



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

I am pleased to announce the following changes to the academic leadership within the Department of Immunology, effective July 1, 2021. Please join me in congratulating:

- **Prof. Thierry Mallevaey, Associate Chair – Graduate Studies**
- **Prof. Jasty Singh, Associate Chair – Undergraduate Studies**

Additionally, I would like to thank **Prof. Jennifer Gommerman** for her remarkable leadership as Associate Chair - Graduate Studies, for the past 8 years. The Department owes her a tremendous debt of gratitude for her dedication and transformative vision that led to the reimagining of our graduate programs. Among these advances are the creation of the Applied Immunology MSc program, the acceptance of only PhD students into our thesis-based program, the creation of the Leave of Absence program for our graduate students, and many other innovative improvements. Also, my thanks to **Prof. Thierry Mallevaey**, for his outstanding leadership as Associate Chair - Undergraduate Studies, for the past 4 years. Our Immunology undergraduate programs have blossomed, along with exciting new courses and important curriculum improvements. Our gratitude is doubled as he takes on the Graduate mantle. With Thierry switching portfolios, the Department is fortunate to have a dedicated and talented educator, **Prof. Jasty Singh**, to take over and continue to elevate our undergraduate academic mission.

Speaking of leadership renewal, I would like to thank the outgoing IMMSSA co-presidents, **Anita** and **Phoebe**, for their steady and caring leadership during this difficult past year for our undergraduate students, and congratulate them on [OQUIC-2021](#). I look forward to working with the newly elected IMMSSA executive.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTON SEMINARS – via Zoom Webinar **11:05 - noon**

May 3, 2021 – Jonathan Kipnis PhD
[BJC Investigator, Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Distinguished Professor of Pathology and Immunology, Department of Pathology & Immunology, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis](#)

“New insights into CNS immune privilege”

Host: Jennifer Gommerman, PhD

PHD RESEARCH SEMINAR – via Zoom

May 6, 2021 - 10:00-11:00

Paulina Drohomysrecky - PhD Research Seminar

"The Effect of Deficiency of Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor Delta in Peripheral Myeloid cells and Microglia in Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis"

Supervisor: Dr. Shannon Dunn

BD BIOSCIENCES / IMMUNOLOGY POST-DOCTORAL LECTURE AWARD

The call for nominations for this postdoctoral award lecture is now open, please see the announcement below.



STUDENT SEMINARS – via Quercus
Mondays, 10:00-11:00

May 3, 2021

Exploring immunoregulatory and regenerative potential of innate lymphoid cells in type 1 diabetes
Sinthuja Jegatheeswaran (Crome lab)

Determining the influence of accumulating pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma driver gene mutations on tumour associated macrophages
Robbie Jin (McGaha lab)

Altering T cell metabolism to improve cellular therapy for cancer
Meghan Kates (Ohashi Lab)

May 10, 2021

TBD
Aniqa Khan (Robbins Lab)

Elucidating the role of T-cell-intrinsic Nod2 deficiency in colitis
Boyan Konstantinov Tsankov (Philpott lab)

Thymus reconstitution by vitro-generated progenitor T cells
Ruth Li (Zuniga-Pflucker lab)

May 17, 2021

Defining the contribution of tissue resident immune cells to ischemia reperfusion injury in kidney transplantation
Martin Mak (Crome lab)

TBD
Erika McCartney (Wall Lab)

TBD
Diana Nakib (MacParland lab)

May 31, 2021

TBD
Carol Nassar (Wither lab)

TBD
Natalia Ogrodnik (Martin lab)

TBD
Marie-Christine Perry (Danska Lab)

GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATES

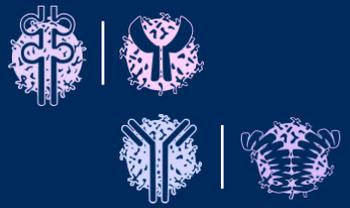
CONGRATULATIONS!

PhD
Dr. Sintia X. Teichman (Zuniga-Pflucker lab)
- April 7, 2021
Dr. SeongJun James Han (Ohashi lab)
- April 29, 2021

Applied Immunology MSc

We would like to welcome the following Applied Immunology MSc students for May 2021:

Faustina Lau (Mortha Lab)
Gavin Li (Martin Lab)
Claudia Ritzker (Wall Lab)
Melika Shirdarreh (Martin Lab)
Daniel Zangrando (Martin Lab)



Call for Nominations: The Department of Immunology is pleased to announce that it is now accepting nominations of outstanding postdoctoral fellows for the *BD Biosciences/Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture*. This lecture award is made possible by BD Biosciences' continued sponsorship of the Department Immunology Summer Retreat Program.

Award: The sponsorship will include a \$2,500 award for the postdoctoral fellow, and a \$500 product credit from BD Biosciences for the laboratory of the principal investigator.

Nominations: Faculty members of the Department of Immunology can nominate a postdoc in their lab. Please provide a nominating letter, and a CV of the nominated postdoctoral fellow, to be submitted electronically to chair.immunology@utoronto.ca

Deadline: **May 21, 2021** (5:00 pm) is the deadline for nominations. The winner will be announced by May 28.

Date & Time of Lecture & Award Presentation: **Monday, June 14, 2021, 11:00 am** is when the BD Biosciences/Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture, and award presentation will take place.

* This year's lecture will be via **Zoom**, with details to follow.



IGSA

Dear Immunologists,

As we are again in the thick of yet another surge of COVID-19, we want to remind you all to take care of yourselves. That means making yourself your priority, whether it's drawing clear boundaries between graduate work and personal life, taking the time to do little things that make you happy, or simply being gentle with yourself.

During this particularly stressful time, we want you to remind you once again that you are not alone and are a part of a community that includes your lab, your peers, and faculty and staff in the department that are here to support you.

We are also approaching PhD Qualifying Exam season, and **IGSA wants to extend our best wishes for all of you that will be taking the exam this year.**

We'd also like to share some important notes with you all:

- **Stay tuned for more virtual fitness classes!** Itching to incorporate some exercise back into your weekly routine? We are hosting high-intensity interval training classes every Thursday at 7pm.
- **Outreach to high school students!** This year's IMMspire Virtual Conference was on Friday April 30th, an entirely student-run event concluding a year of initiatives to interact with high school students around Toronto and the GTA about immunology.
- **Save the date! The Department of Immunology Annual Summer Conference will take place virtually once again this year on June 15th-16th.** Please stay tuned for more information about our invited speakers, and how you can submit a poster presentation for the event.

Please feel welcome to reach out to utgsu.immunology@gmail.com if you ever have any questions or comments.

With love,

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



IMMSA

Hello immunologists!

Congratulations on finishing exams and making it through an entire school year of online classes! It has been a tough time for everyone, so we hope that you can take a bit of a break from school and have some time to relax.

Our spring elections have finished and so we would like to introduce the new IMMSA executive for the 2021-2022 school year!

Co-Presidents: Shaivy Tiwari and Kunal Kolhatkar

Vice President: Cong (Vicky) Xie

Secretary: Savannah Hess

Sr. Events Coordinator: Christopher Ryan Tan

Sr. Treasurer: Nathan Clifford

ASSU Representative: Paul Papaeliou

Graphic Designer: Jana Livingston

4th Year Representative: Julia Grochola

3rd Year Representative: Momo Lin

We would like to thank all the students as well as the professors that have taken part in our events this year. Although all of our events have been held online this year, including OQUIC, we hope everyone had an enjoyable time. We would not have been able to do any of this without your support! In addition, we would like to thank those who have helped us immensely in the Department of Immunology, we really appreciate it.

Finally, we would like to thank the members of the 2020-2021 IMMSA executive. We may not have been able to meet each other in person, but each of you has put in a lot of effort into creating a supportive environment. This year would not have gone as well as it has without you.

We really enjoyed our time as the IMMSA Co-Presidents and we wish the best of luck to the incoming executive!

Have a safe and happy summer!

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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Wang AA, Gommerman JL. 2021. A totally OSM gift to astrocytes relieves inflammation. *Immunity*. **54(3)**:401-403.

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NEWSLETTER

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