

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

As we start this new academic year, I think back of all the many times we have welcomed our immunology undergraduate and graduate students back to campus and our respective laboratories, and how wonderful an event this truly is for all of us. None of the warmth and well wishes will be lost as we engage new ways to ensure that our new and returning students are embraced back for their course work and research studies. On behalf of our University of Toronto Immunology community: WELCOME Back!

I really look forward to the restart of our Graduate Student and Easton Seminars, by the now the online format will be as familiar as walking to the MSB used to be; and, hopefully by this time next year, we will again be able to host these seminars in person.

As you will see below, the Immunology Graduate Student Association (IGSA) has a new leadership, and I am delighted to welcome Rashi Gupta and Anthony Wong as the new co-presidents. I would like to thank the outgoing IGSA co-presidents Nate and Derek for their extraordinary work and leadership during the past academic year.

I also look forward to working with the Undergraduate Immunology Student Association (IMMSA), led this year by Anita Tia and Phoebe Liu, and you can read more about their plans for this unprecedented year below.

Best wishes to all for a productive and exciting 2020-2021 academic year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTON SEMINARS – Virtual via Zoom Webinar

Zoom Webinar link will be circulated by email.

September 14, 2020

11:00 – 12:00

Dana Philpott, PhD

Host: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker, PhD

September 28, 2020

11:00-12:00

Ananda Goldrath, PhD

Host: Tania Watts, PhD

STUDENT SEMINARS – Virtual via Quercus

September 14, 2020

Pailin Chiaranunt (Mortha lab)

Douglas Chung (Ohashi lab)

September 21, 2020

Melanie Girard (Watts lab)

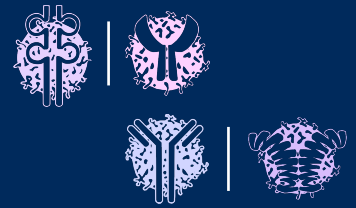
James Han (Ohashi lab)

September 28, 2020

Saad Khan (Winer lab)

Melissa Kleinau (Yeung lab)





Congratulations!

Qualifying Exam

- Audrey Kassardjian (Julien lab) – Aug 4, 2020

PhD in Fundamental Immunology

- Nyrie Israelian (Danska lab) – July 24, 2020
- Rodney Rousseau (Kaul lab) – Aug 19, 2020

MSc in Fundamental Immunology

- Irene Lau (Mallevaey lab) – Aug 4, 2020

MSc in Applied Immunology

- James An (Crome lab)
- Tina Daigneault (Martinu lab)
- Christina Ditlof (Eiwegger lab)
- Josephine Gomes (Dunn lab)
- Saraf Karim (Cybulsky lab)
- Johann Licht (Eiwegger / Grasemann labs)
- Robyn Loves (Grunebaum lab)
- Tina Lu (Wall lab)
- Jessica Mathews (Crome lab)
- Claire Mazzia (Anderson lab)
- Marie Perry (Coburn / Kaul lab)
- Apiraam Selvabaskaran (Girardin / Philpott labs)
- Salma Sheikh-Mohamed (Gommerman lab)
- Ling Ling Tai (Mortha lab)
- Ayushi Thakur (Mortha lab)
- Noelle Yee (Coburn lab)

Welcome to our new graduate students!

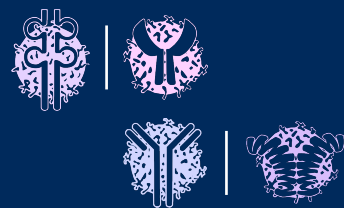
PhD

- Ke Bei (Rotation)
- Abdullah El-Sayes (Rotation)
- Zoha Faheem (Rotation)
- Alexandra Florescu (Gommerman lab)
- Sinthuja Jegatheeswaran (Rotation)
- Robbie Jin (Rotation)
- Meghan Sarah Kates (Ohashi lab)
- Aniqo Bano Khan (Robbins lab)
- Boyan Konstantinov Tsankov (Rotation)
- Yue Ru (Ruth) Li (Rotation)
- Martin Mak (Rotation)
- Diana Nakib (Rotation)
- Carol Nassar (Rotation)
- Natalia Ogrodnik (Rotation)
- Marie-Christine Perry (Rotation)
- Salma Sheikh-Mohamed (Gommerman lab)
- Sophie Sun (Rotation)
- Siu Ling Tai (Mortha lab)
- Nasana Vaidya (Rotation)

MSc

- Jamal Al-Refaei (Martinu lab)
- Dotor Borovsky (Crome lab)
- Bettina Camara (Yeung lab)
- Matthew Cho (Coburn lab)
- David Croitoru (Piguet lab)
- Tijana Despot (Mallevaey lab)
- Kirubel Goliad (Wither lab)
- Natasha Ilincic (Martin lab)
- Erika McCartney (Wall lab)
- Vanessa Rezai-Stevens (Grunebaum lab)
- Sherry Wang (MacParland lab)





IMMSA

Hello immunologists!

We would first like to say *Welcome Back* to both new and returning immunology students! We hope you were able to find a way to relax this summer and are ready to tackle this new and unprecedented school year.

IMMSA will be moving all of our events online this year to be as inclusive as possible, as we are aware that many students will not be able to be present on campus. We will try our best to have a smooth transition and to foster a sense of community while we are spread out across the globe.

We will be hosting multiple events in September! We will begin the year with an online welcome back event, in which students will have the opportunity to learn more about the Department of Immunology through introductions from the Chair, Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker, the Undergraduate Coordinator, Dr. Thierry Mallevaey, as well as some of the IMMSA executives. There will also be a chance to interact with the professors and IMMSA afterwards!

In addition, students can now sign up for the Immunology Mentorship Program to be either a mentor or a mentee! It will be a great opportunity to get to know another student in the department and gain some insight from a senior student or pass on knowledge that you gained through experience to a junior student. The first mentorship meetup will be taking place at the end of the month. The sign-up form can be found on our Facebook page!

Lastly, IMMSA will be hosting our fall elections towards the end of the month where the available positions will be 2nd year representative, Jr. events coordinator, Jr. treasurer, and ASSU representative. We highly encourage anyone who is looking for a way to get involved with the department to run for a position, as it is a good way to get to know your peers and faculty members. Look out for the sign-up form in the coming weeks!

Stay updated on our Facebook and Instagram pages with our latest events and updates! We hope everyone is staying healthy, and we hope to have an amazing year and continue to build a stronger community and closer bonds among immunology students!

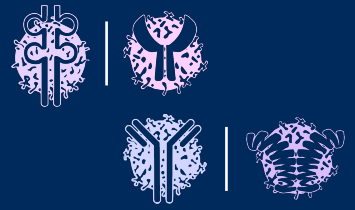
All the best,

Anita Tia and Phoebe Liu

IMMSA 2020-2021 Co-presidents

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





IGSA

Dear Immunologists,

As we come into the new academic year, we would like to extend a big welcome to our incoming fundamental and applied immunology graduate students. While we navigate COVID-19, we are excited to meet you all virtually and in person soon!

With our recent AGM, we have amended our constitution and council structure to reflect our expanding community. As we are all spread across several research sites, we have now mandated that Social Representatives must represent different institutes to create events and engage students at every site. We are establishing a new interdepartmental peer support network for mental health thanks to the great work of **Anthony Wong, Siu Ling Tai (Ling Ling),** and **Tiffany Kong**. To spearhead these initiatives, we have added a Wellness Representative and Peer-to-Peer Counsellor to our executive.

We are committed to creating an inclusive and diverse community. With your feedback from our recent seminar with the Office of Inclusion and Diversity, we will be holding more workshops in the future to build upon our commitment.

With our most recent election, we would like to welcome your new executive council:

Co-Presidents: **Rashi Gupta & Anthony Wong**

Social Representatives: **Giuliano Bayer, Jawaira Atif, Kitty Liu**

Sports Representative: **Lawrence Wood**

Career Development Representative: **Annie Pu**

GSU/CUPE Representative: **Sarah Colpitts & Homaira Hamidzada**

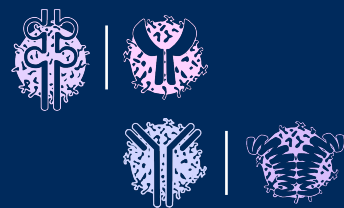
Community Outreach/Wellness Representative: **Siu Ling Tai (Ling Ling)**

Peer-to-peer Counsellor: **Baweleta Isho**

We hope you are all safe and well. Stay tuned as we transition from virtual to safe meetings in person!

-IGSA





PUBLICATIONS

Lee HS, Beilhartz GL, Kucharska I, Raman S, Cui H, Lam MHY, Liang HZ, Rubinstein JL, Schramek D, Julien JP, Melnyk RA, Taipale M. 2020. Recognition of Semaphorin Proteins by *P. sordellii* Lethal Toxin Reveals Principles of Receptor Specificity in Clostridial Toxins. *Cell*. **182(2)**:345.

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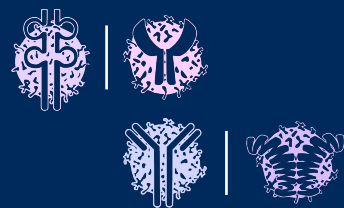
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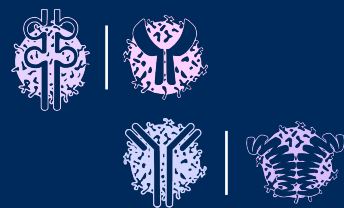
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DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY

NEWSLETTER



Zhou Q, Chen V, Shannon CP, Wei XS, Xiang X, Wang X, Wang ZH, Tebbutt SJ, Kollmann TR, Fish EN. 2020. Interferon-alpha 2b Treatment for COVID-19. *Frontiers in Immunology*. **11**:1061.

