atif (MacParland Lab)

Exploring host gene-microbiota interactions in inflammatory bowel disease

Giuliano Bayer (Philpott Lab)



GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATES

ADMISSIONS

Applications are now being accepted for our graduate programs.

PhD and MSc (Standard Entry) – September 2021 start

The application fee and document deadlines are January 1, and January 15, 2021, respectively.

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

Undergraduate students in IMM4,50Y1 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 for details)

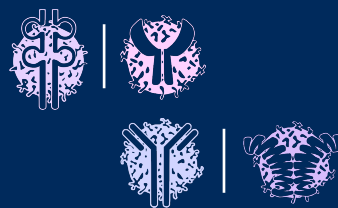
Deadline: March 1, 2021

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

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

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





IGSA

Dear Immunologists,

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a lovely break where you were able to relax with your loved ones. If you were unable to travel home - we send you our love - and we want to remind you that you are not alone, and that you have a community here with you in spirit.

We are so glad to leave 2020 behind, and we have faith that things will only look up in 2021. However, we should not be so quick to dispose of a year of our lives.

We came together as a country and changed our ways of living to help protect those that are vulnerable and the healthcare system that works tirelessly to keep us healthy.

We made important reassessments to our framework of equity and many of us educated ourselves on sociocultural issues we may have overlooked before.

We dedicated more time and awareness to self-care and taking care of our mental health than ever before.

We were reminded to value the little things in life that make us happy, things which we may have taken for granted - whether it was visiting our grandparents, socializing with our friends, or giving a simple hug or handshake.

We re-evaluated our lives, and people that are truly important to us.

If all you did was survive this past turbulent year - ***we are proud of you.***

Despite all the twists and turns 2020 has thrown at us, its trials and tribulations, however tumultuous and troubling it may have been - it was a year of growth, persistence, and faith, and we hope that you don't forget that.

All that being said: thank you, next!

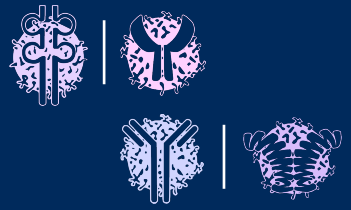
We're glad to have ended 2020 off with our annual departmental Holiday Party, which was held virtually for the first time in our department's history. More than 70 members of faculty, staff, and students were present from beginning to end, and we raised over \$400 for local charities in Toronto from our Silent Auction and Gingerbread House Competition. The Centrepiece Competition was as fierce as ever, and we also revisited some student films from prior Summer Retreats to help us smile. We're also grateful to this year's special MCs Kate and Korosh for helping to make the event so memorable. Thank you to all of you for coming out and keeping our annual tradition alive!

Of course, IGSA has a lot more planned for you all in 2021, 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,

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





IMMSA

Hello immunologists!

We hope you had a restful winter break and are ready to tackle the new semester!

We will be hosting our 2nd IMMSA mentorship meet up towards the end of the month on the 20th and 23rd. These two dates are to help accommodate schedule conflicts and time zone differences. If you are participating in the mentorship, please check our website and social media frequently to find out what the times will be on those dates!

The **Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC)** is back! It will be held on May 1st to May 2nd this year on Zoom and we will begin the call for abstracts on January 11th, with the deadline being January 29th. So, if you have conducted research that is specific to immunology or are currently doing so, we encourage you to apply! The presentations consist of an oral PowerPoint presentation, followed by a Q & A session. Undergraduate Immunology students from University of Toronto and other Ontario and Quebec universities are invited, and therefore, it is a great opportunity to showcase your work and learn what your peers are studying across the two provinces. If the judges determine that you are one of the top 3 presenters, you will receive a cash prize!

We are planning several interesting events for the upcoming months and we hope to see many of you there. Thank you for the amazing participation last semester and we would love to see the same numbers this winter!

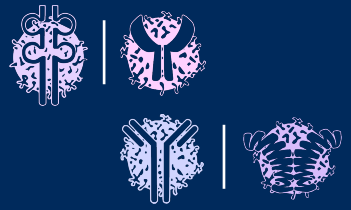
All the best,

Anita Tia and Phoebe Liu

IMMSA 2020-2021 Co-presidents

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





PUBLICATIONS

Mak TW. 2021. From the T-cell receptor to cancer therapy: an interview with Tak W. Mak. *Cell Death and Differentiation*. Online ahead of print.

Lee DSW, Rojas OL, Gommerman JL. 2021. B cell depletion therapies in autoimmune disease: advances and mechanistic insights. *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery*. Online ahead of print.

Fine N, Gracey E, Dimitriou I, La Rose J, Glogauer M, Rottapel R. 2020. GEF-H1 Is Required for Colchicine Inhibition of Neutrophil Rolling and Recruitment in Mouse Models of Gout. *Journal of Immunology*. 205(12):3300-3310.

Maehama T, Nishio M, Otani J, Mak TW, Suzuki A. 2021. The role of Hippo-YAP signaling in squamous cell carcinomas. *Cancer Science*. Online ahead of print.

Yadav J, Ismaeel S, Qadri A. 2020. Lysophosphatidylcholine Potentiates Antibacterial Activity of Polymyxin B. *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*. 64(12): e01337-20.

Martchenko SE, Martchenko A, Cox BJ, Naismith K, Waller A, Gurses P, Sweeney ME, Philpott DJ, Brubaker PL. 2020. Circadian GLP-1 Secretion in Mice Is Dependent on the Intestinal Microbiome for Maintenance of Diurnal Metabolic Homeostasis. *Diabetes*. 69(12):2589-2602.

Kothari A, Locke A, Eiwegger T. 2021. Emollients for the prevention of atopic dermatitis. *Allergy*. Online ahead of print.

Mazewski C, Perez RE, Fish EN, Plataniias LC. 2020. Type I Interferon (IFN)-Regulated Activation of Canonical and Non-Canonical Signaling Pathways. *Frontiers in Immunology*. 11: 606456.

