

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

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VOL II – ISSUE 7

March 2014

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

At our recent Departmental Faculty Meeting, I had the pleasure of welcoming Kate Sedore as our new Graduate Assistant; we are delighted to have her as part of our team.

March had a great start with the release of the first issue of Volume 2 of *IMMpress Magazine*, once again the IMMpress folks did an phenomenal job.

I want to also extend my Congratulations to our IMMSA In-Course Scholarship Recipients, which is a new initiative from our undergraduate student leadership to recognize the excellence among our undergraduate students in Immunology. Additionally, take note of the upcoming **OQUIC** event, which will again feature the research accomplishments from our undergraduates, as they present their work and compete with their peers across Ontario and Quebec.

Lastly, please note the call for nominations for the 2nd **Annual BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize**. The winner of this prize will deliver a lecture on June 16th, a day before our annual Department of Immunology Summer Retreat, June 17-18th.

WELCOME

Staff:

Kate Sedore, Department of Immunology Graduate Assistant

UPCOMING SEMINARS

EASTON SEMINARS – April 2014 Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

April 7, 2014

- Bertus Eksteen, FRCP (Lond) PhD
“Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis – bench to bedside”.
(Host: Dr. Ken Croitoru)

April 14, 2014

- Marco Colonna, MD
“Innate lymphoid cells in mucosal immunity”.
(Host: Dr. James Carlyle)

April 28, 2014

- Megan Levings, PhD
“Cellular and Molecular Biology of Regulatory T cells: from humans to mice and back.”
(Host: Dr. Jayne Danska)

GRADUATE SEMINARS – April 2014 Room 3171 MSB at 10:00 a.m.

April 7, 2014

- Magar Ghazarian (Rotation)
- Sherine Ensan (Supervisor: C. Robbins)
- Sergey Yegorov (Supervisor: R. Kaul)

April 14, 2014

- Selena Cen (Rotation)
- Nam Yun Alexia Kim (Supervisor: J. Wither)
- Tingxi Guo (Supervisor: N. Hirano)

April 28, 2014

- Qiaochu Irene Lin (Rotation)
- Angela Li (Rotation)
- Helen Luck (Supervisor: D. Winer)

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Immunology
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize

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 Prize*. This award is made possible by a generous gift from BD Biosciences.

Award: The award consists of a \$2,500 prize for the postdoctoral fellow, and a \$500 gift certificate 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.

Deadline: May 9, 2014 (5:00 pm) is the deadline for nominations. The winner will be announced on May 26, 2014.

Date of Lecture & Award Presentation: Monday, June 16, 2014 in room 2172 MSB is when the BD Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture, and prize presentation will take place.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Toronto Human Immunology Network presents:

PANEL DISCUSSIONS IN HUMAN IMMUNOLOGY

Bertus Eksteen, FRCP, PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Calgary Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases
Health Research and Innovation Centre (HRIC)
Calgary, AB

www.ucalgary.ca/girg/membership/eksteenb

(Host: Dr. Ken Croitoru)

“Making sense of disease susceptibility genes and the clinical management of PSC/IBD.”

All Welcome

Monday, April 7, 2014 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Room 7231, Medical Sciences Building

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SPECIAL SEMINARS:

Satya Dandekar, PhD

Professor and Chair,
Medical Microbiology and Immunology,
School of Medicine, UC Davis
Davis, CA

<http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/medmicro/staff/dandekar.html>

(Host: Dr. Rupert Kaul)

“HIV pathogenesis at the interface of mucosal innate response and Microbiota.”

Wednesday, April 2, 2014
3:00 p.m.
Room 7231 Medical Sciences Building
University of Toronto

Elizabeth Blankenhorn, PhD

Professor,
Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Drexel University College of Medicine
Philadelphia, PA

(Host: Dr. Philippe Poussier)

“Dissecting the Genetic Architecture of Type 1 Diabetes with Rat Zinc Finger Knockouts.”

Tuesday, April 22, 2014
11:00 a.m.
Room 4171 Medical Sciences Building
University of Toronto

CONGRATULATIONS

PhD

Samia Afzal (Mak Lab) February 28, 2014

DEADLINES/REMINDERS

March 2014: 2nd year students who are going forward with their Reclassification / Qualifying Exams

Your reclassification/qualifying exam must be completed by **June 2014** at the latest. At this point you should have a draft of your proposal ready to hand off to your committee, and should have a provisional date for your reclass/qualifying exam (this date must be agreed upon by the members of your committee). Please let Kate Sedore (graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca) know the provisional date for your exam **by Friday March 28th**.

April 1, 2014: OGS internal deadline

<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Ontario-Graduate-Scholarship.aspx>

IGSA

Hello Immunologists!

Welcome to spring (sort of?)! We want to extend an invitation to all senior year PhD students, Post Docs, and professors to present their work at the upcoming Immunology Retreat in June. Preference will be given to those who have not presented in the last 2 years at the retreat, but everyone is welcome to indicate their interest in presenting. If you would like to showcase your work, send Kieran an e-mail (kieran.manion@mail.utoronto.ca) to let her know you're interested. Recruitment will be open until the end of April.

Our next event is the Billiards Tournament coming up on April 2, 2014. If you're interested in registering a team, you must register by Monday March 31 at 11:59pm, registration can be found at <http://goo.gl/MWIEoS>

If you're interested in attending but don't want to compete, there will be open tables during the evening for free play. Location is currently TBA but we will keep you posted!

-- IGSA

IMMSA

2014-2014 IMMSA In-Course Scholarship Recipients

Dear students,

IMMSA has the great pleasure of sharing with you the recipients of the IMMSA In-Course Scholarship program, which distributes a total of \$1,000 to the students of our community who have achieved academic excellence. Our awards focus on the academic achievements of specialist, major, and minor students, emphasizing the achievements from IMM-entitled courses.

It is our hope that our awards program, in addition to recognizing the exceptional work of our students, also inspires all members of the community to continue their hard-work. In that spirit, we are proud to present the students we have recognized this year. In addition, IMMSA would like to thank all the students applied this year and congratulate on their achievements as well.

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4th-year Recipients:

Anna Zakharova (Specialist)
Kaveh Farrokhi (Major)
Kun Shen (Major)

3rd-year Recipients:

River Jiang (Specialist)
Angela Han (Major)
Maya Deeb (Major)

2nd-year Recipient:

Melissa Ge (Specialist)

Please join us in celebrating the work of these exemplary students.

Best wishes and warm regards,

Heng Sun & Lucy Chau

Co-Presidents, Immunology Students' Association - IMMSA

Call for Abstracts ---



Dear Students,

Are you conducting clinical or basic research relevant to the field of immunology? Interested in presenting your findings in a cross-provincial competition with over \$1000 in cash prizes? Participate in the 6th annual Ontario-Québec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC) today!

OQUIC is a cross-provincial, 2-day symposium of undergraduate immunology research. Students throughout Ontario and Québec are hosted at the University of Toronto and allowed to present their research findings through a competitive oral presentation. In addition to students from the University of Toronto, former OQUIC participants include students of Western University, McGill University, Waterloo University, Queen's University, McMaster University, and Université de Montréal.

OQUIC is completely free of charge for attendees and participants from outside of Toronto may be eligible for additional awards to cover their travel and lodgings. OQUIC's 2-day schedule includes competitive presentations, keynote presentations from world class immunology researchers, networking opportunities, and social mixers. Apply today to secure your spot in the competition! <http://immsauoft.com> and <http://facebook.com/IMMSA.UofT>

The 6th annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference

Date of Conference: Friday, May 9th, 2014 to Saturday, May 10th, 2014

Location: Bahen Centre, University of Toronto

Encouraged Applicants: Undergraduate students in an accredited university in Ontario or Quebec

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Relevant Areas of Research: Adaptive and Innate Immunity, Immunodeficiency, Infectious Disease, Auto-immunity, Immuno-therapy, Cancer, Transplantation, Cellular and Molecular Immunology, and more!

Application Deadline: 5:00pm at Friday, April 11, 2014 (**Abstracts are accepted on a rolling basis**)

Application Form: <http://bit.ly/1oXVi26>

Best Regards,

Lucy Chau & Heng Sun

Immunology Students Association (IMMSA) Co-Presidents

<http://immsauoft.com> | [@IMMSA_UofT](https://twitter.com/IMMSA_UofT) | <http://facebook.com/IMMSA.UofT>

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (February 2014) ⁽¹⁻⁵⁾

1. Bello, A. M., L. Wei, B. Majchrzak-Kita, N. Salum, M. K. Purohit, E. N. Fish, and L. P. Kotra. 2014. Small molecule mimetics of an interferon-alpha receptor interacting domain. *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry* 22:978-985.
2. Cullis, J., D. Meiri, M. J. Sandi, N. Radulovich, O. A. Kent, M. Medrano, D. Mokady, J. Normand, J. Larose, R. Marcotte, C. B. Marshall, M. Ikura, T. Ketela, J. Moffat, B. G. Neel, A.-C. Gingras, M.-S. Tsao, and R. Rottapel. 2014. The RhoGEF GEF-H1 Is Required for Oncogenic RAS Signaling via KSR-1. *Cancer Cell* 25:181-195.
3. Lind, E. F., and P. S. Ohashi. 2014. Mir-155, a central modulator of T-cell responses. *European Journal of Immunology* 44:11-15.
4. Liu, Z., F. Lebrin, J. A. Maring, S. van den Driesche, S. van der Brink, M. van Dinther, M. Thorikay, S. Martin, K. Kobayashi, L. J. A. C. Hawinkels, L. A. van Meeteren, E. Pardali, J. Korving, M. Letarte, H. M. Arthur, C. Theuer, M.-J. Goumans, C. Mummery, and P. ten Dijke. 2014. ENDOGLIN Is Dispensable for Vasculogenesis, but Required for Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor-Induced Angiogenesis. *Plos One* 9.
5. Mukherjee, S., A. J. Rasky, P. A. Lundy, N. A. Kittan, S. L. Kunkel, I. P. Maillard, P. E. Kowalski, P. C. Kousis, C. J. Guidos, and N. W. Lukacs. 2014. STAT5-Induced Lunatic Fringe during Th2 Development Alters Delta-like 4-Mediated Th2 Cytokine Production in Respiratory Syncytial Virus-Exacerbated Airway Allergic Disease. *Journal of Immunology* 192:996-1003.

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