



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

There is a lot to share with the department this month. First, my sincerest thanks to all that participated in the meetings with External Reviewers. The debriefing comments reflected a high level of appreciation for the incredible excellence demonstrated by all our academic and research activities. We should all be proud and gladly look forward to even better prospects ahead.

Speaking of happy news, I have the following items to report on:

- Temerty Medicine Teaching Award Winners: Prof. **Jennifer Gommerman** (*Sustained Excellence in Teaching and Mentorship*); Prof. **Thierry Mallevaey** (*Mid-Career Excellence in Teaching and Mentorship*); and Prof. **Jasty Singh** (*Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Life Sciences*). Congratulations to all.
- The Department will have a new Business Officer, Ms. **Carmen Ho**, starting May 1. Carmen comes to us from the Dept. of Sociology at UofT, where she is currently Business Officer, and prior to that, she was Program Manager of Biological Sciences at Sunnybrook Research Institute.
- The Department is now a member of the [Collaborative Specialization in Neuroscience](#) graduate program.
- The Department will be holding its first Alumni Event at the American Association of Immunologist (AAI), on May 11, to celebrate all the amazing work done by our graduate alumni, as highlighted by Prof. **Akiko Iwasaki** becoming the next President of the AAI.
- The Department announced a call for applications for the [Collaborative Postdoctoral Research Award \(Co-PRA\)](#), and for nominations for the [BD Biosciences / Immunology Postdoctoral Lecture](#).

UPCOMING SEMINARS

CHARLES GOULD EASTON SEMINARS

(Mondays at 11:05 am, MSB 2170)

Monday, April 3, 2023

[Dr. Lewis Lanier](#)

[J. Michael Bishop, MD, Distinguished Professor in Microbiology and Immunology](#)
[American Cancer Society Professor and Chair,](#)
[Department of Microbiology and Immunology](#)
[Co-Leader, Cancer Immunology & Immunotherapy Program, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)
[University of California San Francisco](#)
"Natural Killer Cell Activation"

Host: Sarah Crome, PhD

Monday, April 17, 2023

[Dr. Gabriel Nunez](#)

[Paul de Kruif Endowed Professor of Pathology](#)
[University of Michigan Medical School](#)
"Host-Microbiota Interactions in Health and Disease"

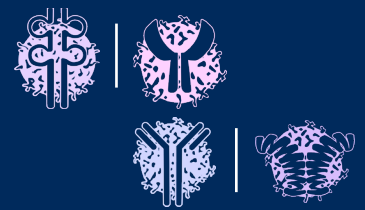
Host: Dana Philpott, PhD

Monday, April 24, 2023

[Dr. Marion Pepper](#)

[Associate Professor](#)
[Department of Immunology](#)
[University of Washington](#)
"Understanding memory B cell differentiation and function"

Host: Jen Gommerman, PhD



GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATE

Congratulations! PhDs

Dr. Lisa Hung (Eiwegger lab)– March 7, 2023

Dr. Ryder Whittaker Hawkins (Rottapel lab) –
March 28, 2023

PhD RESEARCH SEMINAR

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

5:00 -6:00 pm

Hybrid Delivery (MSB 6222 & Zoom)

Jessica Bruce PhD Candidate

“Inflammasomes in the Intestinal Epithelium”

Supervisor: Drs. Dana Philpott and Stephen Girardin

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

1:00 – 2:00 pm

MSB 7231 & Zoom (Hybrid)

Sabrin Mishel PhD Candidate

**“Characterization of SIRPa signaling mechanisms
in macrophages”**

Supervisor: Dr. Jayne Danska

Thursday, April 20, 2023

12:00 – 1:00 pm

MSB 7231 & Zoom (Hybrid)

Mengdi Guo PhD Candidate

**“Molecular, metabolic and functional CD4 T cell
paralysis impedes tumor control”**

Supervisor: Dr. David Brooks

IMMUNOLOGY SPECIAL SEMINAR

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

MSB 7231

Dr. Tanya Freedman

Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology
Center for Immunology - Masonic Cancer Center
University of Minnesota

**“Pro-inflammatory and protective roles of Lyn
kinase”**

Host: Jayne Danska, PhD

Thursday, April 20, 2023

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

MSB 4279

Dr. Benjamin Youngblood

Associate Member, St. Jude Children’s Research
Hospital

**“Identifying epigenetic mechanisms of success in
T cell-based immunotherapy”**

Host: David Brooks, PhD

Thursday, April 25, 2023

11:00 – 12:00 p.m.

MSB 7231

Dr. Thomas Kufer

Professor, University of Hohenheim

**“Novel functional aspects of non-inflammasome
NLRs**

APRIL STUDENT SEMINARS

(Mondays, 10:00 a.m. at MSB 2172)

April 3, 2023	
Robyn Loves (Grunebaum Lab)	Don Han (Hirano Lab)
April 10, 2023	
Clay Qiu (Zúñiga-Pflücker Lab)	Deeva Uthayakumar (Julien / Wang Labs)
April 17, 2023	
Munira Verdawala (Rottapel Lab)	Anqi Yan (Zúñiga-Pflücker Lab)
April 24, 2023	
Diana Yang (Kaul Lab)	Tianning Yu (Watts Lab)



POSTDOC Events

Postdocs & Research Associate Seminar series are happening once a month. The details will be updated on our website event listing as [Immunology Postdoc Events](#).

April 10, 2023 - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Mock Job Interview Session

Registration required. Please contact [Prof. Tania Watts](#).

Event Reminder

- DOI Faculty meeting -April 6th, 2023 2:00 pm, In-Person at Faculty Club.

Osage University Partners(OUP) Webinars

UofT has partnered with Osage University Partners (OUP) who will provide webinar series on various topics related to licensing and company creation. All sessions are recorded and available to view at any time. Anyone from the UofT community can join these seminars using their UofT e-mail address.

April 20, 2023, 12:00 pm EST

Topic: Funding and Equity in University Startups, Part 4

What to Expect When Seeking Funds from VCs

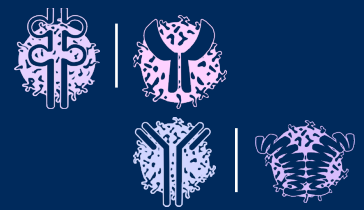
Registration: [Click Here](#)

Webinar Description:

In the fourth part of OUP's Funding and Equity webinar series, Mitra Miri and Nii Dodoo-Amoo of OUP will discuss what a startup founder should expect when fundraising from venture capital groups. They will begin with an overview of how venture capital firms operate to provide context for startup founders before a deep dive into the diligence process at VC firms.

UPDATE FROM FLOW CYTOMETRY FACILITY

Thanks to the recent awarding of the CFI for Neuroinflammation from Prof. Jen Gommerman et al, the Temerty Faculty of Medicine Flow Cytometry Facility has recently enjoyed a significant upgrade. The newly upgraded flow facility service can be found at <https://flowcytometry.utoronto.ca/services-2/>



TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Flow
Cytometry
Facility

FLOW CYTOMETRY FACILITY

The University of Toronto's Flow Cytometry Facility offers 6 state-of-the-art analytical and 3 high-speed cell sorting services to both academic and corporate clients. Our facility is located in the Medical Sciences Building next to Queen's Park, a central and convenient location for users across the Greater Toronto Area.

Contact us at:

We are open from 9-6, feel free to email or call.

Room 7226, Medical Sciences Building,
1 King's College Circle, Toronto ON,
M5S 1A8

Phone: 416-978-6524

Email: flowcytometry.manager@utoronto.ca

Website: <https://flowcytometry.utoronto.ca/>

Website:



Why Choose Temerty

- A diverse and knowledgeable staff from both an academic and industrial (clinical) background
- Offering both conventional and spectral flow cytometric analysis and sorting
- Services provided include: panel design, consultation, and training
- The first spectrally enhanced S6 cell sorter in all of Canada*
- Up to 50 parameters (channels) for both independent or assisted analysis and sorting

*we are generously supported by the Canada Foundation For Innovation

Equipment and Services:

Analyzers:

	Unassisted	Assisted
BD LSRFortessa™	\$40/HR	\$90/HR
BD LSRFortessa™ X-20 & X-20 II	\$45/HR	\$90/HR
BD FACSymphony™ A3-I & A3-II	\$50/HR	\$90/HR
BD FACSymphony™ A5 SE*	\$55/HR	\$90/HR

Sorters:

BD FACSMelody™ (unassisted sorting)	\$45/HR
BD FACSMelody™ (assisted sorting)	\$90/HR
BD FACSymphony™ S6 SE* (assisted sorting only)	\$90/HR
BD FACSAria IIIu™ (assisted sorting only)	\$90/HR

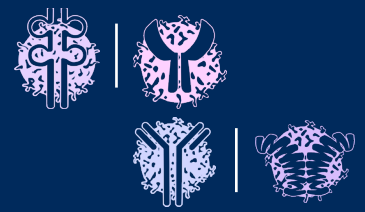
*spectral enhanced

ANALYZERS

- BD LSRFortessa™, 4 lasers, up to 18 parameters, high-throughput sampling
- BD LSRFortessa™, X-20 5 lasers, up to 20 parameters, high-throughput sampling
- BS LSRFortessa™, X-20 II 5 lasers, up to 20 parameters
- BD FACSymphony™ A5 SE, 5 lasers, up to 50 parameters, high-throughput sampling, spectrally enhanced
- BD FACSymphony™ A3-I, 5 lasers, up to 30 parameters, high-throughput sampling
- BD FACSymphony™ A3-II, 5 lasers, up to 30 parameters, high-throughput sampling

SORTERS

- BD FACSMelody™ 3 lasers, up to 10 parameters, 4-way sorting
- BD FACSAria™ IIIu 4 lasers, up to 17 parameters, 4-way sorting
- BD FACSymphony™ S6 SE 5 lasers, up to 50 parameters, 6-way sorting, spectrally enhanced



UPDATE FROM THE W.I.D.E. COMMITTEE

Happy spring from your WIDE Committee!

It's a great time for new beginnings and expanding our learning – with this in mind, we encourage everyone to check out the upcoming trainings offered by the [Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office](#), open to students, staff, and faculty:

Disrupting Anti-Asian Racism: Tools for Change

May 1, 2023, 1pm – 3pm, Virtual

Facilitated by: Maria Lo, Training Coordinator, Hong Fook Mental Health Association

Dismantling Anti-Black Racism in Post-Secondary Environments

May 4, 2023, 1pm – 4pm, Virtual

Facilitated by: Dr. Joseph Smith, Educator, Community Worker and Researcher

Understanding Antisemitism on Campus

May 15, 2023, 10am – 12pm, Virtual

Facilitated by: Jacqueline Dressler, Manager of Advocacy at Western Hillel and Hillel at the University of Toronto

This month we would like to recognize and commemorate several days of importance:

- We celebrate April as the official Sikh Heritage Month and commemorate the many important contributions Sikh Canadian's have made to Ontario's school, economic, cultural, and political foundation. To learn more about Sikh Heritage Month please visit: <https://www.sikhheritagemonth.ca/about>
- Happy Passover to all of IMM-WIDE's friends on April 5th, 2023! To those celebrating, we wish you a fulfilling, joyous and kosher Passover. To learn more about this holiday please refer to this guide generated by the University of Toronto: <https://people.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-Passover-Inclusive-Employer-Guide.pdf>
- On April 9th, we celebrate Easter with our IMM community! We also congratulate all those from our community who observed lent, and hope you had a blessed and reflective time! To learn more about the history and traditions of Easter please visit: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/history-of-easter>
- On April 14th, we celebrate Vaisakhi, which marks the new year for many Buddhist, Hindu, and Sikh communities, as well as a celebration of the spring harvest. The Ontario Sikh & Gurdwara council will be organizing a parade in Toronto in celebration of Vaisakhi on April 30th, 2023, which you can learn more about here: <https://osgc.ca/khalsa-day-downtown-toronto/>
- Eid Mubarak to our Muslim friends on April 20th 2023! To those who observed Ramadan we hope you had a fulfilling month of fasting! To learn more about prayer spaces and halal food options near campus please visit: <http://www.uoftmsa.com/community-resources.html>

Lastly, the WIDE Committee is looking for artists within our Department to design and install an EDI-themed mural art piece on the MSB 7th floor hallway. The artist(s) will install the outline of the artwork, followed by a series of community-building events where trainees can come together to fill in the piece. Compensation will be provided to the artist(s). If you are interested in contributing in any capacity, please let us know

at uoft.imm.wide@gmail.com by **April 15th**. We also welcome and encourage group contributions and ideas!

Wishing you all a happy, healthy April 🌸

-Your WIDE Committee Follow us on Twitter [@IMM_WIDE](#) !



UPDATES FROM IGSA

Hello again, fellow Immunologists!

April showers bring May flowers... or so the saying goes. Let's get ready for a bout of bad weather by staying warm and snug at IGSA Games Night! Join us at the Medical Sciences Building with old games and new games while you take a nice break before the onset of exam season. As always, free food will definitely be provided - with special accommodations this time for everyone to pick their favorite cuisine!

If you're more inclined towards an active lifestyle, we also have several events coming up. First on the list is our department's annual attendance at Toronto's Spring Run-Off, happening this Saturday, April 1st over at High Park. Sign up for either a 5K or 8K marathon to raise money in support of Parkdale Community Food Bank; a local charity committed to ensuring access to barrier free food for all. Our incredible runners have already fundraised more than \$900 in support of this event, so even if you're not set to run in the race, you can still help pitch in towards this community effort for a good cause!

We also have a virtual yoga session for those looking for a quick break without any commitment. If you're feeling overwhelmed by experiments, final reports, upcoming qualifying exams or student seminars, come de-stress with us as we welcome back certified yoga instructor Feng Cao next Tuesday, April 4th at 6pm! The yoga session will be held entirely over zoom, and more private individuals are free to keep their cameras off for the whole session. Tune in from either home or lab to enjoy a full hour of tailored yoga exercises that are sure to give your mind and body some well-deserved care.

For our first- and second-year cohorts, we understand that the end of the academic year is sure to be a stressful time. For anyone who just needs someone to talk to, we'll be promoting another round of mentor-mentee coffee chats that students can take advantage of to build a peer support network outside of the lab. Drinks will be reimbursed by IGSA, so make sure you don't miss out! Keep informed with future emails as more information becomes available later this month.

Lastly, the Temerty Faculty of Medicine will be releasing a graduate supervisory experience survey on May 1st to capture key aspects of student life and ensure a better educational experience within all affiliated departments. Those that complete the survey will be entered towards a prize draw, so remember to tune in when the survey goes live!

Stay strong, everyone! Summer's just around the corner!

Bobby and Meggie
IGSA Co-Presidents 2022-2023



UPDATE FROM IMMSA

Hey Immunologist!

Midterm season is finally over, so we hope everyone gets to take a break, get some sleep, and catch up with friends and family. Can you believe it? There's only one month left of school! If you're feeling a bit drained at the moment, the light is at the end of the tunnel. You got this!

We hope everyone enjoyed our research seminar, where our wonderful IMM professors Dr. Singh, Dr. Watts, and Dr. Fish presented their research journey. Their stories were very inspirational, and we definitely look up to them. After the seminar was over, we were happy to see students go up to the professors for questions or simply just to chat. We are sure some of you engaged in meaningful conversations with the professors and your peers.

Since April is the final exam season, we will be taking a break from academic and social events. We want to make sure everyone focuses on their work and ends the school year on a high note. In the meantime, please take good care of your physical and mental health. Pulling all-nighters is not a good idea! Feel free to reach out to us on our socials if you need any kind of support or help.

Even though IMMSA is not holding any events in April, we still have our apparel sale! Thank you to everyone who voted on their favourite colours for this year's apparel. The top selected colours are black for the t-shirt and vintage navy for the quarter-zip. Each t-shirt is **\$12** and has a printed logo. Each quarter-zip is **\$40** and has an embroidered logo. To order, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/FRh5Nk8F8SRuED2sg>. Payment can be made via e-transfer to immsa.immunology@gmail.com. The deadline to order your apparel is **Sunday, April 9th**. Orders can be picked up in-person, on campus beginning in late April. Further details will be provided via email closer to the date.

Coming up in May, we have our annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology conference (OQUIC) occurring on May 6th (Sat.) and 7th (Sun.). This event is designed to showcase and encourage undergraduate research in Immunology and related fields.

We will have around 20 phenomenal immunologists presenting the research they have put their hearts and souls into, along with amazing keynote speakers from schools across Canada. We hope to see all of you there at our biggest in-person event of the year!

Good luck on your exams and happy early summer vacation!

Cheers,

Vicky Xie and Momo Lin

IMMSA Co-presidents 2022-2023 Immunology Students' Association (IMMSA) Co-Presidents 2022/23

Website: <http://immsauoft.com> | Instagram: @immsta



Publications

(for February 2023, as indexed by webofscience.com on March 30, 2023)

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