

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

There is one word to make you feel better during the cold days of February, and that is: Candygram! As you will note from the IGSA message, you can make someone's day in mid-Feb. with a Candygram.

One other bright and warm thing to look forward to, thanks to IGSA again, is this year's late Summer / early Fall Departmental Retreat, Sep. 10-11, at the Fern, which will feature Rafi Ahmed (Emory U.) and UofT Immunology alumna Sara Suliman (UCSF) as our Keynote speakers. Please mark your calendars.

We are about one month away from the Departmental External Review, March 8-9, and my thanks go out to all that helped with the Self-Study, which we will be sharing very soon. As well as my thanks to all that will participate in the 2-day review.

Lastly, if you have new Post-Doctoral Fellows joining your research teams, please be sure to encourage them to contact Dr. Tania Watts (Associate Chair, Postdoctoral) and she will register them with the Department. Of note, we will soon be making an announcement for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IMM Collaborative Postdoctoral Research Award (CoPRA) competition and would like to have all eligible candidates in our register.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **CHARLES GOULD EASTON SEMINARS**

**(Mondays at 11:05 am, MSB 2170)**

**Monday, February 13, 2023**

**Dr. De'Broski Herbert**

Professor of Pathobiology. University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. Presidential Professor of Immunology. University of Pennsylvania

**“Perforin 2 pokes its way into Type 2 Immunity”**

Host: Arthur Mortha, PhD

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**Monday, February 27, 2023**

**Dr. Thomas Eiwegger**

Head of the Department Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, University Hospital St. Poelten, Austria  
Assoc Prof Karl Landsteiner University of Health Sciences Krems, Austria

Associate Professor Dept Immunology, University of Toronto  
Adjunct Scientist, Translational Medicine Program, The Hospital for Sick Children

**“Oral Immunotherapy – Immunological mechanisms and novel therapeutic approaches to treat food allergy”**

Host: Arthur Mortha, PhD

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### IMMUNOLOGY SPECIAL SEMINAR

Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
(11:05-12:00 at MSB 2170)

[Dr. Yuriy Baglaenko](#)

Postdoctoral Fellow, Brigham and Women's Hospital. Rheumatology, Immunology, & Allergy.

**"In Search of Causality: Investigating Autoimmune Genes and Variants Using Single Cell and Genomic Editing Technologies"**

Host: Juan Carlos Zuniga-Pflucker, PhD

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Thursday, February 23, 2023  
Time: TBD

[Dr. Tim Halim](#)

[Affiliation: University of Cambridge, Cancer Research UK – Cambridge Institute](#)

**Seminar Title: Immune regulatory functions of ILC2.**

Host: Drs. Sarah Crome and Arthur Mortha

### FEBRUARY STUDENT SEMINARS

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

February 6, 2023	
Salma Sheikh-Mohamed (Gommerman Lab)	Sophie Sun (Yeung Lab)
February 13, 2023	
Ling Ling Tai (Mortha Lab)	Nasana Vaidya (Dunn Lab)
February 27, 2023	
Matthew Bianca (McGaha Lab)	Damra Camat (MacParland Lab)



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

The Wellness, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Committee would like to wish everyone congratulations on surviving a very grey January! Let's hope this month brings us a little more sunshine. ☺

February is [Black History Month](#) and WIDE would like to highlight several events and initiatives taking place across UofT.

The AntiRacism and Cultural Diversity Office (ARCO) has an extensive calendar of events taking place during Black History Month and beyond – please check out [Black History 365](#) for details! Some events featured on the Black History 365 calendar are:

February 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm – [Black History Month Symposium – What Has Changed: The Role of Attitudinal Barriers to Advancing Black Inclusion](#). The event will include opening remarks followed by a panel discussion with Black leaders within post-secondary education.

February 10<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 pm- 1:00pm, a meditative session titled [Rest as Resistance](#), which is open to Black students, staff, and faculty at UofT. This session will encourage participants “to engage with the practice of being, rather than consistently doing, an invitation to reframing cultures of overworking and productivity.”

Together with Hart House, ARCO will also host [Nation Building through Poetry: A Poet Laureate Cypher](#) on February 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 pm- 9:30 pm, featuring performances by:

**Titilope Sonuga**, Poet, Playwright & Performer

**Randell Adjei**, Transformational Speaker, Spoken Word Practitioner & Arts Educator

**Rebecca Thomas**, Poet, Outdoor Educator & Children's Literature Author

The Temerty Faculty of Medicine has published a feature which asks the question “*Outside Black History Month, how does one value Black life, histories and futures?*” Black students, staff and faculty across Temerty Medicine [share their reflections](#).

WIDE would also like to remind students of the upcoming training session offered by UofT's AntiRacism and Cultural Diversity Office: **Addressing Racial Microaggressions: Tools, Strategies and Discussions**

For Students: February 15, 2023, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

[Advance registration is required.](#)

Many other training sessions are offered as well, on various broad and granular topics relevant to our Immunology community members. We strongly encourage all members of the Department to take advantage of these excellent opportunities for learning and growth. Scroll through [ARCO's offerings](#) to learn more!

Stay warm and well, everyone.

-Your WIDE Committee



## GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATES

### ADMISSIONS

Applications for programs beginning September 2023 are now being evaluated. Faculty interested in taking on a new graduate student in September 2023 are reminded to email [graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca](mailto:graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca).

Applications to the **Applied Immunology MSc (Advanced Standing Entry – May 2023 start)** are still open!

**Deadline: March 1, 2023**

Undergraduate students in IMM450Y1 could be eligible for Advanced Standing entry in the Applied Immunology MSc.

Please visit [our website](#) for detailed information on admission requirements and application procedures.

### AWARD DEADLINES

Undergraduate students hoping to begin a graduate program in 2023 are encouraged to apply for OGS and QEII!

**OGS** (Domestic and International)

For more information on this competition, please visit the [SGS website](#).

**Deadline: March 1, 2023**

**QEII / Aventis Pasteur** (DoI students only)

Complete an [OGS application](#) and you will be automatically considered for this award

**Deadline: March 1, 2023**

**QEII / Dr. Dina Gordon Malkin** (graduate students studying in the area of **haematology AND oncology** whose supervisors are members of the Temerty FoM)

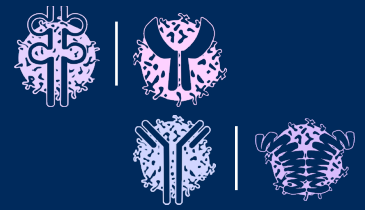
Complete an [OGS application](#), and the Malkin cover page; email [graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca](mailto:graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca) for details

**Deadline: March 1, 2023**

**QEII / Temerty Faculty of Medicine** (all FoM students)

Complete an [OGS application](#) and this **Faculty of Medicine cover page** (this is an online form which will be submitted directly to GLSE)

**Deadline: Application due March 1, 2023; FoM cover page due April 7, 2023 at 5:00pm**



## UPDATES FROM IGSA

Happy February fellow Immunologists!

The weather might be getting colder outside, but perhaps IGSA can help to warm your hearts with a return of our second-annual Valentine's Day Candygrams! Take a moment out of your busy schedule to show that you care by sending a bag of sweets and treats to friends, labmates, or even that special someone. Choose from 12 different message cards with unique designs that are sure to brighten anyone's day. An email for candygram purchases has already been circulated within the department, so make sure you pre-order yours now before the orders close on February 6th! Candygrams are scheduled to be distributed starting from February 14th and will be delivered directly to each recipient's lab.

Continuing with warm events to look forward to this month, IGSA will also be hosting a Hot Pot & Movie Night right at home in the MSB. Come relax with us for a night of good food and drinks as we all try (and fail) to use chopsticks the way they're intended. As the first hot pot night planned since the start of the pandemic, we have high expectations for this well-loved tradition! Keep an eye out on your email notifications as sign-ups should go out within the next few weeks - and any movie recommendations in the meantime will be greatly appreciated!

At this stage, members of our first-year cohort should have all settled comfortably into their new labs. Therefore, we think it's just the right time for a Mentor-Mentee Social! Come out for a night of fun and networking with all the upper-year mentors and first-year mentees. This is a great way to gather advice, meet new friends, and form a closer bond with others within the department. If nothing else, the free food and activities are definitely not to be missed!

As always, we continue to enthusiastically cheer for the athletes participating in our department's intramural sports teams. Basketball and volleyball are currently ongoing and games will continue every Monday evening until March. If you haven't signed up yet and still want to participate, it's not too late to do so now! Players of all levels are always welcome, and you might even be able to grab a free bubble tea after a game!

With so many different events planned and in the works, we hope to bring you all some warmth and brightness to get you through these dreary winter months. But as the daylight hours slowly get longer and longer, we hope you'll join us in looking forward to the coming of spring!

Bobby and Meggie  
IGSA Co-Presidents 2022-2023



## UPDATE FROM IMMSA

Hi Immunologist,

We hope everyone had settled into the new semester. IMMSA is ready to host more fun academic and social events in the upcoming months!

First off, we would like to thank those who attended our first mentorship event of the semester. Despite the old weather, many of you still showed up, played board games and enjoyed dumplings with peers!

Secondly, IMMSA is collaborating with CSBSU to host a relaxing movie night before midterms season! We hope students can come after class and enjoy some food and meet new peers. This will take place on Feb 9th, 5:30-8:30pm at RW432. Another event this month is the program selection seminar, where major and specialist students from various science programs will be invited to talk about their anecdotal experiences. This will be a fantastic opportunity for first-years or for those looking to switch programs to ask questions! More details of this event will be posted soon on our socials.

Thirdly, our February mentorship event will highlight the topic of mental health. This is important as February is midterm season and many of us are still finding the best way to deal with stress and pressure.

Lastly, we will begin to call for abstracts for the Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (**OQUIC**). We hope those who have done immunology-related research can apply and get a chance to present their research in front of students and researchers across Canada. This is a great chance for you to practice your presentation skills, interact with judges, and win cash prizes! This event will be held on May 6th and 7th, with more details coming soon. We look forward to your submissions!

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 December 2022 as indexed by webofscience.com on January 25, 2023)

Fathi M, Razavi SM, Sojoodi M, Ahmadi A, Ebrahimi F, Namdar A, Hojjat-Farsangi M, Gholamin S, Jadidi-Niaragh F. Targeting the CTLA-4/B7 axes in glioblastoma: preclinical evidence and clinical interventions. *Expert Opinion on Therapeutic Targets*. Online ahead of print.

McEvoy CM, Murphy JM, Zhang L, Clotet-Freixas S, Mathews JA, An J, Karimzadeh M, Pouyababar D, Su S, Zaslaver O, Röst H, Arambewela R, Liu LY, Zhang S, Lawson KA, Finelli A, Wang B, MacParland SA, Bader GD, Konvalinka A, Crome SQ. 2022. Single-cell profiling of healthy human kidney reveals features of sex-based transcriptional programs and tissue-specific immunity. *Nature Communications*. **13(1)**:7634.

Nechanitzky R, Nechanitzky D, Ramachandran P, Duncan GS, Zheng CX, Gobl C, Gill KT, Haight J, Wakeham AC, Snow BE, Bradaschia-Correa V, Ganguly M, Lu ZB, Saunders ME, Flavell RA, Mak TW. Cholinergic control of Th17 cell pathogenicity in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis. *Cell Death and Differentiation*. Online ahead of print.

McNamara NB, Munro DAD, Bestard-Cuche N, Uyeda A, Bogie JFJ, Hoffmann A, Holloway RK, Molina-Gonzalez I, Askew KE, Mitchell S, Mungall W, Dodds M, Dittmayer C, Moss J, Rose J, Szymkowiak S, Amann L, McColl BW, Prinz M, Spires-Jones TL, Stenzel W, Horsburgh K, Hendriks JJA, Pridans C, Muramatsu R, Williams A, Priller J, Miron VE. Microglia regulate central nervous system myelin growth and integrity. *Nature*. Online ahead of print.

Zuo M, Ramaglia V, Gommerman JL. 2022. Age-related changes in multiple sclerosis and experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis. *Seminars in Immunology*. **59**.

Ucciferri CC, Dunn SE. 2022. Effect of puberty on the immune system: Relevance to multiple sclerosis. *Frontiers in Pediatrics*. **10**.

Gervais NC, La Bella AA, Wensing LF, Sharma J, Acquaviva V, Best M, Lopez ROC, Fogal M, Uthayakumar D, Chavez A, Santiago-Tirado F, Flores-Mireles AL, Shapiro RS. Development and applications of a CRISPR activation system for facile genetic overexpression in *Candida albicans*. *G3-genes Genomes Genetics*. Online ahead of print.

Wong DN, Eiwegger T, Upton JEM. 2022. Avoiding avoidance in milk and egg allergy. *Annals of Allergy Asthma & Immunology*. **129(6)**:657-658.

Hasan S, Buechler MB. 2022. What's in a name? An emerging framework for cancer-associated fibroblasts, myofibroblasts, and fibroblasts. *Cancer Cell*. **40(11)**:1273-1275.



Hoogeveen RC, Dijkstra S, Bartsch LM, Drescher HK, Aneja J, Robidoux MP, Cheney JA, Timm J, Gehring A, de Sousa PSF, Ximenez L, Peliganga LB, Pitts A, Evans FB, Boonstra A, Kim AY, Lewis-Ximenez LL, Lauer GM. 2022. Hepatitis B virus-specific CD<sub>4</sub> T cell responses differentiate functional cure from chronic surface antigen(+) infection. *Journal of Hepatology*. **77(5)**:1276-1286.