

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

Welcome to **Volume 12** of the [Department of Immunology Newsletter](#). Fall will soon be upon us, and the Department of Immunology is already off to a great start. As usual, the monthly Newsletter will not only communicate upcoming events within our Department, such as our Easton, special, graduate and postdoc seminars, and student sponsored events, but also to highlight special achievements from our trainees and faculty, while providing a platform for sharing Departmental WIDE activities and showcasing recent publications from our Department.

At the start of the new academic year, it is wonderful to WELCOME all the new graduate students joining our MSc and PhD programs. We also look forward to the upcoming Summer/Fall Departmental Retreat, Sept. 10-11 at The Fern Resort. Plus, we also have a Faculty Retreat to look forward on Sept. 26.

Please make sure to read the messages from IGSA and IMMSA, as they have important news items to share and exciting upcoming events to inform you about. Of note, join me in Congratulating our [IMMspire](#) team for being awarded the IUIS-EFIS Day of Immunology Award.

My congratulations to all our recent MSc and PhD graduates, and those that completed their PhD Qualifying Exams.

After 11 years as Chair of the Department of Immunology, this will be the last time I write the Message from the Chair piece. Next time, assuming the Newsletter tradition continues, you will be hearing from Jen Gommerman, who starts her 5-year term as our next Chair on Oct. 1, 2023. The Department will be in great hands, and I wish Jen all the best as our next academic leader.

Happy to say that the Department is in great shape, and after 2 [Strategic Plans](#) and Departmental External Reviews, we have put forward and accomplished many important innovations and changes to our academic unit. We have introduced new undergraduate and graduate courses, developed a new MSc graduate program, introduced graduate professional development support, launched [IMMpress Magazine](#), created associate chair positions, brought in many new faculty members, reorganized our departmental office, restarted semi-annual faculty meetings, changed the venue for our Summer/Fall Retreat, started and embraced the WIDE committee activities, created new awards for postdoctoral researchers, and developed new international collaborations and exchange-placement programs.

Of course, none of the above would have been possible without the magnificent support of our administrative staff, associate chairs, student leaders and faculty members. It has been a privilege and enormous honor to have been able to work with you over the past 11 years.

I am also Thankful to Mike Ratcliffe for his stewardship as the previous Chair, as he secured a strong foundation for the Department, which I was able to build upon, and Jen will continue the journey.

I look forward to continuing my research work and running my lab, without the joys of also running a Department. But before I can do that 100%, I will be stepping in as Acting Associate Chair, Graduate Studies, until Dec 31, 2023, as Thierry Mallevaey continues his well-deserved leave until then.



I wish all a wonderful start of the new academic year.

NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING DEPARTMENT SEMINARS

EASTON SEMINARS

We have 25 seminars scheduled for Mondays during 2023-2024 Charles Gould Easton Seminar Series.

The seminar will run from 11:05 to 12:00 most Mondays. The location is at MSB 2170.

Please check out our website for future speakers who are scheduled to visit us.

Monday, September 18, 2023

Dr. Mark M. Davis

Professor, Microbiology & Immunology
Director, Stanford Institute for Immunity,
Transplantation and infection

Talk Title: "Using immune organoids to understand human vaccine and key drivers of tolerance"

Host: Naoto Hirano, PhD

Monday, September 25, 2023

Dr. Katrin Mayer-Barbar

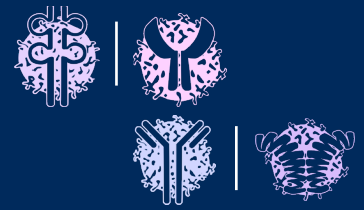
Earl Stadtman Investigator
Chief, Inflammation & Innate Immunity Unit (IIIU). Laboratory of Clinical Immunology and Microbiology (LCIM). NIH/FDA Intramural TB Research Initiative (NITBRI). National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Talk Title: "Cellular mechanisms of innate immunity and inflammation in pulmonary infections."

Host: Arthur Mortha, PhD

SPECIAL SEMINARS & PhD RESEARCH SEMINARS

Special Seminar	PhD Seminar
<p>September 7, 2023 10 a.m. – 11:00 am <u>Dr. Russell Jones</u> <u>Department of Metabolism and Nutritional Programming, Van Andel Institute</u> "Metabolic regulation of T cell responses" MSB 7231</p>	<p>September 7th, 2023 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. Kenneth Ting "Lipid Loading of Macrophage Repurposes NADPH Metabolism to Suppress Glycolysis and Inflammation" Supervisor: Dr. Myron Cybulsky MSB 7231</p>
<p>September 13, 2023 10:00 am – 11:00 am <u>Dr. Manel Jordana</u> <u>Department of Medicine</u> <u>McMaster University</u> "Imprinting and activation of memory in food allergy" Host: Drs. Jen Gommerman and Arthur Mortha MSB 3278</p>	<p>September 13, 2023 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Eric Cao "Microbial Regulators of Immunoglobulin A and their Impact on Host-Microbiota Crosstalk" Supervisor: Dr. Jennifer Gommerman Co-Supervisor: Dr. Arthur Mortha In person: MSB 7231</p>



STUDENT SEMINARS

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

September 18, 2023 Natalia Ogrodnik (Martin lab) Ling Ling Tai (Mortha lab)	September 25, 2023 Boyan Tsankov (Philpott lab) Sophie Sun (Yeung lab)
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POSTDOC/RA Seminars

September 6, 2023 3:30 -4:30

Title: tdb Zuoqiao Wu (Croitoru lab)	"Impact of the microbiome post bariatric surgery on metabolic outcome". Jitender Yadav (Philpott lab)
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OTHER DEPARTMENT EVENTS

- **Orientation Pub Night** - September 8, 2023 6p.m.
Location: Duke of York, 39 Prince Arthur Ave
- **DOI Fall Retreat** - September 10 ~11, 2023
Location: Fern Resort, Details for 2023 Immunology Annual Retreat have been sent out by email.
- **Faculty Retreat** - September 26, 2023 12:00 pm
Location: Hart House – [Tentative Schedule Here](#)

GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATE

Congratulations!

PhD Grads

Dr. Saad Khan (Winer lab) – August 15, 2023
 Dr. Melissa Kleinau (Yeung lab) – August 18, 2023
 Dr. Pailin Chiaranunt (Mortha lab) – August 29, 2023

MSc Grads

Faisal Abdul Razzaq (Woo lab)
 Johanne Audouze-Chaud (Crome lab)
 Eryn Bugbee (Gommerman lab)
 Felice Chun (Woo lab)
 David Croitoru (Piguet lab)
 Oliver De Sa (Philpott lab)
 Riley Dow (Cybulsky lab)
 Lauren Fernandez (Gehring lab)
 Alvin Han (Gommerman lab)
 Ingrid Hsieh (Serghides lab)

Mariane Jeong (Mortha lab)
 Maddy Kern-Smith (Watts lab)
 Kameel Khan (Rojas lab)
 Zhenyu Li (Mallevaey lab)
 Ammarah Naseer (Treanor lab)
 Eric Sun (Julien lab)
 Carmen Ucciferri (Dunn lab)
 Adriana Vukosich-Pennell (Sacher lab)
 Clare Wang (Yeung lab)
 Thomas Zhou (Zúñiga-Pflücker lab)



PhD Qualifying Exams

Munira Verdawala (Rottapel lab) – June 1, 2023
Michelle Cheung (Watts lab) – June 1, 2023
Diana Yang (Kaul lab) – June 2, 2023
Matthew Bianca (McGaha lab) – June 12, 2023
Melissa Liu (Brooks lab) – June 13, 2023
Don Han (Hirano lab) – June 14, 2023
Siran Liu (Brooks lab) – June 14, 2023
Sophie Sun (Yeung lab) – June 19, 2023
Deeva Uthayakumar (Wang/Julien labs) – June 29, 2023
Manjula Kamath (Mallevaey/Zúñiga-Pflücker labs) – July 26, 2023

WELCOME to our incoming students!

PhD Program

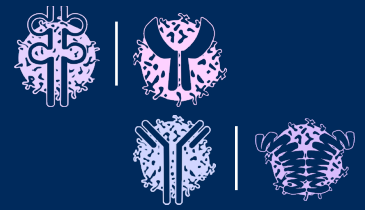
Abdulmateen Aderinto (Rotation)
Raafay Ali (Rotation)
Leon Baronijan (Martin lab)
Zi Yan Chen (Rotation)
Emily Cohen (Rotation)
Brandon Dickson (Rotation)
Julian Gilmore (Julien lab)
Sebastian Grocott (Rotation)
Arwa Hilal (Rotation)
Bianca Hill (Rotation)
Mira Ishak (Rotation)

Rameen Jamil (Rotation)
Sabah Kahnemuyipour (Rotation)
Ana Sofia Mendoza Viruega (Rotation)
Ammarah Naseer (Treanor lab)
Hayley Nault (Rotation)
Preya Patel (Rotation)
Carmen Ucciferri (Rotation)
Adriana Vukosich-Pennell (Sacher lab)
Zeqi Wan (Rotation)
Cong Xie (Rotation)
Adriana Zutic (Rotation)

MSc Program

Daniah Alkassab (Mallevaey lab)
Angelina Dass (Rojas lab)
Sarvin Daneshvar (Zúñiga-Pflücker lab)
Kennedy Hoven (Gommerman lab)
Rafeed Khan (Dunn lab)

Isabelle Skublics (Guidos lab)
Harry Sutton (MacParland lab)
Jessica Thapar (Miron lab)
Sophie Wang (Gommerman lab)

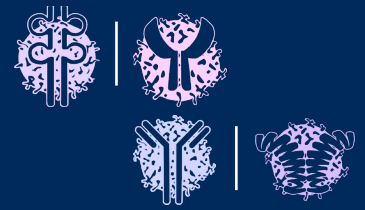


HELLO FROM THE W.I.D.E. COMMITTEE

Hello all! Happy start of a new semester, and welcome to our incoming Masters & PhD students! We hope everyone has had a wonderful summer.

This month, WIDE would like to recognize and commemorate several days of importance:

- On **September 7th**, we celebrate **Ukrainian Heritage Day** in Ontario. Ukrainians have called Ontario home for more than 125 years and since the Russian hybrid war against Ukraine, more than 80,000 Ukrainians have arrived in Canada. Now more than ever, it is important to support our Ukrainian neighbours! Check out Heavenly Perogy on 400 Bathurst St. for some delicious Ukrainian food
- **September 10th** is **World Suicide Prevention Day**, organized by the International Association for Suicide Prevention. Every year, the world loses 700,000 people to suicide. Help and resources are available to all. If you or someone you know are having thoughts about suicide, please reach out to Talk Suicide Canada (1-833-456-4566). As a University of Toronto student, there are hundreds of mental health resources available to you, please visit mentalhealth.utoronto.ca to learn more.
- Shanah Tovah to all of our Jewish friends! **September 15-17th** is **Rosh Hashanah**, the Jewish New Year. Enjoy some delicious challah, brisket, and other Simanim this weekend! Check out Hillel, a Jewish campus organization here at UofT, at <https://hillelontario.org/uoft/about-us/> to learn more about the Jewish community on our campus.
- The annual **Terry Fox Run** is on **September 17th**! Join thousands of Canadians across the country to remember this historic run and fundraise for cancer research. Visit Terryfox.org to learn more and register for a race
- **International Equal Pay Day** is on **September 18th**, did you know that the pay gap is 20% globally? Women earn 87 cents for every dollar earned by men; this difference is even greater for women of colour and those with disabilities. Check out payequity.gov.on.ca to learn more on what you can do to help close this gap.
- This **September 23rd** is **International Day of Sign Languages**. There are over 300 different sign languages globally. Follow the Deaf Awareness Club of UofT @deafawareness_uoft on Instagram to learn more about the deaf and hard of hearing community here at the university!



- We are also celebrating **Bi Visibility Day** on **September 23rd**. Bi-identities are often made invisible by those outside and inside the LGBTQIA2+ community. It is important to recognize and validate those in this community, and raise awareness of biphobia.
- À la tienne! **Franco-Ontarian Day** celebrates the Francophone community in Ontario on **September 25th**. Did you know the first Franco-Ontarian flag was raised on September 25th, 1975 at the University of Sudbury? Join your francophone friends at the 3 day outdoor festival on September 15-17 at the Bentway, visit <https://francophonie-en-fete.com/en/speaker/festival-2023/> to learn more
- At the end of the month, we recognize the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. On this day, **September 30th**, we honour the children who never returned home and the strong survivors of residential schools, and those who have been impacted over the years. The brutal history of residential schools is not so distant; the last residential school in Canada closed in 1996. Wear your brightest orange to show your support. Visit <https://macleans.ca/news/where-to-donate-to-support-survivors-of-residential-schools/> to find out where you can donate to support survivors.

WIDE would like to hear from you! If you have suggestions, feedback, comments, or questions for us – please visit our [Suggestion Box](#) and leave us an **anonymous** comment to let us know how we can better serve our community. You can also access the Suggestion Box on the [updated WIDE page on the Department’s website](#).

And look out for WIDE at the upcoming Departmental Retreat – we’ll see you in the IMMazing Race! 😊

-Your WIDE Committee

Follow us on Twitter [@IMM_WIDE](#) for more updates



UPDATES FROM IGSA

Hello fellow Immunologists!

Welcome back to another wonderful academic year! We're so excited to see you all again and we can't wait to share what we have in store. We hope you got all the rest and relaxation you need because we're refreshed and recharged and ready to dive right in!

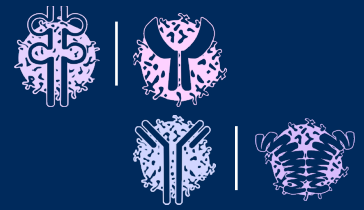
First things first: BIG news dropped over the summer! Through the support of the Canadian Society for Immunology, our very own **IMMspire** team was awarded the Best Newcomer Campaign from the IUIS-EFIS Day of Immunology Awards. Awarded every three years, this prize recognizes initiatives that promote immunology across the globe. IMMspire is an annual event that showcases immunological research to high school students across the GTA in an accessible, hands-on format. We congratulate the entire IMMspire team and the large number of departmental volunteers for their incredible effort and dedication in organizing such an impactful and successful event every year!

Aside from that, we've also held a host of fun and noteworthy events in the past few months including a Family Feud Night, two Career Panels, a Jays game outing, and the traditional Toronto Island Picnic. Looking forward, we have several major events coming up fast, the first of which is... you've guessed it! The annual Orientation Pub Night. Come out and join us **Friday September 8th** between 6-10PM for a night of food, drinks, and good times at the Duke of York as we give a warm welcome to all the fresh new faces in the department. No matter if you're an incoming student or getting ready to graduate, it'll be a great evening to mix and mingle so everyone can (re)familiarize themselves with each other just in time for the Fall Retreat.

Yes, you heard that right. The Fall Retreat! Rapidly approaching just two days after the Orientation Pub Night, we're ready to enjoy another unforgettable weekend together with all of you at Fern Resort. As a two-day-one-night retreat freely available to all members of the department, we've got a star-studded lineup this year featuring keynote speakers **Dr. Rafi Ahmed** from Emory University and **Dr. Sara Suliman** from UCSF. **Dr. Catarina Sacristan**, the Editor-in-Chief of Trends in Immunology, is also attending as a guest speaker to give a special lecture on scientific publishing. Luckily, the weather forecast is predicting sun and clear skies, making it perfect for some outdoor adventures!

Lastly, our current IGSA term is drawing to a close, and our call for applications to become part of the 2023-2024 IGSA team will go out near the end of September! Keep an eye out for those email announcements if you're interested in getting more involved with student life and community advocacy. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone looking to gain some leadership skills, want to take an active role in shaping our student experience, or simply want to have a good time. Start getting your candidate platforms ready if you're thinking of running for a position!

Bobby and Meggie, IGSA Co-Presidents 2022-2023



UPDATE FROM IMMSA

Hey Immunologists,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and excited for the upcoming school year! As summer draws to a close, take some time to unwind before the hustle and bustle begins. Here are some of the events we have planned for September!

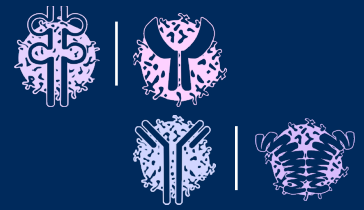
1. Welcome Back Lunch - Keep an eye out! Mark your calendars for an event that's sure to whet your appetite for knowledge and connection. This event offers a unique opportunity to mingle with IMM faculty members, delve into insightful discussions about the IMM program and research, and foster a deeper connection with the UofT IMM community. If you've ever wanted to get to know your professors on a more personal level, this is the event for you. Keep an eye out for updates on our social media channels!
2. Mentorship Meetings - Fall Program Launch Calling all first and second-year students! Starting in early September, the sign-up sheet for this invaluable program will be available. The mentorship program offers academic and social advice, insight into research opportunities and post-grad careers, and a platform to build lasting connections within the IMM community. This year we are enhancing the experience by holding more bonding activities and meet ups, allowing for a richer exchange of knowledge and experiences. Stay tuned for more information and be ready to embark on a journey of growth and friendship!
3. Club Fair - On September 6, the UofT Clubs Fair will unfold, showcasing over 300 diverse clubs, each with its unique culture and array of events. Visit our booth during the fair to grab informative flyers, delicious snacks, and most importantly, sign up for the IMMSA mentorship program! This is your chance to make new friends within the IMM community, explore exciting avenues, and start your academic year on an exciting note. We can't wait to welcome you at our booth!

As we gear up for an action-packed September, remember to follow us on Instagram (@immsta) for introductions to the new IMMSA team and upcoming announcements. Also, stay tuned to our website (immsa.uoft.com) for event details and updates. In addition, be on the lookout for the IMMSA Fall Elections, where you can actively contribute to the IMM community by joining our team.

Wishing you a fantastic start to the school year and looking forward to seeing your enthusiastic faces at our upcoming events!

Warm regards,
Catherine Chi and Jason Yang

IMMSA Co-presidents 2023-2024 Immunology Students' Association (IMMSA)
Website: <https://immsauoft.com> | Instagram: @immsta

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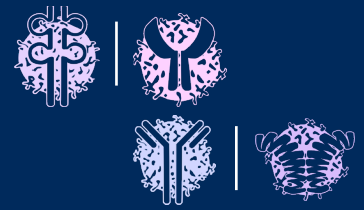
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