

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

The new academic year is fully underway, and there is a feeling of a new routine for Monday mornings settling in. It is wonderful to see our graduate students and Easton Seminar speakers present their work and engage with the broad immunology community in Toronto.

I am also looking forward to our next departmental faculty meeting (November 2, 11:00 am), during which we will provide updates on the implementation of our department's strategic plan and discuss new initiatives.

In the meantime, be on the look-out for the upcoming issue of *IMMpress magazine*, which as with previous issues, is loaded with wonderful articles and topical information, this time with a timely set of features on pandemics.

As most of you have heard, the Faculty of Medicine is now the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, in appreciation and recognition of a historic gift from the Temerty Foundation. There will be many new initiatives to come from these funds, which we will be sharing with you soon.

In the meantime, wishing you all a great Fall term and hoping we all stay safe and well, as we meet the challenges and opportunities ahead of us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTON SEMINARS – Zoom Webinar – 11:00-noon

October 5, 2020

"Fueling T cells in tumors and inflammation"

Jeffrey Rathmell, PhD

Host: Pam Ohashi, PhD, FRSC

October 19, 2020

"How noncoding RNA contributes to inflammation"

Susan Carpenter, PhD

Host: David Brooks, PhD

October 26, 2020

"Modulating T cell metabolism to enhance the efficacy of cancer immunotherapy"

Samuel Saibil, MD, PhD, FRCPC

Host: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker, PhD

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

October 5, 2020

The impact of antiviral therapeutics on Hepatitis B virus-specific CD8 T cell Recognition - **Adrian Kuipery** (Gehring Lab)

Exploration of tyrosine sulfation in B lineage cells -

Leslie Leung (Ehrhardt Lab)

October 19, 2020

- **Priya Makhijani** (McGaha Lab)

Microparticles in Asymptomatic and Symptomatic ANA+ Individuals - **Carolina Munoz Grajales** (Wither Lab)

October 26, 2020

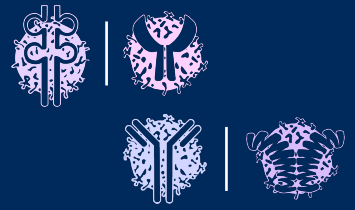
- **Kenneth Ting** (Cybulsky / Jongstra-Bilen Labs)

- **Angela Wang** (Gommerman Lab)

November 2, 2020 11:00 – via Zoom

Immunology Department Faculty Meeting





GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATES

Congratulations!

MSc Exam

Emma Van Lieshout (Wither lab) - September 18, 2020

Graduate Student Health and Wellness

GLSE in the Faculty of Medicine has two dedicated on-location counsellors available exclusively to FacMed graduate students. For details on availability and how to make an appointment for this confidential resource, see <https://www.glse.utoronto.ca/student-health-and-wellness>

IMMSA

Hello everyone!

We hope you are settling into the groove of online classes and are staying safe during this pandemic.

We first would like to thank those of you who joined us for the welcome back event! It was a fun and informative afternoon, where the professors really enjoyed getting to know the students in a more casual setting.

This month, we will be hosting a virtual lunch-and-learn (bring your own lunch!) featuring Dr. Tania Watts. She will present an overview of the current understanding of COVID-19 as well as her own research focus on the topic. There will also be a virtual immunology graduate school seminar coming up in late October. We will invite the manager and coordinator of the graduate programs, as well as students who are currently doing their MSc in Applied Immunology and PhD in Fundamental Immunology.

Be sure to come to these events as we will also be raffling off Starbucks gift cards! In addition, we will also be raffling off the chance to have a virtual chat over coffee with an immunology professor of their choice, options coming soon! You can enter this raffle throughout the semester, and the winner will be chosen in late November or early December. This will be a great opportunity to get to know a professor better, get advice, and ask questions!

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](https://facebook.com/IMMSA.UofT)





IGSA

Dear Immunologists,

We hope that you're all off to a wonderful start to the new academic year. September reminds us of new beginnings, and with the changing leaves, are our changing hearts and minds as we reflect on the past year and the year ahead.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new first-year students in the incoming class of 2020. Despite the obstacles placed in your path by the COVID-19 global pandemic, we have faith that you will overcome them with determination and resilience - and we are committed to supporting you along the way. That's why we have planned a series of virtual seminar panels, where you will be able to speak with senior graduate students for their insight on choosing the right lab for you and advice for your first year in graduate school among other pertinent topics. So please stay tuned to your emails for that!

This past month, we also had the pleasure of holding our annual departmental picnic in lieu of the traditional BBQ on Toronto Island and first-year orientation pub night, to accommodate for gathering restrictions due to COVID-19 and in compliance with the public health guidelines issued by all levels of government at the time. With our masks on, ample hand sanitizer, and pre-packaged meals, we were able to meet many of our new wonderful first-year students (physically distanced!) at Christie Pits Park on a bright, sunny day. That being said, with the rising number of cases in Toronto, we unfortunately will be suspending all in-person events for the month of October and likely the next few months. As budding immunologists, it's essential that we lead by example and uphold a standard of social responsibility, as we all ought to.

But don't worry! IGSA has you covered with a variety of social, educational, and constructive events planned for October and the next few months, including:

- Our returning virtual games and movies nights,
- virtual yoga and meditation sessions,
- and the aforementioned virtual advice panels for first-year students.

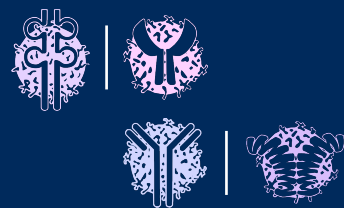
In addition to these events, our team is working hard on several of our ongoing programs behind the scenes to enrich our student community, including:

- A new interdepartmental graduate student wellness program funded by the GLSE,
- IMMspire, a community outreach initiative in which our students give online lectures on concepts in immunology to secondary school students in the TDSB,
- and our internal departmental mentorship program, which is currently underway.

We hope that you all stay safe and take care of yourselves and others in these tough times - not just physically, but mentally and emotionally as well. Like the changing colours of the autumn leaves, we will and we must adapt to our new surroundings. Although difficult, that, itself, is something beautiful.

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





FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE

"Hot off the press: Nana Lee's article on Virtual Connections published in the print edition of Canada's national University Affairs, Fall 2020"

<https://www.universityaffairs.ca/career-advice/career-advice-article/professional-connections-in-a-virtual-world/>

PUBLICATIONS

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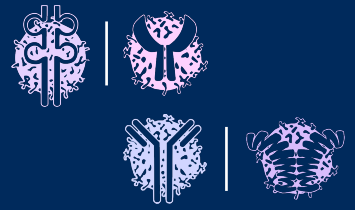
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