

### **Message from the Chair, Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker**

Earlier this month, over the weekend of May 5-6, the Undergraduate Immunology Student Association (IMMSA) hosted the 10th annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC). I want to congratulate the outgoing IMMSA co-presidents, **Lucy Shao** and **Sonya Kim**, and the amazing IMMSA executive council for their wonderful organizational work in putting together a very successful event, which featured keynote talks from Profs. **Dana Philpott** and **Alberto Martin**.

During the OQUIC event, Prof. Thierry Mallevaey (Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies) had the pleasure of presenting the 5th annual *Immunology Undergraduate Service Award* to **Lucy Shao**, IMMSA's co-president. This departmental award is meant to recognize outstanding contributions to the department by an academically accomplished undergraduate student.

I am also delighted to say that **Michelle Zuo** is the recipient of the **2017/18 John Bruce (Jack) Hay Immunology Student Achievement Award**, awarded to the best student in the IMM435/1435 "Practical Immunology" course.

To continue celebrating our amazing undergraduate students, I am pleased to announce that this year's winners of the *Immunology Undergraduate Prize*, given to a student with the best academic standing in both IMM340/1 and IMM350/1—third year Immunology courses, are **Madalina Maxim** and **Joshua De Sousa Casal**, who tied with a near perfect set of marks for both courses. Congratulations to both, who will be presented with this award at the *Department of Immunology Winter Retreat*, to be held at the Hart House, on Thursday, December 13, 2018 (yes, do mark your calendars for the social event of the year).

Speaking of exciting events, I am delighted to announce that the winner of the 6th annual *BD-Biosciences/Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Award* is Dr. **Stephen Scally** (J.P. Julien lab), and as noted on the right margin, the BDB/IPDLA will take place on Monday, June 18th. Congratulations to Steve, and we look forward to an exciting talk, just a day ahead of the upcoming *Department of Immunology Summer Retreat* (June 19-20), see below for more details from the IGSA organizers.

#### **UPCOMING SPECIAL SEMINAR**

##### **BD Biosciences/Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Award**

Monday, June 18, 2018

MSB 2172 at 11:10 a.m.

**Dr. Stephen Scally, PhD**

**"Structural Studies of Human Antibody Responses Against a Leading Malaria Vaccine Antigen PfCSP"**

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Also, please join me in welcoming Dr. **Sarah Crome**, who will be starting up her lab at the Toronto General Research Institute (TGRI), as part of the Multi-Organ Transplant Program, and will be appointed as our newest Assistant Professor in the Department of Immunology, as of July 1, 2018. Sarah's research is focused on innate lymphoid cells and Tregs, with expertise in immune-tolerance, and anti-tumor immunity. She was jointly recruited by TGRI and the Department of Immunology.

Looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming BD-Biosciences/Immunology Postdoc Lecture, and then enjoying a couple days by the shores of Lake Couchiching for our Summer Retreat.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

#### **MSc Candidate**

**Johnny Wang (Watts Lab)**  
**May 9, 2018**

#### **Qualifying Exam**

**Sintia Xhiku (Zúñiga-Pflücker Lab)**  
**May 1, 2018**

**2017-18 John Bruce Hay Immunology  
Student Achievement Award**  
**Xiao Le (Michelle) Zuo**  
***Highest achieving student in  
IMM435/1435 Practical Immunology***

**2017-18 Immunology Undergraduate Prize**  
**Madalina Maxim**  
**Joshua De Sousa Casal**  
***Best academic standing in both  
IMM340/1 and IMM350/1***

**Immunology Undergraduate Service Award**  
**Lucy Shao (IMMSA co-president)**  
***Outstanding contribution to the Department***

### **GRADUATE NEWS**

#### **Graduate Admissions**

The final admissions deadline for September 2018 has passed, and the Admissions Committee will be reviewing applications over the next few weeks.

Faculty will receive information on our incoming students as soon as it is available.

#### **FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE**

#### **Graduate Student Wellness Portal**

Looking for mental health services, resources, or academic supports? Need to talk with someone about your experiences of supervision? This portal, developed in collaboration with the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union (UTGSU), can help point you in the right direction.

For more information please visit the website below:

<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/wellness-portal.aspx>

# Department of Immunology

## *Student Associations' News*

### IMMSA

Hello Immunologists,

We would like to thank everyone for their participation in the 10th annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC)! We welcomed undergraduate students from across Ontario and Quebec, where they presented their results from their immunology-based research projects. We also heard inspiring keynote speeches from Dr. Dana Philpott and Dr. Alberto Martin from the University of Toronto.

Congratulations to the winners of OQUIC 2018:

1st place - Amicha Robertson (McGill University)

2nd place - Derek Tsang (University of Toronto)

3rd place - Audrey Kassardjian (McGill University)

The year has come to an end, and it's time for us to step down as co-presidents. While this is a bittersweet moment, it has been an honour to serve the Immunology undergraduate community during this year. I hope we have contributed to making the year more enjoyable for fellow students by introducing new interpersonal events such as the Lunch and Learn series, academic workshops and social events.

We are ecstatic to announce the new IMMSA co-presidents Joaquin Francis Arias and Kitty Liu. We are sure they and other elected council executives will be working hard to ensure the Immunology undergraduates in the upcoming year have all their needs met and exceeded.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer, and we look forward to classes starting up again in September. Congratulations to all graduating IMM specialists, majors and minors and the best of luck for your future endeavours!

Please follow us on social media for all club and event details. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at [immsa.immunology@gmail.com](mailto:immsa.immunology@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Sonya Kim & Lucy Shao

Immunology Students Association (IMMSA) Co-Presidents 2017-2018

# Department of Immunology

## *Student Associations' News*

### IGSA

Dear Immunologists,

May has been another great month (with mostly beautiful weather) for us! Much thanks to Tao, we stayed active during the Interdepartmental dodgeball tournament and IGSA billiards/ping-pong night. Many of us also had a chance to talk about what being a clinician scientist is like with the invited guest Dr. Nicola Jones, and a big thank-you goes out to Brett who organized the event.

Don't forget to join us in cheering for the Blue Jays against the Yankees in early June! Parshin will be sending out an email with more information soon. We are also sad to announce that the softball league is cancelled for this summer due to renovations on campus, but we will be registering for the softball tournament where each team will get to play at least 4 games in one day! For more information, please contact Yoojin, Albert or Maria.

Last, but not least, we would also like to remind everybody that registration is open for the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual DoI Summer Retreat held on June 19-20 at YMCA Geneva Park**. The deadline to register for those who are submitting an abstract is June 1st. 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>

If you have any questions about the retreat, please reach out to Yoojin or Albert. We hope to see you all at the retreat!

IGSA



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

1. Chen, B., J. B. Lee, H. Kang, M. D. Minden, and L. Zhang. 2018. Targeting chemotherapy-resistant leukemia by combining DNT cellular therapy with conventional chemotherapy. *Journal of Experimental & Clinical Cancer Research* 37.
2. Linares, I., K. Farrokhi, J. Echeverri, J. M. Kathis, D. Kollmann, M. Hamar, P. Urbanellis, S. Ganesh, O. A. Adeyi, P. Yip, M. Seizner, and N. Seizner. 2018. PPAR-gamma activation is associated with reduced liver ischemia-reperfusion injury and altered tissue-resident macrophages polarization in a mouse model. *Plos One* 13.
3. Luchetti, S., N. L. Fransen, C. G. van Eden, V. Ramaglia, M. Mason, and I. Huitinga. 2018. Progressive multiple sclerosis patients show substantial lesion activity that correlates with clinical disease severity and sex: a retrospective autopsy cohort analysis. *Acta Neuropathologica* 135: 511-528.
4. Mohammadi, H., E. Papp, L. Cahill, M. Rennie, N. Banko, L. Pinnaduwege, J. Lee, M. Kibschull, C. Dunk, J. G. Sled, and L. Serghides. 2018. HIV antiretroviral exposure in pregnancy induces detrimental placenta vascular changes that are rescued by progesterone supplementation. *Scientific Reports* 8.
5. Touil, H., A. Kobert, N. Lebeurrier, A. Rieger, P. Saikali, C. Lambert, L. Fawaz, C. S. Moore, A. Prat, J. Gommerman, J. P. Antel, Y. Itoyama, I. Nakashima, A. Bar-Or, and B. C. T. M. S. Canadian. 2018. Human central nervous system astrocytes support survival and activation of B cells: implications for MS pathogenesis. *Journal of Neuroinflammation* 15.

*We'd like to hear from you!*  
*Comments or questions – please contact:*  
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