



MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CHAIR, Dr. Jen Gommerman

Happy New Year 2022!

I would like to start this newsletter by saying I am honoured to be taking up this role from now until July 1st, 2022 while JC is on a well-deserved 6-month administrative leave. I am lucky to have a very capable administrative staff to help me, and JC is only a text away. Thanks in advance to Sherry Kuhn, Leah Edwards, Kate Sedore, Korosh Kianizad and Bethany Babinchak - with the ever-changing COVID-19 landscape it is reassuring to know that I will be supported by such committed administrators. Please rest assured, that together with Dr. Thierry Mallevaey, our Associate Chair of graduate studies, we will continue to keep students and faculty up to date on the Faculty of Medicine response to Omicron. As I write this, I am awaiting further information from our Vice-Dean Research on how to report and manage cases in our labs as they emerge. More to follow!

On a happier note, I would like to thank the IGSA, particularly co-presidents Tiffany Kong and Kitty Liu, for putting on a great Immunology Holiday party. Although it was a last-minute pivot to the virtual format, it was nevertheless a great community event that we all made the most of. Thanks to Rupert Kaul for being my co-MC: I really enjoyed singing Monty Python with him in front of the fire at my house (after a negative COVID antigen test from both of us). Rupert gave a great “student seminar” on how to be an Immunology MC. He has it down to an art for sure. The entertainment was first class – particularly the vocal work of our choir and soloists Anthony Wong and Dr. Nana Lee as well as the ever-awesome slide show put together by Nana honouring our alumni.

The uber-competitive gingerbread and centerpiece competitions were nail-biters. I am happy to announce the three gingerbread creation winners: Best Overall Award goes to team “Sugar Plum Factory”, Most Spirited Award goes to team “IGSA <3”, Most Creative Award goes to “Grad Student Christmas in Downtown Toronto Studio”. Additionally, the Mallevaey lab won for the centerpiece competition for their outstanding detailed work (sorry JCZP lab – 2 losses in a row must really sting).

Congratulations go to the Hardi Cinader prize awardee Ashton Trotman-Grant from the JCZP lab, the Richard G. Miller awardee Elisabeth Foerster from the Philpott lab, the Immunology Outreach awardee Bawelata Isho from the Gommerman lab, and the Undergraduate Immunology prize to Aaron Dou. I am also happy to say that Prof. Arthur Mortha won the Gillian E. Wu Graduate Mentorship in Immunology Award which was very well deserved. Well done all you beautiful people!

Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility during a particularly tricky time. I look forward to joining hands with all of you as we navigate the months ahead!

Respectfully,

Jen



UPCOMING EVENTS

CHARLES GOULD EASTON SEMINARS

Zoom Webinar

January 10, 2022 at 11:05 am

[John O'shea, MD](#)

[Scientific Director](#)

[Molecular Immunology and Inflammation Branch](#)

[NIH](#)

"Cytokine Signaling: the more things change, the more they stay the same"

Host: David Brooks, PhD

January 17, 2022

[Robert Thimme, PhD](#)

[Medical Director](#)

[Department of Internal Medicine II](#)

[Medical Center – University of Freiburg](#)

"Virus-specific CD8+ T cell immunity: from viral hepatitis to corona"

Host: David Brooks, PhD

January 24, 2022

[Mohamed Abdel Hakeem, PhD](#)

[Assistant Professor,](#)

[Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine](#)

[Emory University School of Medicine](#)

"Differentiation of Exhausted T cells upon Cure of Chronic Infection"

Host: Sonya MacParland, PhD

January 31, 2022

[James Di Santo, PhD](#)

[Professor of Immunology](#)

[Institut Pasteur](#)

Talk Title: TBD

Host: Sarah Crome, PhD

STUDENT SEMINARS

Mondays, 10:00-11:00 via ZOOM

January 10, 2022 at 10 am

Title TBD

Seungwoo Lee (Watts Lab)

Exploring the role of innate lymphoid cells in Type 1 Diabetes

Sarah Colpitts (Crome Lab)

January 17, 2022 at 10 am

Influence of the microbiota on invariant natural killer T cells and its effect in IBD

Meggie Kuyper (Mallevaey Lab)

Defining the impact of gender-based violence on mucosal HIV susceptibility

James Pollock (Kaul Lab)

January 24, 2022 at 10 am

Title TBD

Kitty Liu (McGaha Lab)

Elucidating cytotoxic mechanisms in DN T cells for enhanced AML therapy

Enoch Tin (Zhang Lab)

January 31, 2022 at 10 am

Title TBD

Annie Pu (Gommerman Lab)

Title TBD

Giuliano Bayer (Philpott Lab)

*Weekly seminar announcement will be circulated via email with the updated titles.





GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATES

ADMISSIONS

Applications are now being accepted for our graduate programs – get your applications in!

PhD and MSc (Standard Entry) – September 2022 start. *Deadline: January 15, 2022*

Applied Immunology MSc (Advanced Standing Entry) – May 2022 start. *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

Dear Immunologists,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. The holidays look different for everyone, so whether we spent it hibernating under our sheets or seeing family and friends through a screen, we hope you had some time to yourselves. We want to send you all the biggest virtual hugs and hope that you are well-rejuvenated to tackle 2022.

Though we are eager to move forward, we'd like to reflect on the past year and celebrate our feats and accomplishments, regardless of how big or small they were. We are incredibly proud of each other for surviving another tumultuous year through the pandemic. The light is near, and we will push forward together to face the new year with new hope.

We ended 2021 with our annual departmental Holiday Retreat, this time held virtually. It has been a while since we all gathered as a department and we were excited to see more than 100 faces at the dinner, some familiar and some new. The night was hosted by Dr. Jen Gommerman and Dr. Rupert Kaul, whose lively skits led us through our programming. We caught a glimpse of the department's boundless creativity at our dinner's annual Centrepiece Competition, with animated videos showcasing all the holiday-themed structures put together from lab materials. Congratulations to the Malleavey lab for taking first place! Additional departmental talent was showcased by Dr. Nana Lee and Anthony Wong, whose musical prowess brought holiday cheer to highlight our department's alumni achievements. We are proud to announce that the dinner's Silent Auction and Gingerbread House Competition raised over \$700 for Nellie's Shelter, a shelter and advocacy program for women and children in Toronto. Thank you all for coming out! None of this would have been possible without your attendance, and we hope to see you all in-person very soon at next year's Holiday Retreat.

We'd like to open our new year by announcing the release of a new issue of IMMpress, a student-led magazine for students, faculty, and alumni that highlights the accomplishments of faculty and students within the Department of Immunology and promotes the open discussion of news, issues, and topics relevant to science and student life. Its most recent issue discusses the intersection of technology and healthcare, and you can check it out in a digital format here: https://issuu.com/immpressmagazine/docs/immpress_magazine_healthcare_in_a_technological_world

We are excited to announce that IGSA has launched our website! You can keep up-to-date with us here: <https://www.igsaimm.com/>, or on our Instagram (@igsa.uoft).

Please keep your eyes out for emails of our upcoming events! We have a lot in store and we are excited to see you all there.

Warmest wishes,

Tiff & Kitt IGSA Co-Presidents 2021-2022

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

Instagram: @igsa.uoft



IMMSA

Happy New Year Immunologists!

We here at IMMSA hope you made the most of your winter break, whether that means relaxing, spending time with family and friends, catching up on those things you wanted to do during the semester but somehow never found time to do, or anything else! New Year, New You: take this opportunity to make the most of the upcoming semester by improving your study habits, catching up with friends (safely), and getting more involved in your university community (*cough cough* IMMSA events). January is going to see a number of IMMSA activities kick off:

First of all, we are excited to open applications for any student wishing to present their immunology-related undergraduate research at our annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC) - this a great chance to present at a real conference, put an awesome experience on your CV, impress your supervisor, and win cash prizes!! Don't miss your chance to apply and be sure to spread the word - any student from any Canadian university is eligible to apply. OQUIC will be held at the end of April or start of May (details coming soon!) so don't worry if you feel like you don't have results just yet.

Next up is our IMMSA Apparel Sale! We know you want cool merch to show off and we've got you covered. We'll make our merchandise available for order towards the end of January and the start of February, so don't miss out!

Finally, we plan on hosting a "How to Find Research Opportunities" seminar - we've heard from students that they want to get involved in research but don't know where to start. If that sounds like you, make sure you don't miss this event!

All the details for IMMSA events will be posted on our socials (Facebook: @immsa.uoft | Instagram: @immsta) and feel free to email us if you have any questions (immsa.immunology@gmail.com).

We wish you a great semester!!

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



PUBLICATIONS

Immunology Publications from November 2021

Stanojic M, Vinaik R, Abdullahi A, Chen P, Jeschke MG. NLRP3 knockout enhances immune infiltration and inflammatory responses and improves survival in a burn sepsis model. *Immunology*. **Online ahead of print**.

Snell LM, Xu WX, Abd-Rabbo D, Boukhaled G, Guo MD, Macleod BL, Elsaesser HJ, Hezaveh K, Alshafi N, Lukhele S, Nejat S, Prabhakaran R, Epelman S, McGaha TL, Brooks DG. 2021. Dynamic CD4(+) T cell heterogeneity defines subset-specific suppression and PD-L1-blockade-driven functional restoration in chronic infection. *Nature Immunology*. **22(12):1524**.

Andrews TS, Atif J, Liu JC, Perciani CT, Ma XZ, Thoeni C, Slyper M, Eraslan G, Segerstolpe A, Manuel J, Chung S, Winter E, Cirlan I, Khuu N, Fischer S, Rozenblatt-Rosen O, Regev A, McGilvray ID, Bader GD, MacParland SA. . Single-Cell, Single-Nucleus, and Spatial RNA Sequencing of the Human Liver Identifies Cholangiocyte and Mesenchymal Heterogeneity. *Hepatology Communications*. **Online ahead of print**.

Spaner DE, Luo YX, Wang GZ, Gallagher J, Tsui H, Shi YH. 2021. Janus kinases restrain chronic lymphocytic leukemia cells in patients on ibrutinib: Results of a phase II trial. *Cancer Medicine*. **10(24):8789-8798**.

Liu YL, Budyłowski P, Dong SL, Li ZJ, Goroshko S, Leung LYT, Grunebaum E, Campisi P, Propst EJ, Wolter NE, Rini JM, Zia A, Ostrowski M, Ehrhardt GRA. 2021. SARS-CoV-2-Reactive Mucosal B Cells in the Upper Respiratory Tract of Uninfected Individuals. *Journal Of Immunology*. **207(10):2581-2588**.

Gilmore JC, Zhang GJ, Cameron DW, Serghides L, Bendayan R. 2021. Impact of in-utero antiretroviral drug exposure on expression of membrane-associated transporters in mouse placenta and fetal brain. *AIDS*. **35(14):2249-2258**.

Chan JSK, Zhou JD, Lee SR, Li A, Tan M, Leung KSK, Jeevaratnam K, Liu T, Roever L, Liu Y, Tse G, Zhang QP. 2021. Fragmented QRS Is Independently Predictive of Long-Term Adverse Clinical Outcomes in Asian Patients Hospitalized for Heart Failure: A Retrospective Cohort Study. *Frontiers In Cardiovascular Medicine*. **8**.

Anderson MK. 2021. More Than Two to Tango: Mesenchymal Cells Are Required for Early T Cell Development. *Journal Of Immunology*. **207(9):2203-2204**.

Montano-Loza AJ, Allegretti JR, Cheung A, Ebadi M, Jones D, Kerkar N, Levy C, Rizvi S, Vierling JM, Alvarez F, Bai WN, Gilmour S, Gulamhusein A, Guttman O, Hansen BE, MacParland S, Mason A, Onofrio F, Santamaria P, Stueck A, Swain M, Vincent C, Ricciuto A, Hirschfield G. 2021. Single Topic Conference on Autoimmune Liver Disease from the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver. *Canadian Liver Journal*. **4(4):401-425**.

Saad A, Bruno D, Camara B, D'Agostino J, Bolea-Alamanac B. 2021. Self-directed Technology-Based Therapeutic Methods for Adult Patients Receiving Mental Health Services: Systematic Review. *JMIR Mental Health*. **8(11)**.





Aoki M, Wu LC, Murakami J, Zhao YD, Yun HA, de Perrot M. 2021. IRF3 Knockout Results in Partial or Complete Rejection of Murine Mesothelioma. *Journal Of Clinical Medicine*. **10(21)**.

Wojcik S, Imman RD, Nakamura A. 2021. IgG4-related Disease in a Patient with Ankylosing Spondylitis: Clues to Common Immunopathogenesis. *Journal Of Rheumatology*. **48(11):1757-1758**.

Haq S, Wang HQ, Grondin J, Banskota S, Marshall JK, Khan II, Chauhan U, Cote F, Kwon YH, Philpott D, Brumell JH, Surette M, Steinberg GR, Khan WI. 2021. Disruption of autophagy by increased 5-HT alters gut microbiota and enhances susceptibility to experimental colitis and Crohn's disease. *Science Advances*. **7(45)**.

Knuth CM, Auger C, Chi L, Barayan D, Abdullahi A, Jeschke MG. 2021. Thermal Stress Induces Long-Term Remodeling of Adipose Tissue and Is Associated with Systemic Dysfunction. *Shock*. **56(5):744-754**.

Knuth CM, Auger C, Chi L, Barayan D, Abdullahi A, Jeschke MG. 2021. Reply to The Letter to The Editor: Adipocyte Browning in Response to Trauma: Some Important Methodological Considerations. *Shock*. **56(5):871-873**.

Fredrickson G, Barrow F, Dietsche K, Parthiban P, Khan S, Robert S, Demirchian M, Rhoades H, Wang HG, Adeyi O, Revelo XS. 2021. Exercise of high intensity ameliorates hepatic inflammation and the progression of NASH. *Molecular Metabolism*. **53**.

Rahman ANU, Liu J, Mujib S, Kidane S, Ali A, Szep S, Han C, Bonner P, Parsons M, Benko E, Kovacs C, Yue FY, Ostrowski M. 2021. Elevated glycolysis imparts functional ability to CD8(+) T cells in HIV infection. *Life Science Alliance*. **4(11)**.

