

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

VOL VII – ISSUE 2

October 2017

**Message from the Acting  
Chair,  
Dr. Dana Philpott**



**Message from the Acting Chair,  
Dr. Dana Philpott**

As many of you know, in the “Naylor Report” came out earlier this year. This report was commissioned by Science Minister Kirsty Duncan and was charged with reviewing the federal government’s support of fundamental science. The major finding from the report was that federal support for fundamental research has flat-lined over the past 10 years. In response, one of the key recommendations is to “strengthen and re-balance funding”, advocating for a 30 per cent funding increase to the three major funding institutions of \$485 million over four years. These funds are to not only support our research and infrastructure but also to provide greater financial support for careers at all stages of research, including our trainees.

I encourage you, especially students and trainees (!), to advocate for increased funding from the federal government. An easy option is to write to your MP or get involved in other ways outlined in the following websites: <https://supportthereport.ca/>

and <http://gicr.utoronto.ca/support-the-report/>

Thanks everyone!

### Welcome

A welcome and re-welcome to Dr. Nana Lee who is now officially a member of the Department. Thank you Nana for your leadership on the Graduate Professional Development program.

### UPCOMING

**November Human Immunology Panel**  
**5:00 to 6:00 pm**  
Monday November 13, 2017  
Rm 7231

Dr. Vincent Piguet, MD, Ph.D., FRCP

“Dendritic cells subsets pathogens and diseases”

**Host:** Dr. Tania Watts, Ph.D.

### Student Seminars

**November 2017 Room 2173 MSB at 10:00 a.m.**

**Monday, November 6, 2017**

Eric Cao (Supervisor: Jen Gommerman & Arthur Mortha)

**Monday, November 13, 2017**

Yoojin Choi (Supervisor: Rupert Kaul)

**Monday November 20th , 2017**

(Supervisor: Clint Robbins )

Sintia Xhiku (Supervisor: JC Zuniga-Pflucker )

**Monday November 27th, 2017**

Mengdi Guo (Supervisor: David Brooks )

Laabiah Wasim (Supervisor: Bebhinn Treanor)

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### CONGRATULATIONS...FACULTY PROMOTIONS

#### *Updates from GPD*

Hello Everyone!

Along with my new Immunology appointment, I have also been appointed as Director of GPD and Mentorship at GLSE, Faculty of Medicine. My current activities include teaching GPD for Immunology, Biochemistry and [GLSE](#), providing one-on-one consultations, directing a grad student mentorship program, coordinating a [faculty development workshop](#) series, and bridging employers with talent.

Just a reminder that Immunology GPD is a member of [Life Sciences Ontario](#). Thus, if you as a student or faculty see any LSO events you would like to attend, please contact me if you have any registration questions.

Any graduate student who is contemplating an internship, we have salary funding through the Biotalent [SWILP](#) program. Decisions are usually made within 2 weeks of application submission. Let me know if you have any questions.

Anyone applying for jobs or interviewing, feel free to send me your application materials if you would like some feedback or some interview tips. Happy to help!

Cheers,

Nana Lee

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### PhD

Tian Sun (Gommerman and Philpott labs)  
– September 13, 2017

Darrin Gao (Fish lab)  
– September 14, 2017

Jastaranpreet Singh (Zúñiga-Pflücker lab)  
– September 27, 2017

Brett Shannon (Kaul lab)  
– September 29, 2017

#### MSc

Anh Cao (Treanor lab)  
– September 15, 2017

Miki Gams (Guidos lab)  
– September 20, 2017

### FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE

SGS Wellness Workshops this Fall:

Did you know that SGS and the Health & Wellness Centre offer a [series of wellness workshops](#) to help grad students meet the demands of university, work, and personal life? Check out these upcoming sessions on Mondays, 1:30-3 pm

**To register**, call the [Health & Wellness Centre](#) at 416-978-8030 or contact your intake counsellor/clinician.

Registration is limited to 15 participants, so register early. If you have accessibility accommodation needs, please advise during your registration.

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

### IMMSA

The Immunology Graduate Program Information Session is coming up on November 3rd, 1-2pm in Fitzgerald Building Room 103. Also, IMMSA will be hosting pub night later in November, so keep an eye out for the email!

Thank you,

Lucy Shao, Sonia Kim Co-Presidents 2017-2018

### IGSA

Dear Immunologists,

The colors of the season may have been changing as the temperature has cooled, but that hasn't stopped students from being active outside their laboratory shelters! To kick off the spooky month of October, students were in for a deceitful night of board games at the Fox & Fiddle, where friendships were both made and broken. Immunologists then put their talented hands to artistic use for our Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest before unwinding for a joint viewing of a scary movie at the Bimmstro. As if pumpkins were ever going to be enough, immunologists shed their lab coats to don spooky and colourful costumes to mingle with other FacMed graduate students during our Interdepartmental Halloween Party at The Boat in the heart of Kensington. Finally, the athletes of our department showed up with great avidity to tally wins for the Immunodominators Volleyball and Ultimate Frisbee teams.

Winter is coming... and so is our highly anticipated **Departmental Holiday Party** to be held Dec. 15 at the Chestnut! Ticket sales will begin Monday, Nov. 6 and will be made available for graduate students, faculty members, staff (and their guests). Post-docs, research associates, and lab techs will be able to purchase their tickets Monday, Nov. 20. Look out for our designated IGSA ticket sales representatives or come find us following Easton Seminars to make sure you don't miss out on the night of the year. To ensure we pick out the best bubbly for the Holiday Party, come out for the always memorable Wine & Cheese Night. Lastly, we are still recruiting students and faculty members who would like to lend their talents to perform as part of the night's entertainment. If you are interested, please contact Yoojin!

Cheers,

Yoojin & Albert

IGSA Co-Presidents 2017-2018

## PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (September 2017)

1. Aguilar, O. A., R. Berry, M. M. A. Rahim, J. J. Reichel, B. Popovic, M. Tanaka, Z. H. Fu, G. R. Balaji, T. N. H. Lau, M. M. Tu, C. L. Kirkham, A. B. Mahmoud, A. Mesci, A. Krmpotic, D. S. J. Allan, A. P. Makrigiannis, S. Jonjic, J. Rossjohn, and J. R. Carlyle. 2017. A Viral Immuno-evasin Controls Innate Immunity by Targeting the Prototypical Natural Killer Cell Receptor Family. *Cell* 169: 58-+.
2. Ermini, L., J. Ausman, M. Melland-Smith, B. Yeganeh, A. Rolfo, M. L. Litvack, T. Todros, M. Letarte, M. Post, and I. Caniggia. 2017. A Single Sphingomyelin Species Promotes Exosomal Release of Endoglin into the Maternal Circulation in Preeclampsia. *Scientific Reports* 7.
3. Franckacert, D., R. Collin, J. Dooley, R. H. Walli, P. Poussier, A. Liston, E. E. Hillhouse, and S. Lesage. 2017. An orthologous non-MHC locus in rats and mice is linked to CD4(+) and CD8(+) T-cell proportion. *Genes and Immunity* 18: 118-126.
4. Jongstra-Bilen, J., C. X. Zhang, T. Wisnicki, M. K. Li, S. White-Alfred, R. Ilaalagan, D. M. Ferri, A. Deonarain, M. H. Wan, S. J. Hyduk, C. L. Cummins, and M. I. Cybulsky. 2017. Oxidized Low-Density Lipoprotein Loading of Macrophages Downregulates TLR-Induced Proinflammatory Responses in a Gene-Specific and Temporal Manner through Transcriptional Control. *Journal of Immunology* 199: 2149-2157.
5. Kirkham, C. L., O. A. Aguilar, T. Yu, M. Tanaka, A. Mesci, K. L. Chu, J. H. Fine, K. L. Mossman, R. Bremner, D. S. J. Allan, and J. R. Carlyle. 2017. Interferon-Dependent Induction of Clr-b during Mouse Cytomegalovirus Infection Protects Bystander Cells from Natural Killer Cells via NKR-P1B-Mediated Inhibition. *Journal of Innate Immunity* 9: 343-358.
6. Li, Y., P. M. Brauer, J. Singh, S. Xhiku, K. Yoganathan, J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker, and M. K. Anderson. 2017. Targeted Disruption of TCF12 Reveals HEB as Essential in Human Mesodermal Specification and Hematopoiesis. *Stem Cell Reports* 9: 779-795.
7. Li, Y. J., L. Sun, Y. Shi, G. Wang, X. Wang, S. E. Dunn, C. Iorio, R. A. Screaton, and D. E. Spaner. 2017. PPAR- $\delta$  promotes survival of chronic lymphocytic leukemia cells in energetically unfavorable conditions. *Leukemia* 31: 1905-1914.
8. Liu, J., and M. Ostrowski. 2017. Development of targeted adjuvants for HIV-1 vaccines. *Aids Research and Therapy* 14.
9. Ly, D., C. Q. Zhu, M. Cabanero, M. S. Tsao, and L. Zhang. 2017. Role for High-Affinity IgE Receptor in Prognosis of Lung Adenocarcinoma Patients. *Cancer Immunology Research* 5: 821-829.
10. Moreau, J. M., S. Cen, A. Berger, C. Furlonger, and C. J. Paige. 2017. Bone marrow basophils provide survival signals to immature B cells in vitro but are dispensable in vivo. *Plos One* 12.
11. Mujib, S., A. Saiyed, S. Fadel, A. Bozorgzad, N. Aidarus, F. Y. Yue, E. Benko, C. Kovacs, L. A. Emert-Sedlak, T. E. Smithgall, and M. A. Ostrowski. 2017. Pharmacologic HIV-1 Nef blockade promotes CD8 T cell-mediated elimination of latently HIV-1-infected cells in vitro. *Jci Insight* 2.



## PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (September 2017)

12. Perciani, C. T., W. Jaoko, S. Walmsley, B. Farah, S. M. Mahmud, M. Ostrowski, O. Anzala, K. S. MacDonald, and K.-I. Team. 2017. Protocol of a randomised controlled trial characterising the immune responses induced by varicella-zoster virus (VZV) vaccination in healthy Kenyan women: setting the stage for a potential VZV-based HIV vaccine. *Bmj Open* 7.
13. Prodeus, A., A. Abdul-Wahid, A. Sparkes, N. W. Fischer, M. Cydzik, N. Chiang, M. Alwash, A. Ferzoco, N. Vaca resse, M. Julius, R. M. Gorczynski, and J. Gariepy. 2017. VISTA.COMP - an engineered checkpoint receptor agonist that potently suppresses T cell-mediated immune responses. *Jci Insight* 2.
14. Saleh, M. H., I. Rashedi, and A. Keating. 2017. Immunomodulatory Properties of Coriolus versicolor: The Role of Polysaccharopeptide. *Frontiers in Immunology* 8.
15. Shannon, B., T. J. Yi, S. Perusini, P. Gajer, B. Ma, M. S. Humphrys, J. Thomas-Pavanel, L. Chieza, P. Janakiram, M. Saunders, W. Tharao, S. Huibner, K. Shahabi, J. Ravel, A. Rebbapragada, and R. Kaul. 2017. Association of HPV infection and clearance with cervicovaginal immunology and the vaginal microbiota. *Mucosal Immunology* 10: 1310-1319.
16. Zhou, A. C., L. M. Snell, M. E. Wortzman, and T. H. Watts. 2017. CD30 Is Dispensable for T-Cell Responses to Influenza Virus and Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus Clone 13 but Contributes to Age-Associated T-Cell Expansion in Mice. *Frontiers in Immunology* 8.
17. Zhou, A. C., L. E. Wagar, M. E. Wortzman, and T. H. Watts. 2017. Intrinsic 4-1BB signals are indispensable for the establishment of an influenza-specific tissue-resident memory CD8 T-cell population in the lung. *Mucosal Immunology* 10: 1294-1309.

*We'd like to hear from you!*  
*Comments or Questions – Please contact:*  
[Immunology.communications@utoronto.ca](mailto:Immunology.communications@utoronto.ca)