



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

The Fall term is well underway, and it is good to see our undergrad students return to campus. I, for one, am happy to be lecturing in person. Here is hoping that we all stay safe and well, as we engage with our students and meet the challenges and opportunities ahead of us.

As you will note in the IGSA section of the Newsletter, our graduate students have elected a new executive council (2021-2022), which has the following as members.:

Co-Presidents: Tiffany Kong and Kitty Liu  
 Social Reps: Meggie Kuypers, Robyn Loves, and Kameel Khan  
 Social Media Manager: Ammarah Naseer  
 Outreach & Wellness: Baweleta Isho  
 Career Development: Salma Sheikh-Mohamed  
 Sports: Natalia Ogrodnik  
 GSU/CUPE Rep: Robbie Jin  
 Mentorship/Peer Counsellor: Boyan Tsankov

Please join me in welcoming our new IGSA leadership, and thanking the outgoing team, led by Rashi and Anthony, who carried our graduate students through a difficult and challenging year, with their positive initiative of building and encouraging Resilience. Thanks.

I look forward to our upcoming Faculty Meeting and to discussing new and ongoing program updates within the department.

In the meantime, be on the look-out for the upcoming issue of *IMMpress Magazine*, which as usual, features wonderful articles and relevant information, this time with a timely set of articles on the post-pandemic world.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Faculty Meeting**

**November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

**11:05-1:00**

Location TBD or Zoom

### **CHARLES GOULD EASTON SEMINARS**

**October 18, 2021**

**11:05 am via Zoom**

### **Gregory Barton, PhD**

[Professor](#)

[Department of Molecular & Cell Biology](#)  
[Berkeley University of California](#)

### **"Innate Immune recognition of nucleic acids"**

Host: Dana Philpott, PhD

**October 25, 2021**

**11:05 am via Zoom**

### **Michael Lenardo, MD**

[NIH Distinguished Investigator](#)

[Chief, Molecular Development Section](#)

[Laboratory of Immune System Biology,](#)

[Director, Clinical Genomics Program,](#)

[National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases](#)

[National Institutes of Health](#)

### **"Gene identification in congenital immune disorders leads to precision medicine interventions"**

Host: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker, PhD





## OCTOBER STUDENT SEMINARS

**Mondays, 10:00-11:00 via ZOOM**

### October 4, 2021

The Immunotargeting Approach for a Vaccine against SARS-CoV-2

**Audrey Kassardjian (Julien Lab)**

Innate immune cell-tissue crosstalk at barrier surfaces

**Louis Ngai (Mortha Lab)**

### October 18, 2021

Identifying novel factors involved in antibody diversification events

**Philip Barbulescu (Martin Lab)**

CRISPRing Cdc42 for clues to the Cytoskeleton and Inflammasomes

**Ryder Whittaker Hawkins (Rottapel Lab)**

### October 25, 2021

title TBD

**Julia Lin (Epelman Lab)**

title TBD

**Kyle Reid (Crome Lab)**

## GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATES

### **Congratulations!**

MSc Exam

Sofija Bekarovska (Crome lab) - September 28, 2021

### **Upcoming Award Deadline**

CGS-M applications are due December 1, 2020 at 8:00 PM

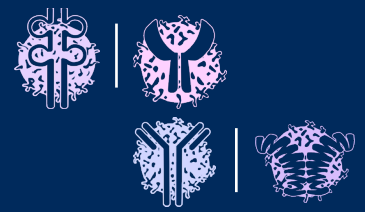
1st year graduate students and 4th year undergraduates planning to apply to grad programs for 2022 are encouraged to apply

### **Graduate Student Health and Wellness**

Temerty Faculty of Medicine has two dedicated on-location counsellors available exclusively to FacMed graduate students. For details about this confidential resource, see <https://www.glse.utoronto.ca/tfom-counsellors>

To schedule your first appointment, contact the Health and Wellness Centre at **416-978-8030 (select option "5")** or drop by Health and Wellness at the Koffler Student Services Centre, Room 111, and ask to book a time with a **GLSE counsellor**.





## IGSA

Dear Immunologists,

This past month of September, we embraced new faces into our community and welcomed familiar ones back with open arms.

In the past month alone, we organized an open workshop on Imposter Syndrome, a Departmental picnic at Christie Pits Park, and a first-year orientation trip to Canada's Wonderland. This only reflects a fraction of the hard work that the IGSA 2020-21 council has poured into building, reinforcing, and creating community over this past year.

Since last September, our council has hosted 4 outdoor picnics, 3 career-oriented workshops, 7 PhD Qualifying Exam practice sessions, and 20+ virtual social events, including movie nights, games nights, trivia nights, virtual cooking classes, a gingerbread-building competition, magic show, and more. Additionally, we organized and executed our annual Holiday Party on Zoom for the very first time, and our second virtual Summer Retreat, a 2-day conference featuring keynote speaker Dr. Akiko Iwasaki among other notable UofT Immunology alumni. We offered screenings of the documentary "Picture a Scientist" to shed light on the barriers women scientists have faced and still face today in STEM, prompting important conversations about gender equity; anti-racism workshops in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office; and raised over \$500 CAD for local charities from fundraising initiatives, including Nelly's Women Shelter and Toronto-based Indigenous youth charities. Anthony Wong and Ling Ling Tai on our council were also executives of the Graduate Peer Support Network, a new mental health and wellness initiative funded by the GLSE and spearheaded by Faculty of Medicine students. And Baweleta Isho and Annie Pu were co-leads of the outreach initiative IMMspire, which reached over a dozen schools in the Toronto District School Board to educate high school students about immunology, which is now more important than ever.

We would like to thank every member of our 2020-21 council:

Social Representatives: Jawairia Atif, Kitty Liu, and Giuliano Bayer

Outreach Representative: Siu Ling Tai

Mentorship and Peer Counsellor: Baweleta Isho

Career Development Representative: Annie Pu

Sports Representative: Lawrence Wood

UTGSU/CUPE Representatives: Sarah Colpitts and Homaira Hamidzada

And we are excited to welcome the upcoming IGSA 2021-22 Executive Council that will continue our efforts moving forward. As this is the last time that we will be writing to you all, we would just like to say: Thank You. Thank you for persisting through this year with us. There will only be brighter days ahead!

With love, always,

Anthony Wong and Rashi Gupta

IGSA Co-Presidents 2020-21



## Join WIDE! The DoI's Wellness, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Committee

We cordially invite more voices to join our Departmental Wellness Equity Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

<https://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/wellness-inclusion-diversity-and-equity-wide-committee>

We meet every 3 months to discuss our short-term and long-term goals.

Contact Kate if you are interested!

## IMMSA

Hey Immunologists!!

We hope everyone had a great 'back to school' month! For those of you now on campus, we hope you're finding your way around easily and making tons of new friends and for those returning, we're so glad to welcome you back with open arms!

September was a busy month for IMMSA, with our Fall Elections, mentorship program and Welcome Back Lunch - we really hit the ground running! We welcomed new members onto our executive team and we are so excited to work with them to create amazing events for the student body! Our mentorship pairings were also decided and we had a meetup for the mentees and mentors to mingle and introduce themselves! Finally, our Welcome Back Lunch was a success as always!

Looking ahead into October, we have a lot of events planned pertaining to research as well as mentorship! On October 3rd we are holding another mentorship meetup for those pairs that weren't able to make it to the meetup in September! It will be held virtually through Zoom so please keep an eye out for more information about that! We will also be having a Lunch and Learn event for the student body to come learn more about research in Immunology! In addition, in October we will hold a research info seminar with one of the Immunology department professors to come out and speak on ways to acquire research opportunities and the Do's and Don'ts of undergraduate research!

Keep an eye out on our Facebook, Instagram and emails from the department to attend any of these events and gather more information! We can't wait to see all your wonderful faces at our events throughout the year!

Have a spooky October!

Your IMMSA Co-Presidents,  
Shaivy T. and Kunal K.

Website: <http://immsauoft.com> | Instagram: @immsta | Facebook: <http://facebook.com/IMMSA.UofT>





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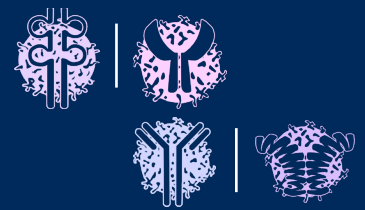
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