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

“Best IMM retreat ever”, I overheard some saying. Indeed, last week’s 7th annual retreat was astounding, and we owe its success to the enormous and extraordinary efforts of our Immunology Graduate Student Association and its co-presidents Alessandra and Elisa. Kudos to all for putting together such a terrific retreat. Additionally, the keynote speaker, Adrian Hayday, was wonderful and helped to make this a truly memorable retreat.

Congratulations to the poster and oral presentation winners. In case you missed them, we will be displaying the winning posters in the 7th floor of the MSB, near the Immunology office.

The retreat together with the presentation of the new BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize by this year’s winner Dr. Dirk Brenner, from the Mak lab, the day before our trip to Geneva Park, was a delightful way to start off the week in which we celebrated Immunology at UofT.

This is the last issue of the Immunology Newsletter for this academic year, and we will restart in late September 2013. In the meantime, best wishes for a productive summer.

AWARDS

On June 17th 2013, the BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture, entitled: “The regulation of NF-κB and its implication in autoimmune responses” was given by Dr. Dirk Brenner, a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Mak’s laboratory. Representatives from BD-Biosciences presented the awards, a $2,500 lecture prize and a $500 voucher to the Mak laboratory. Shown above are: JC Zúñiga-Pflücker, Scott Hayes (BD), Tak Mak, Dirk Brenner, and Pedro Schildknecht (BD).
Undergraduate Summer Research Presentations

Join us for the Immunology Summer Student Research Program (ISSRP) final presentations on Thursday, July 25th in the Immunology Conference Room (MS7231). Coffee will be served at 9:45am with presentations to start at 10:00am. Students participating in the ISSRP are reminded that they are required to attend all presentations that day.

CONGRATULATIONS

PhD Exam

Dr. Evelyn Pau (Wither Lab) – May 29, 2013
Dr. Henry Becker (Hay and Cybulsky Lab) – June 5, 2013

Reclassification / Qualifying Exams

Kieran Manion (Wither lab) Reclassified – June 7, 2013

DEADLINES/REMINDERS

July 2013 / ASAP (First-Year Students): All first-year students in a degree program admitted for September 2012 should have already had their first supervisory committee meeting. January admits should have their first meeting by August 2013.

September 3, 2013: SGS Graduate Orientation 2013. For more information, see http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/gradroom/gradorientation.htm

IGSA

UPCOMING IGSA EVENTS

June 28th – Career Development Workshop
Registration for the joint Immunology/Biochemistry career workshop is open until June 27th, but space is limited, so sign up today! http://www.asbmb.org/careersymposia.aspx.
Location: Northrop Frye Hall
Time: 9:00am
Cost: Free

July 26th – Faculty of Medicine Summer Social
Longing for another chance to socialize with the diverse array of students in the Faculty of Medicine? Well, here’s your chance! Come mingle and celebrate summer at Toronto’s fancy Loft 404 in the heart of the downtown.
Location: Loft 404
Time: 7:00pm
Cost: $26/person
Late July - IGSA Election + Election Pub
Do you yearn for power and influence beyond your graduate status? Do you have opinions and ideas that need to be heard? Do you read the monthly newsletters and think, “Pssh, I could do that!”? If so, a position on IGSA may be right for you! Stay tuned for details.

August - IMM goes to Wonderland
Come out with IGSA and trade in the ups and downs of lab work for a real roller coaster ride at Canada’s Wonderland! Details and cost will be announced closer to the date.

KEEP CALM AND RECLASS
That’s right folks, it’s that time of year again- birds are singing, the sun is shining, and second-year grads are frantically studying for their reclassification/qualifying exams. But never fear! Your friendly neighbourhood upper year mentors are just an email away. Be sure to make the most of this amazing resource! Check out the October newsletter for the full list: http://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/about/newsletter.htm

IMMSA
We at IMMSA sincerely hope that your Summer is a fun and productive one!

After all the cold and gloomy weather you may be thinking summertime is the perfect season for relaxing in the sun, hanging out with friends, and taking a break from school… and it is! However, IMMSA would like to remind you to stay on top of your academics and career planning. When it comes to admissions for Graduate school, Professional school, Scholarships, etc. summer break might just be the right time to work on application materials. Try to maintain that all-important balance especially during your summer down-time, when you may be tempted to loaf around all week. Furthermore, summertime is an excellent opportunity to explore personal interests.

All this continued work into your ‘summer vacation time’, eh? We understand how this may be depressing, or even cause severe burn-out, so let us at IMMSA cheer you up with a FREE Summer Luncheon on June 24th, from 10am-1pm, at MS2173, right after the Summer IMM250H1 final!

Here’s to wishing for better weather as the days pass by for more outdoor activities, longer days for the all-important test prep courses and summer school, and of course, summer research!

Warmest regards,
The Immunology Student Association executives.
Volunteering with Let’s Talk Science Outreach
University of Toronto, St. George

Turn kids into Scientists. Become a Let’s Talk Science volunteer!

What is Let’s Talk Science? Let’s Talk Science is a national science outreach program that strives to improve science literacy in the community through innovative, interactive and hands-on educational programs. We motivate and empower youth (Kindergarten through Grade 12) to use science, technology, engineering and mathematics to develop critical skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to strive in our world.

Why become a volunteer? As a Let’s Talk Science volunteer, you have the opportunity to develop your communication, teaching and leadership skills while having fun sharing your excitement for science with youth! You have the flexibility to sign up for events that fit around your schedule, and you might even inspire a future immunologist!

Let’s Talk Science (St. George) has also recently partnered with the Graduate Professional Skills (GPS) Program from the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto. This means that Let’s Talk Science Graduate volunteers are able to earn up to 7 GPS credits for their involvement. Learn more here: http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/informationfor/students/profdev/gps.htm

What do our volunteers do? Throughout the year, our volunteers partake in a variety of outreach activities, including Immunology Day, StemCellTalks Symposium, the All Science Challenge, and a large variety of classroom visits to deliver “hands-on/minds-on” science workshops.

Want to become a Let’s Talk Science volunteer? If you are a Graduate student, Post Doctoral Fellow, or Faculty that is interested in getting involved with the Let’s Talk Science at the University of Toronto (St. George), simply visit us at https://lts.escalator.utoronto.ca/home/how-to-volunteer/. Please contact us at lts.grad@utoronto.ca if you have any questions or comments.
PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (May 2013)


We’d like to hear from you!
Comments or Questions – Please contact: Immunology.newsletter@utoronto.ca