



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

This morning our department's faculty members, together with staff and student leaders, gathered to reflect on the ongoing implementation of our Strategic Plan and discuss next steps as presented by the Undergraduate (Dr. Singh) and Graduate (Dr. Mallevaey) Associate Chairs. They highlighted a new initiative to recognize teaching excellence by our faculty and graduate TAs in undergraduate courses.

One key aspect of our Strat Plan was to better engage and support our Immunology Postdoctoral community. To this end, our Postdoctoral Associate Chairs (Drs. Watts and Brooks) announced an upcoming Networking and Information event for our department's postdocs, which will take place on Nov. 17, at the Faculty Club. Please ensure that your postdocs are aware and register to attend.

Please join me in welcoming IGSA's new leadership and executive. IGSA co-presidents, Tiff and Kitt, presented an exciting slate of initiatives and activities for our graduate community, including the much-anticipated Holiday Retreat at the Hart House, on Dec. 17, with hopes of having it in person.

As we think about gathering in December, please do not forget to send in your nominations for our prestigious Cinader and Miller Awards.

Lastly, I informed the department that I will be taking a 6-month administrative leave, from January to June 2022, with Prof. Jennifer Gommerman stepping in as Acting Chair during this period. My thanks to Jen.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Faculty Meeting**

**November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021; 11:05-1:00**

Via Zoom

### **CHARLES GOULD EASTON SEMINARS**

**November 8, 2021**

**11:05 am via Zoom**

[Terri Marilyn Laufer, MD, PhD](#)

[Associate Professor of Medicine](#)

[University of Pennsylvania](#)

**"Dissecting the mechanisms that maintain intestinal Tregs"**

Host: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker, PhD

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**November 22, 2021**

**11:05 am via Zoom**

[Anastasia Tikhonva, PhD](#)

[Scientist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre](#)

[Assistant Professor in the Dept of Medical Biophysics](#)

**Title: TBD**

Host: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker, PhD

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**November 29, 2021**

**11:05 am via Zoom**

[Daniel Kaufmann, MD](#)

[Professor, Dept of Medicine, University of Montreal](#)

**"Immunovirological predictors of outcome after SARS-CoV-2 infection or vaccination"**

Host: David Brooks, PhD





## NOVEMBER STUDENT SEMINARS

**Mondays, 10:00-11:00 via ZOOM**

**November 1, 2021**

**Assessing the use of human microbiota-associated mice as a model for a novel microbial therapeutic**

Matthew Wong (Martin lab)

**Effect of Western diet in early life on intestinal T cell development and susceptibility to colitis**

Alec Luchak (Croitoru lab)

**November 8, 2021**

Stephanie Wong (Ohashi lab)

Julia Szusz (Crome lab)

**November 15, 2021**

Jessica Bruce (Philpott lab)

Lawrence Wood (MacParland lab)

**November 22, 2021**

Homaira Hamidzada (Epelman lab)

Michelle Zuo (Gommerman lab)

**November 29, 2021**

Nayanan Nathan (Girardin lab)

Jawairia Atif (MacParland lab)

\* Title will be updated to our website when it is available.

## GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATES

### **Award Deadline Approaching**

CGS-M applications are due **December 1, 2021 at 8:00 PM (ET)**

1<sup>st</sup> year graduate students and 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduates planning to apply to grad programs for 2022 are encouraged to apply

### **Qualifying Exam Info Session aka "2nd year orientation"**

2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD students are required to attend this info session, Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am-12:00pm

Dr. Mallevey and Kate will provide details about the qualifying exam process, with lots of time for Q&A.





## IGSA

Dear fellow Immunologists,

A belated welcome to another academic year! As we write our first Newsletter, we acknowledge and thank the previous members of IGSA for their incredible work despite the obstacles brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the pandemic has stretched longer than initially anticipated, we are proud of our collective resilience: we have put forward long hours towards our scientific work and towards preserving ourselves during a mentally exhausting time. As we celebrate the scientific discoveries that have led to the development of effective vaccines against SARS-CoV-2, we look forward to safely hosting in-person events with the lifting of institutional and provincial restrictions. We welcome our new 2021-2022 IGSA council, who are more than excited to bring us all together again:

**Co-Presidents:** Tiffany Kong & Kitty Liu (Tiff & Kitt)  
**Social Representatives:** Meggie Kuypers, Robyn Loves, Kameel Khan  
**Sports Representative:** Natalia Ogrodnik  
**Careers Development Representative:** Salma Sheikh-Mohamed  
**GSU/CUPE Representative:** Robbie Jin  
**Community Outreach/Wellness Representative:** Baweleta Isho  
**Peer-to-peer Counsellor:** Boyan Tsankov  
**Social Media Manager:** Ammarah Naseer

We have many events planned for the year, with the first anticipated event being an in-person, outdoor SquIMM Game, a series of mini-games inspired by the popular Netflix show Squid Game. We continue to cheer on the Immunodominators, who compete in dodgeball and ultimate frisbee intramurals.

In addition to our social events and athletics, we are maintaining our department's initiatives in scientific communication. We are continuing our educational pamphlet series for the lay audience, so keep your eye out for an email if you would like to contribute! Topics discussed by past pamphlets include COVID-19 disease pathogenesis and vaccine infographics, found here: [www.immunology.utoronto.ca/covid-19-information](http://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/covid-19-information).

Additionally, *IMMpress Magazine*, a student-led publication within the Department of Immunology, will be releasing a new edition at the end of the year that discusses healthcare in the technological age. Until then, you can view previous articles submitted by your fellow immunologists on the *IMMpress* website: [www.immpressmagazine.com](http://www.immpressmagazine.com)

If you'd like to keep up with upcoming IGSA events, be sure to follow our IGSAgram! Our Instagram account (@igsa.uoft) details upcoming social events and posts regular reminders, which you will inevitably see as you scroll through Instagram during lengthy incubation times.

Looking forward to seeing more of everyone! Please stay healthy and safe.

**Tiff & Kitt**  
**IGSA Co-Presidents 2021-22**



## IMMSA

Hey Immunologists!!

We'd like to start off by recapping October, which saw us lay the groundwork for a successful year! We held a meet-up for mentors and mentees in the IMMSA Mentorship Program, kickstarted our 'Intro to Immunology Techniques' seminar series with a session on Flow Cytometry, and held a joint online social with the MGYSU and LMPSU. Finally, we were thrilled to welcome 5 new executive members to the IMMSA team:

- Beining (Rebecca) Li as Junior Events Coordinator
- Isabella Kojundzic as Junior Treasurer
- Jacqueline Wong as Webmaster
- Adrian Chow as 2nd-Year Representative
- Daniel Yu as ASSU Representative

Looking forward to November, we plan on:

1. Hosting 2 immunology seminars where we invite guest speakers to share their fields of interest within the broad scope of immunology - keep an eye on our socials for more details!
2. Holding a Graduate School Information Session. We know many of you may be trying to figure out if grad school is the right path for you, so come out and hear from a panel of graduate students in different departments as well as graduate program coordinators. We hope you can learn more about these programs, what life as a grad student looks like, and whether grad school aligns with your professional/personal goals!

We know midterm season is here (it seems like it's always here, to be fair) so remember to make some time to relax, spend time with family & friends, and take care of your physical and mental health in whatever way works best for you!

If you ever have any questions or concerns about immunology courses, program requirements, general advice or anything else, feel free to email us at [immsa.immunology@gmail.com](mailto:immsa.immunology@gmail.com) or DM us on Instagram (@immsta) or Facebook (@immsa.uoft).

**Shaivy T. + Kunal K.**

**2021-22 IMMSA Co-Presidents**

**Website:** <http://immsauoft.com> | **Instagram:** @immsta | **Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/IMMSA.UofT>



**PUBLICATIONS**

Chiaranunt P, Tai SL, Ngai L, Mortha A. 2021. Beyond Immunity: Underappreciated Functions of Intestinal Macrophages. *Frontiers In Immunology*. 12.

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