

**MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CHAIR****Dr. Jen Gommerman**

Happy February fellow Immunologists! I hope that everyone is keeping well and staying warm. Some news from the Acting Chair office:

1. **Undergraduate teaching:** The Provost office has informed us that undergrad students will be transitioning to be back in class as early as February 7th with the goal of complete return to in person learning after February 28th. If you are teaching in an undergraduate course, Dr. Jasty Singh has sent specific communications to you already.
2. **Back to the MSB:** Department of Immunology office staff will be easing back starting one day a week at the end of February, although they continue to stay connected from home to address departmental needs (which they do phenomenally well). A reminder to please continue to log on to [UCheck](#) if you are on campus.
3. **Recruitment:** A job advertisement is being posted for an Assistant Professor – Teaching Stream for our Department. This position provides further depth and breadth to our undergraduate and graduate teaching offerings. Once posted, we will be advertised broadly through scholarly societies as well as Black in Immunology and provide the link via email and in the next newsletter. Please feel free to forward the advert to suitable candidates.
4. **Weekly Seminars:** For the months of February and March we will continue with the zoom format, re-assessing for April-June soon.
5. **Summer Retreat:** The IGSA co-presidents are hard at work securing a keynote speaker and a venue if we can gather in person (obviously with a good cancellation policy). Looking forward to hearing more soon!
6. **Upcoming:** On [February 11th](#), remember to tell a female scientist how much you appreciate their work and perseverance to mark the UN International Day for Women and Girls in Science. Also, March is [Nutrition](#) month. Consider sending a recipe (to: chair.immunology@utoronto.ca) that gets you through the cold dark days to share with your colleagues in the next newsletter.

Please enjoy the rest of this newsletter that contains updates from your colleagues. Every paper that is published by our community during these challenging times is worth celebrating. Peace and good health to all – and try to get outside for a hike to enjoy the charms of winter!

Jen

Professor Department of Immunology
Canada Research Chair in Tissue-specific Immunity



UPCOMING EVENTS

CHARLES GOULD EASTON SEMINARS

Mondays, 11:05 – 12:00 via Zoom

February 7th, 2022 at 11:05 am

Ellen Robey, PhD

[Professor of Immunology and Pathogenesis](#)
[Department of Molecular & Cell Biology](#)
[UC Berkeley](#)

"T cell fate decisions: a multi-omics approach"

Host: Cynthia Guidos, PhD

February 28th, 2022 at 11:05 am

Dario Vignali, PhD

[Professor and Vice Chair, Immunology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine \(UPSOM\)](#)
[Leader of the Cancer Immunology Program](#)
[Co-Director of the Tumor Microenvironment Center](#)
[Scientific Director of Fondazione Ri.MED](#)

"Immune Inhibitory Mechanisms in Cancer"

Host: Drs. David Brook, Tracy McGaha

*No Easton Seminars on Feb 14 and Feb 21, 2022

Beyond Sciences Initiative (BSI) Conference

February 26 & 27, 2022 & March 5th 2022

More details, please visit the link below.

<https://www.beyondsciences.org/>

STUDENT SEMINARS

Mondays, 10:00-11:00 via ZOOM

February 7, 2022 at 10 am

Assessing mucosal antibody responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection in humans and mice

Baweleta Isho (Gommerman Lab)

Investigating the Role of Barrier Sites and Interferon in Promoting Flares in SLE

Zoha Faheem (Wither Lab)

February 14, 2022 at 10 am

The gut microbiota in adolescents at risk of Type 2 Diabetes

Marie Perry (Danska Lab)

Investigating the Dura Mater During Brain Inflammation

Alexandra Florescu (Gommerman Lab)

February 28, 2022 at 10 am

Title TBD

Sinthuja Jegatheeswaran (Crome Lab)

Determining the influence of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma SMAD4 and CDKN2A mutations on tumour associated macrophages

Robbie Jin (McGaha Lab)

PHD Research Seminar

February 14, 2022 at 12 pm

"Autophagy in the Susceptibility to Crohn's Disease"

Elisabeth Foerster

Supervisor: Dr. Dana Philpott





GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATES

ADMISSIONS

Applications for programs beginning September 2022 are now being evaluated. Faculty interested in taking on a new graduate student in September 2022 are reminded to email graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca.

Applications for the **Applied Immunology MSc (Advanced Standing Entry – May 2022 start)** are still open!
Deadline: March 1, 2022

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 2022 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, 2022

QEII / Aventis Pasteur (DoI students only)

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

Deadline: March 1, 2022

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 for details

Deadline: March 1, 2022

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, 2022; FoM cover page due April 8, 2022 at 4:00pm





IGSA

Hello Immunologists!

We hope everyone has been keeping safe, healthy and warm, especially during your commutes to the lab this past snowy January.

We're very proud of everyone for their ongoing resilience during the January lockdown, and IGSA is excited to help provide opportunities to nourish health, wellness, and safe socialization within the department to help everyone stay connected with one another.

We kicked off our 2022 social events with a virtual trivia night in the format of Family Feud, hosted by Robyn, Meggie and Kameel, our social representatives! It was a fun night of discovering the most common habits of immunologists, including how often one changes their gloves in a day and the worst mistakes to make during flow cytometry.

Our mentorship representative, Bobby, organized a training program for our upper-year mentors to learn about effective mentorship, with plans of integrating it in the ongoing immunology mentor-mentee program. To help new students survive graduate school, we held a Tips for Graduate School advice panel, which featured a thorough presentation discussing helpful tips. This included how to best schedule experiments and how to effectively use PubMed and reference managers, and was followed by a Q&A period during which students were encouraged to ask general questions to a panel of upper year students.

As we enter the month of February, we have lots of events planned! With the new year comes more presentations. To help you prepare, our career development representative, Salma, will be hosting an Academic Presentation Skills Workshop with Dr. Jane Freeman on February 3rd. To help de-stress, our health and wellness representative, Baweleta, will be bringing back our virtual yoga sessions, with the first session starting on February 8th. For those who are itching for more outdoor activities, our sports representative, Natalia, has some outdoor events in store, with the first one being a skating event in collaboration with our social representatives. This is just a small fraction of what's coming up this month, so keep an eye out for our emails or follow our socials to stay up-to-date!

We hope to see everyone around very soon! Keep healthy and safe.

Cheers,

Tiff & Kitt

IGSA Co-Presidents 2021-2022

Website: <http://www.igsaimm.com>

Instagram: @igsa.uoft





IMMSA

Hi Immunologists!!

We hope everyone is doing well, staying safe, and still doing their New Years' resolutions!! Now that we've had some time to get adjusted to the frenzy of kicking a new year off, we can get settled in and ease into February with some fun events!!

We'd like to remind everyone that our annual OQUIC conference is occurring on **May 7th and May 8th!** We're accepting abstracts up until **February 20th** and we would love for any and every Immunology research student to submit theirs! OQUIC is an incredible opportunity to present your lab's work at a conference, build that resume, impress your supervisor, and win a cash prize!! Any student from any Canadian university is eligible to apply, so spread the word! If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact us on any platform listed below! The link to submit an abstract is: <https://forms.gle/xs3Ro2snqp6BZUBW7>

Throughout this entire semester, we are holding our prolonged apparel sale!!! Anyone who claims that they aren't excited to wear Immunology merch is clearly lying! Our apparel sale will be starting around mid-February so keep an eye out for news to order. Meanwhile, if anyone is interested in sending in potential designs for sweatshirts, feel free to email us with your name and design at the email listed below!

This month we will be having a research seminar with Dr.TJ who will be enlightening us on start-up businesses in the field of Immunology! This is a great opportunity to learn more about future career paths as well as innovation & entrepreneurship, which is so prevalent today! Stay tuned for an official date for that seminar and we hope to see your lovely faces there!

In addition, in mid-February, we will be having our second mentorship meetup! If you have yet to complete your mentorship requirements, make sure to come out and get to know your peers :) Even if you have completed your requirements, come out to chat with IMMSA team members, fellow students and get to know more about acquiring research opportunities from upper-year students!

Overall, we are thrilled to be back in full swing and to see your faces at all of our events! For the time being and specifically the month of February, we will be completely virtual and OQUIC will remain virtual for 2022 as well. We can be contacted for questions/comments/concerns and sent designs for apparel at immsa.immunology@gmail.com! Details for IMMSA events can be found on our social media (Facebook: @immsa.uoft | Instagram: @immsta).

Stay safe and have a great month!

Cheers,

Shaivy T. and Kunal K.
IMMSA 2021/22 Co-Presidents



PUBLICATIONS

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