MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
DR. JEN GOMMERMAN

As I write this, snow is forecast for Wednesday April 3rd. In like a lion and out like a lamb is not quite happening. Here’s hoping for a clear day on Monday April 8th for the eclipse. I’ll be out in front of the MSB at 3pm (we made sure the Easton speaker Dr. Locci is free then too).

There’s lots to update for this quarterly report. We have had some wins in the Department in the sphere of education and mentorship, with Dr. Jasty Singh winning a Temerty Faculty of Medicine award and a Provostial UofT-wide award. I would also like to congratulate Dr. Naoto Hirano as the successful incumbent for the Amgen Chair in Cancer Research. Please send us any of your recent accomplishments so we can celebrate them in this newsletter, on our website and by social media.

We have some very important events coming up. I urge you to please RSVP for our 40th anniversary symposium and celebration event on Friday June 14th, 2024 – Don’t miss out! We have an amazing lineup of alumni speakers, including our keynoter Dr. Akiko Iwasaki. The poster is included in this newsletter – please share broadly.

We had our semi-annual Faculty Meeting on Monday March 25th, 2024. Some takeaways:
1. New faculty: Prof. Aareas Aung, Institute of Biomedical Engineering, Prof. Landon Edgar, Dept of Pharmacology and Toxicology, UofT, Prof. Samira Ghorbanigazar, Department of Biology, UTM, Prof. Christina Guzzo, Dept of Biological Sciences, UTSC, and Prof. Michelle Maxson, SickKids.
2. Changes to our appointments and promotions process: Faculty, stay tuned for your NEW annual report forms.
3. A new Associate Chair of Translational Immunology: Dr. Pam Ohashi will lead our department by linking basic and clinical immunologists for measuring correlates. Stay tuned for an invitation to join this committee.
4. Surveying teaching: Dr. Jasty Singh walked us through an ongoing survey that is needed to take an inventory of current teaching commitments.

Please fill out the survey here by 5:00pm on April 5th. The data we collect will inform our upcoming education retreat where we will do curriculum mapping to refresh our undergraduate and graduate program deliverables. On the graduate education front, our seminar series is ending, culminating in two full days of talks delivered by our first-year students on May 14 and 15. Dr. Stuart Berger has often pointed out the exceptional quality of our student seminars – please attend. It’s the best way of learning what research is happening in our department. Of note, starting in September 2024, we will flip the order of seminars, with Eastons at 10AM and student seminars at 11AM. We would also like to wish our 2nd year students best of luck as they prepare and defend their qualifying exam proposals. Faculty, please be as flexible as possible with your availability for these important exams.

Our Postdocs will be showcasing their research at our annual Postdoctoral Research Day and BD/Immunology Lecture Award Presentation, coming up on June 10th. Details will be sent by email soon – keep an eye out!

On the undergraduate front, I congratulate our 4th year students on completing their degrees. You do us proud! We are also excited to host the 15th annual OQUIC event taking place May 9th and 10th. Our 2 keynote speakers are yours truly along with my McGill counterpart Chair of Microbiology and Immunology, Dr. Samantha Gruenheid. Looking forward to hearing presentations from talented undergraduate immunologists.

By the time you get this newsletter, the 5k/8k Spring Run-Off in High Park, April 6th 2024 will have passed. Kudos to all faculty and students who participated. I hope that all of you can enjoy some outdoor therapy as the days get longer.

Warmly yours,
40TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

The University of Toronto’s Department of Immunology is celebrating 40 years of excellence. In honour of this major milestone and the achievements of our community members, we will be holding a special all-day celebration on Friday, June 14, 2024.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with friends, colleagues and mentors. We would be honoured if you would attend any or all programming. For more information on the 40th Anniversary Symposium and to register, please visit this link.

As part of the 40th Anniversary Symposium on June 14th, 2024, we will be featuring academic posters and an art exhibit from the Department of Immunology. Please see details below for each.

40th Anniversary Speaker List

June 14, 2024 at 7 Hart House Cir, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H3

Dr. Akiko Iwasaki
“Immunology of Long COVID”

Dr. Kiera Clayton
“Coordinated Efforts: Incomplete NK cell killing of HIV-infected cells sensitizes the surviving cells to subsequent CD8+ T cell-mediated killing”

Dr. Maria Clifoni
“Programming the identity and pathogenicity of RORγt+ inflammatory lymphocytes”

Dr. Brad Jones
“Engaging Cellular Immunity to Cure HIV”

Dr. Lisa Wagar
“Tonsil organoids to investigate human adaptive immunity”

Dr. Klaus Okkennhausen
“PI3Kα as a target for cancer immunotherapy”

Dr. Natalia Pikor
“The role of fibroblasts in antiviral immunity”

Dr. Oscar A. Aguilar
“Investigating Fc-receptor mediated responses in natural killer cells”

40TH ANNIVERSARY ART EXHIBIT

Sign up today at this link
June 14, 2024
7 Hart House Cir, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H3
**UPCOMING DEPARTMENT SEMINARS**

### EASTON SEMINARS

**Mondays, 11:05 – 12:00 at MSB 2170**

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| **Monday, April 8, 2024** | Michela Locci, PhD  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Microbiology**  
**Perelman School of Medicine**  
**University of Pennsylvania** | “Regulation of T follicular helper and T follicular regulatory cell differentiation” | Jen Gommerman, PhD       |
| **Monday, April 15, 2024** | Rosa Bacchetta, MD  
**Professor**  
**Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Faculty Scholar, Stanford Maternal & Child Health Research Institute**  
**Center for Definitive and Curative Medicine**  
**Div. Pediatric Hemat Oncol Stem Cell Transplantation and Regenerative Medicine**  
**Department of Pediatrics - Stanford School of Medicine** | “FOXP3 Treg deficiency: disease mechanisms and therapeutic options” | Sarah Crome, PhD         |
| **Monday, April 29, 2024** | Brian Ruffel, PhD  
**Associate Member, Department of Immunology**  
**H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute**  
**Associate Professor, Department of Breast Oncology**  
**University of South Florida** | “Death & Destruction – How therapy-induced programs regulate anti-tumor immunity” | Tracy McGaha, PhD        |

### SPECIAL SEMINAR

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024 | 2:00pm - 3:00pm | Virtual only**

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| Dr. Bryan Heit  
**Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology**  
**Co-Director, Western Infection, Immunity & Inflammation Centre Western University** | “A Winding Road? Trafficking MHC II From the Golgi to the MHC II Loading Compartment” | Dr. Dan Wine             |

### PhD RESEARCH SEMINARS

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

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| 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Priya Makhijani  
**Investigating the Impact of Distinct Intercellular Communication Pathways on Chronic Inflammation** | “Investigating the Impact of Distinct Intercellular Communication Pathways on Chronic Inflammation” | Dr. Dan Winer                   |

**Friday, April 12, 2024**

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| 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | Yu Xuan Tina Luo  
**The Role of Type I Interferon in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia** | “The Role of Type I Interferon in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia” | Dr. David Spaner                 |
PDF/RA SEMINARS
Wednesday, April 24, 2024
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
MSB2170 | Titles TBD

Kevin Champagne-Jorgensen
(Gommerman Lab)

Jamie Fegan
(Gray-Owen Lab)

STUDENT SEMINARS
Mondays at 10:00 – 11:00 am at MSB 2172

April 1, 2024
Ash Hagerman
(Robbins Lab)

April 8, 2024
Victoria Visser
(Buechler Lab)

Maye Cheng
(Buechler Lab)

April 15, 2024
Jennifer Ahn
(Gommerman Lab)

Salma Sheikh-Mohamed
(Gommerman Lab)

April 22, 2024 – 10:30 am to 11:00 am
Diana Yang
(Kaul Lab)

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

- DOI Education Retreat on April 17, 2024
- BD/IMM PDF Research Day on June 10, 2024
- Retirement Celebration for Prof. Michael Ratcliffe – June 13, 2023 – Faculty Club
- Department of Immunology 40th anniversary – June 14, 2024 – Hart House

EDUCATION OFFICE UPDATE

CONGRATULATIONS!
PhD Grads
Dr. Ashton Trotman-Grant (Zúñiga-Pflücker lab) – January 5, 2024
Dr. Doug Chung (Ohashi lab) – January 10, 2024
Dr. Albert Nguyen (Gommerman lab) – January 12, 2024

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATE
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
We will soon be accepting applications for our 2024-25 Fall-Winter research courses, IMM385 and IMM450. Keep an eye on our website for details in May!
Hello Immunologists,

I hope you're all enjoying the spring weather as it finally becomes a bit warmer. As we dive into the second quarter of 2024, let's take a moment to reflect on the highlights of the past quarter and look forward to the exciting happenings ahead.

**Past Event Highlights:**

First and foremost, Team Immunodominators, our departmental intramural sports team, competed in the UofT Intramurals and got the second place with dodgeball.

We hope everyone enjoyed the first social events we had of the year, starting with an indoor roller-skating night in January, followed by a hotpot night in February, and our traditional St. Patrick’s Social in March. Additionally, this year, we jointly piloted a collaborative social event with the LMP and the MBP departments.

Thanks to your participation, we raised $1,305 for the Daily Bread Food Bank through our Valentine’s Day Candygram. This year’s turnout was exceptionally high with 435 candies sold. Congratulations to Prof. Dana Philpott who won the raffle.

Other activities, including the dog therapy night, career development workshop for industry R&D, and mentorship coffee chats, provided valuable opportunities for learning and socializing.

**Upcoming Events:**

Join us for the High Park Spring Runoff on April 6th, a refreshing way to embrace the season and stay active. Stay tuned for an upcoming career workshop and mentorship coffee chat sessions. IGSA is also in planning of further social activities, such as karaoke night. More details are coming soon!

We look ahead to another exciting quarter and extend our best wishes, especially to those preparing for qualifying exams this year.

Best regards,

Martin and Steve  
Co-Presidents  
IGSA 2023-2024  
Website: [https://www.igsaimm.com/](https://www.igsaimm.com/)
Hello Immunologists!

As we step into the blooming month of April, the Immunology Student Association (IMMSA) is thrilled to bring you exciting updates and events to enrich your academic journey and foster a stronger community within our discipline.

Get ready to sharpen your laboratory skills! IMMSA is hosting a special Lab Bootcamp Technique Talk led by the esteemed Baweleta Isho. This session promises to be an invaluable opportunity to delve into advanced techniques, gain insights, and refine your practical abilities. This event will be hosted on **April 5th from 5:00-6:30 at MS3278**. Sign up using this link: [https://forms.gle/PkZSzPSa7iiqZQvr6](https://forms.gle/PkZSzPSa7iiqZQvr6) or in our social media!

We're also delighted to announce the winner of our Logo Design Contest! Congratulations to Samuel Soriano, whose design beautifully encapsulates the essence of our association. Thank you to all participants for your creativity and dedication. Keep an eye out for our upcoming merch launch featuring the winning design! Show your IMMSA pride with our exclusive merchandise soon to be available.

We're thrilled to soon welcome aboard the new IMMSA team for 2024! With fresh perspectives, energy, and enthusiasm, our new team is eager to serve you and make this new academic year memorable. Whether it's organizing events, advocating for student needs, or fostering connections, we're committed to enhancing your experience as part of the immunology student body.

As we embark on another month filled with opportunities for growth and collaboration, we encourage you to stay engaged, participate in our events, and make the most out of your academic journey. IMMSA is here to support you every step of the way.

For further updates and announcements, be sure to follow us on Instagram (@IMMSTA) and keep an eye on your inbox for our newsletters.

Wishing you all a productive and fulfilling April!

Warm regards,

Catherine Chi and Joshua Janevski

Co-Presidents, Immunology Student Association (IMMSA) 2023-24


Chen ZY, Mortha A. 2024. INPP4B ensures that ILC1s and NK cells set up a productive home office. *Journal Of Experimental Medicine*. 221(3).


Ting KKY, Jongstra-Bilen J, Cybulsky MI. 2023. The multi-faceted role of NADPH in regulating inflammation in activated myeloid cells. *Frontiers In Immunology*. **14**.


