# NEWSLETTER



VOL XI – ISSUE III November 2022

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

Immunology faculty members, together with staff and student leaders, gathered this morning to go over our department's academic programs and other activities. We heard from Undergraduate (Dr. Singh) and Graduate (Dr. Mallevaey) Associate Chairs, who highlighted the creation of new courses for their respective programs.

We welcomed our newest faculty members, Drs. Ray Amith, and Veronique Miron, and mentioned that a <u>search for the next Chair</u> has started, with a closing date of Jan. 4, 2023. Ahead of this renewal, we are currently putting together our Self-Study report ahead of the March 8-9, 2023 Departmental External Review.

Our Postdoctoral Associate Chairs (Drs. Watts and Brooks) reported on a recent networking event for Immunology postdocs, and highlighted that early next year we will be again requesting proposals for the Immunology Collaborative Postdoctoral Research Award (IMM-CoPRA). Please ensure that your postdocs are aware and start planning accordingly.

Please join me in welcoming IGSA's new leadership and executive. IGSA co-presidents, Meggie and Bobby, presented an exciting set of initiatives, including the return of many activities for our graduate community that were on-hold over the past 2-years, including the much-anticipated Holiday Retreat at the Hart House, on Dec. 16.

As we think about gathering in December, please make sure to send in your nominations for our prestigious Cinader and Miller Awards, and our new MSc in Applied IMM award.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## DOI Faculty Meeting 11:05a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at Faculty Club and Zoom. Agenda with zoom link was sent by email.

#### **CHARLES GOULD EASTON SEMINARS**

Monday, November 14, 2022 11:05 am at MSB 2170

#### **Dr. Boris Hinz**

Laboratory of Tissue Repair and Regeneration Keenan Chair in Fibrosis Research St. Michael's Hospital Professor, Faculty of Dentistry

University of Toronto

Seminar Title: "Nobody is Immune to Myofibroblasts."

Host: Matthew Buechler, PhD

-----

Monday, November 21, 2022 11:05 am at MSB 2170

#### Dr. Jude Uzonna

Professor and Associate Dean (Research)
Department of Immunology
Max Rady College of Medicine

Seminar Title: "Immunologic Memory may need constant reminding"

Host: Tania Watts, PhD

-----

Monday, November 28, 2022 11:05 am at MSB 2170

Dr. Francesca Di Cara

**Assistant Professor** 

<u>Department of Microbiology & Immunology</u> <u>Department of Pediatrics, Dalhousie University</u>

Seminar Title: "The peroxisome: an up-andcoming organelle in immunometabolism "

Host: J.C. Zúñiga-Pflücker, PhD

# NEWSLETTER



#### **NOVEMBER STUDENT SEMINARS**

Mondays, 10:00-11:00 at MSB 2172

#### November 7, 2022

Investigating and Targeting the Functional Heterogeneity of Tumour-Associated Macrophages in Human Hepatocellular Carcinoma **Lawrence Wood** (MacParland Lab)

Chronic Hepatitis B gives rise to a unique long-lived monocyte-derived macrophage population associated with liver inflammation

Juan Diego Sanchez Vasquez (Gehring Lab)

#### November 14,2022

Elucidating cytotoxic mechanisms of allogeneic DN T cells for improved AML treatment **Enoch Tin** (Zhang Lab)

Title TBD **Annie Pu** (Gommerman Lab)

#### November 21,2022

The role of innate APC-derived 4-1BBL on memory CD8 T cell formation during influenza infection **Karen Yeung** (Watts Lab)

Title TBD **Michelle Zuo** (Gommerman Lab)

November 28, 2022 Title TBD **Ke Bei** (Juvet Lab)

Title TBD **Zoha Faheem** (Wither Lab)

## **GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATES**

#### **Award Deadline Approaching**

**CGS-M** applications are due December 1, 2022 at 8:00 PM (ET).

1st year graduate students and 4th year undergraduates planning to apply to grad programs for 2023 are encouraged to apply!

(Note that the CGS-M is open only to Canadian citizens and Permanent Residents)

#### **WIDE Committee Updates**

This past month, the WIDE Committee is proud to have launched subscriptions to the Headspace app for our graduate students, faculty, and staff. We hope this will be a valuable tool in boosting and supporting wellness in the Department! This is a pilot project which will be evaluated towards the end of the year, and if the resource proves valuable, we hope to be able to continue to provide the subscriptions into the future. If you have any questions about this initiative, please contact Kate at graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca

Based on the results of our Departmental survey (thank you to all who responded!) WIDE is currently working with the Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office to schedule an EDI workshop for Department members. Details will be coming soon – we hope to see you there!

# NEWSLETTER



#### **IMMSA**

Hi immunologist,

We would like to start off by thanking everyone for participating in our board game night with UPSA. I hope you all had fun playing games and meeting new friends. In addition, thank you for joining our virtual research seminar with Dr. Sage, whose research focuses on identifying and translating novel biomarkers and medical devices to aid in surgical decision-making during lung transplantation. I hope you've gained interesting information regarding lung transplants, machine learning, and Al. Feel free to message us for some feedback and suggestions for our events!

After our fall elections, we would like to welcome our three new IMMSA executive members:

- Allison Chan: 2nd Year Representative
- Ashley Bejoy: Deputy Director of External Affairs
- Jason Yang: Deputy Finance Director

We look forward to working with the new members in the next few months!

On October 31st (Happy Halloween!), we will hold a virtual mentorship event. This is going to be a research application seminar with mentors with past research experience as panelists. Feel free to join and ask any questions you have in mind. Our mentors are all more than happy to help out.

Congrats on surviving the first two months of school, we are sure you guys all did great on your assignments and exams. Looking into November, we will hold an in-person Immunology Graduate School Seminar on Thursday, November 17th, in UC163 from 5:00pm ~ 6:30pm. Students will get to ask questions regarding, the application process, life as a grad student, and post-grad careers. As we know a lot of our immunologists are interested in pursuing graduate school, we believe this is a great chance for grad and undergrad students to interact with each other. Food will be served!

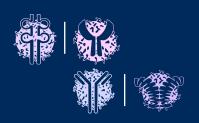
That's it for November. We hope everyone gets to take a rest and spend time with family and friends during reading week. We look forward to seeing you at our events!

Cheers,

Vicky Xie and Momo Lin

IMMSA Co-presidents 2022-2023 Immunology Students' Association (IMMSA) Co-Presidents 2022/23 Website: <a href="http://immsauoft.com">http://immsauoft.com</a> | Instagram: @immsta

## NEWSLETTER



## **IGSA**

Hello fellow immunologists!

For those of you who we haven't had the pleasure of meeting (yet), we are Boyan (Bobby) and Meggie, your new IGSA Co-Presidents for 2022-2023! As we write our first monthly Newsletter, we would like to acknowledge and thank the previous members of IGSA, especially the former co-presidents Tiffany Kong and Kitty Liu for their hard work in supporting the Department through the post-pandemic transition. They were instrumental in the resumption of some Departmental traditions that had been sorely missed over the past two years, including the Departmental Retreat and the Orientation Pub Night. Moving forward, we will do our best to uphold their example of excellence and bring you another exciting and fun-filled year.

With that, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our new 2022-2023 IGSA council:

**Co-Presidents:** Boyan Tsankov & Meggie Kuypers (Bobs and Megs) **Social Reps:** Johanne Audouze-Chaud, Martin Mak, Tianning Yu

Sports Rep: Matt Wong

Careers Development Rep: Steve Lee

GSU/CUPE Rep: Zoha Faheem

Peer Mentorship Rep: Salma Sheikh-Mohamed

Social Media Manager: Diana Yang

At the time of writing this newsletter, the election for our new Outreach/Wellness Rep is still ongoing. We're looking forward to announcing the results in the next issue!

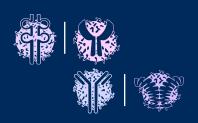
Over the past month, the previous IGSA members have also hosted several successful events, including a Graduate Career Panel featuring four notable departmental alumni from different career paths: Dr. Simon Eng, Dr. Jen Gommerman, Dr. Andrew Mazzanti, and Dr. Jasty Singh. In addition, students were given the opportunity to take a trip to Canada's Wonderland, we welcomed the long-awaited return of Meet-the-Speaker lunches, and we continue to cheer on our Immunodominators as they compete in the basketball, volleyball, and dodgeball intramurals.

As the new IGSA council settles into their roles, we are sure to bring you another collection of enjoyable and meaningful events. Keep an eye out for our email updates and don't forget to follow us on social media!

Have a great month and we'll see you all around!

Bobby and Meggie
IGSA Co-Presidents 2022-2023

## NEWSLETTER



## **PUBLICATIONS (September 2022)**

Smith MSR, Mohan H, Ajaykumar A, Hsieh AYY, Martineau L, Patel R, Gadawska I, Sherwood C, Serghides L, Piret JM, Cote HCF. 2022. Second-Generation Human Immunodeficiency Virus Integrase Inhibitors Induce Differentiation Dysregulation and Exert Toxic Effects in Human Embryonic Stem Cell and Mouse Models. *Journal of Infectious Diseases*. Online ahead of print.

Tong LL, White BJG, Singh J. 2022. Bridging statistics and life sciences undergraduate education. *Journal of Biological Education*. Online ahead of print.

Zaman R, Epelman S. 2022. Resident cardiac macrophages Heterogeneity and function in health and disease. *Immunity*. **55(9)**:1549-1563.

Heyland DK, Wibbenmeyer L, Pollack JA, Friedman B, Turgeon AF, Eshraghi N, Jeschke MG, Belisle S, Grau D, Mandell S, Velamuri SR, Hundeshagen G, Moiemen N, Shokrollahi K, Foster K, Huss F, Collins D, Savetamal A, Gurney JM, Depetris N, Stoppe C, Ortiz-Reyes L, Garrel D, Day AG. 2022. A Randomized Trial of Enteral Glutamine for Treatment of Burn Injuries. *New England Journal of Medicine*. **387(11)**:1001-1010.

Lee SG, Kiattiburut W, Khongkha T, Schinkel SCB, Lunn Y, Decker AP, Mohammadi A, Vera-Cruz A, Misra A, Angel JB, Anderson DJ, Baker M, Kaul R, Wang GS, Tanphaichitr N. 2022. 17BIPHE2, an engineered cathelicidin antimicrobial peptide with low susceptibility to proteases, is an effective spermicide and microbicide against Neisseria gonorrhoeae. *Human Reproduction*. Online ahead of print.

Mortha A, Remark R, Del Valle DM, Chuang LS, Chai Z, Alves I, Azevedo C, Gaifem J, Martin J, Petralia F, Tuballes K, Barcessat V, Tai SL, Huang HH, Laface I, Jerez YA, Boschetti G, Villaverde N, Wang MD, Korie UM, Murray J, Choung RS, Sato T, Laird RM, Plevy S, Rahman A, Torres J, Porter C, Riddle MS, Kenigsberg E, Pinho SS, Cho JH, Merad M, Colombel JF, Gnjatic S. 2022. Neutralizing Anti-Granulocyte Macrophage-Colony Stimulating Factor Autoantibodies Recognize Post-Translational Glycosylations on Granulocyte Macrophage-Colony Stimulating Factor Years Before Diagnosis and Predict Complicated Crohn's Disease. *Gastroenterology*. 163(3):659-670.

Mohan H, Atkinson K, Watson B, Brumme CJ, Serghides L. 2022. A Pharmacokinetic Dose-Optimization Study of Cabotegravir and Bictegravir in a Mouse Pregnancy Model. *Pharmaceutics*. **14(9)**.

Cheung MW, Dayam RM, Law JC, Goetgebuer RL, Chao GYC, Finkelstein N, Stempak JM, Pereira D, Croitoru D, Acheampong L, Rizwan S, Lee JD, Ganatra D, Law R, Delgado-Brand M, Mailhot G, Piguet V, Silverberg MS, Watts TH, Gingras AC, Chandran V. 2022. Third dose corrects waning immunity to SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines in immunocompromised patients with immune-mediated inflammatory diseases. *RMD Open.* 8(2).

Cabral-Fernandes L, Goyal S, Farahvash A, Tsalikis J, Philpott DJ, Girardin SE. 2022. Invading Bacterial Pathogens Activate Transcription Factor EB in Epithelial Cells through the Amino Acid Starvation Pathway of mTORC1 Inhibition. *Molecular and Cellular Biology*. 42(9).