

### *Message from the Chair,*

*Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker*

The beginning of April marked the start of my second term as Chair of the Department of Immunology, and the end of a nine-month break from most of the associated duties, which I am privileged and honored to resume. I look forward to working with our staff, students, trainees and faculty for the next five years, as we develop new and exciting initiatives for the Department. I want to thank Prof. **Dana Philpott** for her careful stewardship of the Department as Acting Chair for the past 9 months, and to our staff members during this period for keeping the Department running smoothly.

Please see below about the upcoming **OQUIC** event (May 5-6), which will again feature the research accomplishments from our talented undergraduates, as they present their work and compete with their peers across Ontario and Quebec.

As pointed out by IGSA, our next **Departmental Retreat** will be on June 19-20, which is a great opportunity for postdocs in the department to present their work and for some of our senior graduate students and faculty to showcase their recent findings. Plus, this year again, we will be awarding the Jim Watts Travel Award in Human Immunology, so please be sure to sign up for a presentation at the retreat.

Lastly, please note the call for nominations for the **BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize**; details below. The winner of this prize will deliver a lecture on Monday June 18, a day before our annual Department of Immunology Summer Retreat, June 19-20.

### UPCOMING EASTON SEMINAR

May 2018

Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

**Monday, May 14, 2018**

Dr. Sean Morrison

“The Niche for Hematopoietic Stem Cells”

**Host:** Dr. Tracy McGaha



## BD Biosciences/Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Award

### Call for Nominations:

The Department of Immunology is pleased to announce that it is now accepting nominations of outstanding postdoctoral fellows for the *BD Biosciences/Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Award*. This award is made possible by BD Sciences' continued sponsorship of the Department Immunology Summer Retreat Program.

**Award:** The sponsorship will include \$2,500 for the successful postdoctoral fellow, and a \$500 product credit from BD Biosciences for the laboratory of the principal investigator.

**Nominations:** Faculty members of the Department of Immunology can nominate a postdoc in their lab. Please provide a nominating letter, and a CV of the nominated postdoctoral fellow, to be submitted electronically to [chair.immunology@utoronto.ca](mailto:chair.immunology@utoronto.ca).

**Deadline:** **May 18, 2018** (5:00 pm) is the deadline for nominations. The winner will be announced on May 25, 2018.

**Date of Lecture & Award Presentation:** **Monday, June 18, 2018**, 11:00 am is when the BD Biosciences/Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture, and prize presentation will take place.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### PhD Candidates

**Justen Russell (MacDonald Lab)**

April 2, 2018

**Tim Guo (Hirano Lab)**

April 20, 2018

### Reclassification Exams

**Lisa Hung (Eiwegger Lab)**

April 23, 2018

**Ashton Trotman-Grant (Zúñiga-Pflücker Lab)**

April 24, 2018

### Qualifying Exams

**James Han (Ohashi Lab)**

March 13, 2018

**Mengdi Guo (Brooks Lab)**

April 19, 2018

## WELCOME

### Incoming Applied Immunology students starting in May

Alexandra Johnson-Valiente (Gehring Lab)

Jean-Soo Lee (Eiwegger Lab)

Flora Wong (Mortha Lab)

## NEWS FROM GPD

Congratulations to Yoojin Choi for winning our Three Minute Thesis competition with her "How does HPV affect HIV Risk?" in our GPD class of 15 students this semester! Judges were returning U of T PhD alum Drs. Michael Wortzman (GSK), Kelsey Law (Triumvira Immunologics) and Camila Londono (MiTACs). Yoojin Choi's and Ronald Galiwango's slide and 3MT stories were featured in Dr. Nana Lee's talk "Using the 3MT for Outreach, Networking and Interviews" at the Experimental Biology/American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology conference this past week in San Diego for an audience of over 200 attendees.

## FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE

**SGS Summer Gym Bursary** – The SGS Summer Gym Bursary is part of a three-year pilot program to promote graduate student wellness.

**Beginning May 15, 2018**, if you are a full-time doctoral-stream student registered on ROSI for the full Summer 2018 session, simply upload your proof of gym membership payment at a St. George campus facility to the SGS Portal on the SGS Bursary website.

Participating gyms include the Hart House Fitness Centre and Kinesiology & Physical Education (KPE) athletic facilities.

Visit the [SGS Summer Gym Bursary](#) website for details on how to apply!

# Department of Immunology

## *Student Associations' News*

### IMMSA

Dear Immunologists,

IMMSA is hosting **OQUIC in MSB2170 from May 5th to May 6th.**

Sincerely,

Lucy Shao & Sonya Kim

Immunology Students Association (IMMSA) Co-Presidents 2017-18

### IGSA

Dear Immunologists,

The International Day of Immunology falls on the 29th of every April. This year, our department reached out to seventeen classes to teach a crash course in immunology. We would like to thank Anthony Zhao for coordinating this outreach day and all graduate students in volunteering their important time towards this initiative.

Another IGSA initiative this month was our participation in the Race-Roster Spring Run Offs, which raises money to support cancer research at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. Joined by our very own Dr. Jennifer Gommerman, over twenty students in our department took part in running in near sub-zero temperatures on a Saturday morning. Congratulations to Melanie Girard and Spencer Zeng for completing the quickest times for the Chemotactic Crawlers.

Last, but not least, we would also like to remind everybody that registration is open for the 12th Annual DoI Summer Retreat held on June 19-20 at YMCA Geneva Park. To register, please complete the following form: <https://goo.gl/forms/5Hsvqe3MMsslkp2q1>.

We strongly encourage all students and trainees to continue producing strong showings in the poster competition. As with every year, the top 3 judged presenters will receive a monetary award and have their posters displayed by the Department of Immunology. Furthermore, the best poster presentation focused on Human Immunology will be awarded the Jim Watts travel award in Human Immunology to be used toward the academic conference of your choice. For more information on the competition, please see: <http://www.igsauoft.com/#upcoming>.

Sincerely,

IGSA



## PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (March 2018)

1. Anczurowski, M., Y. Yamashita, M. Nakatsugawa, T. Ochi, Y. Kagoya, T. X. Guo, C. H. Wang, M. A. Rahman, K. Saso, M. O. Butler, and N. Hirano. 2018. Mechanisms underlying the lack of endogenous processing and CLIP-mediated binding of the invariant chain by HLA-DP84Gly. *Scientific Reports* 8.
2. Kagoya, Y., S. Tanaka, T. X. Guo, M. Anczurowski, C. H. Wang, K. Saso, M. O. Butler, M. D. Minden, and N. Hirano. 2018. A novel chimeric antigen receptor containing a JAK-STAT signaling domain mediates superior antitumor effects. *Nature Medicine* 24: 352-+.
3. Li, C. L., T. Irrazabal, C. C. So, M. Berru, L. K. Du, E. Lam, A. K. Ling, J. L. Gommerman, Q. Pan-Hammarstrom, and A. Martin. 2018. The H2B deubiquitinase Usp22 promotes antibody class switch recombination by facilitating non-homologous end joining. *Nature Communications* 9.
4. Ling, A. K., C. C. So, M. X. Le, A. Y. Chen, L. Hung, and A. Martin. 2018. Double-stranded DNA break polarity skews repair pathway choice during intrachromosomal and interchromosomal recombination. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 115: 2800-2805.
5. Lopes, F., A. V. Keita, A. Saxena, J. L. Reyes, N. L. Mancini, A. Al Rajabi, A. Wang, C. H. Baggio, M. Dickey, R. van Dalen, Y. Ahn, M. B. H. Carneiro, N. C. Peters, J. M. Rho, W. K. MacNaughton, S. E. Girardin, H. Jijon, D. J. Philpott, J. D. Soderholm, and D. M. McKay. 2018. ER-stress mobilization of death-associated protein kinase-1-dependent xenophagy counteracts mitochondria stress-induced epithelial barrier dysfunction. *Journal of Biological Chemistry* 293: 3073-3087.
6. Zhu, F., L. McCaw, D. E. Spaner, and R. M. Gorczynski. 2018. Targeting the IL-17/IL-6 axis can alter growth of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia &ITin vivo&IT/&ITin vitro&IT. *Leukemia Research* 66: 28-38.

*We'd like to hear from you!*  
*Comments or questions – please contact:*  
[immunology.communications@utoronto.ca](mailto:immunology.communications@utoronto.ca)