

# Department of Immunology

## Newsletter

image provided by Crista Mason

VOL III – ISSUE 1

September 2014

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

Welcome to **Volume III** of the *Department of Immunology Newsletter*. Since its start in the Fall of 2012, the monthly Newsletter has provided us with an additional tool with which to communicate upcoming events within our Department – such as our Easton, special and graduate seminars, and student sponsored events – and to highlight special achievements from our trainees and faculty. The Newsletter also serves as a platform for sharing departmental initiatives and showcasing recent publications from our Department.

I am delighted to welcome our new Immunology graduate students - listed below. The Graduate Committee, as usual, did an excellent job in selecting an outstanding incoming class. An update from the Graduate Committee, I am happy to report that *Prof. Jan Jongstra* has agreed to join this important committee of the department.

As you will see below, the Immunology Graduate Student Association (IGSA) has a new leadership, and I am delighted to welcome *Sintia Xhiku* and *Simon Eng* as the new co-presidents. I would like to thank the outgoing IGSA co-presidents *Kieran Manion* and *Darrin Gao* for their extraordinary work and leadership during the past academic year.

Speaking of graduate students, do not forget to attend the student seminars, held Mondays 10:00 am, hope to see you all there. Upcoming seminars are conveniently listed on the right.

### **UPCOMING SEMINARS**

#### **EASTON SEMINARS –**

**October 2014**

**Room 2170 MSB at 11:10 a.m.**

#### **October 06, 2014**

- Brian K. Coombes, PhD

*"Genomics-guided discovery of bacterial immune subversion."*

(Host: Dr. Dana Philpott)

#### **October 13, 2014**

Thanksgiving – No Seminar

#### **October 20, 2014**

- Sylvie Lesage, PhD

*"How CD4-CD8- T cells prevent autoimmune Diabetes."*

(Host: Dr. Cynthia Guidos)

#### **October 27, 2014**

- Dennis L. Kasper, MD

*"Insights into the complexity of immune system modulation by the micro biome."*

(Host: Dr. Thierry Mallevaey)

#### **GRADUATE SEMINARS –**

**October 2014**

**Room 2173 MSB at 10:00 a.m.**

#### **October 06, 2014**

- Kieran Manion (Supervisor: J. Wither)
- Sabrin Mishel (Supervisor: J. Danska)

#### **October 13, 2014**

Thanksgiving - No Seminar

#### **October 20, 2014**

- Derek Clouthier (Supervisor: T. Watts)
- Mayra Cruz Tleugabulova (Supervisor: T. Mallevaey)

#### **October 27, 2014 \*\*10:30 AM START\*\***

- Heather MacGregor (Supervisor: P. Ohashi)

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*image provided by Crista Mason*

A warm welcome to our new undergraduate project students, also listed below. It is wonderful to have such a thriving undergraduate research project cohort. Of note, the Undergraduate Immunology Student Association (IMMSA) will be having a welcome back lunch event this Thursday September 18<sup>th</sup> in the JCR of Trinity College from noon to 2:00 pm.

The Department's Strategic Plan is now in the implementation phase, and I am happy to report that we have nearly finalized the creation of a new M.Sc. degree in Applied Immunology; the recruitment of new a tenure-stream faculty member is underway; and, very shortly, we will be recruiting a new Research Projects Officer for the Department of Immunology.

Keeping with the new initiatives, please note that the Department of Immunology will have its next faculty meeting and mini-retreat on Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:00 am. A reminder to all faculty members of the Department of Immunology will be sent shortly.

As we move forward with the plan, I feel that this academic year will be an important one for the future of the Department of Immunology, and as we think about the future, it is also important to reflect upon our past achievements and contributions from members of our community. With this in mind, I would like to remind you that this year marks the Department of Immunology's 30th Anniversary, and we will be celebrating this milestone with an afternoon symposium and dinner on November 14, 2014.

Best wishes to all for a productive and exciting 2014-2015 academic year.

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## WELCOME

### FACULTY

- Dr. Jean-Philippe Julien, Assistant Professor, Hospital for Sick Children
- Dr. Caroline Dunk, Lecturer, Mt. Sinai Hospital

### STAFF

- Kyla Wiscombe, Graduate Assistant

### POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW

- Juliana Rocha

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### WELCOME

#### GRADUATE STUDENTS

- Mark Anczurowski
- Yu-han Chang
- Lindsay Cho
- Kuan Lun Chu
- Maria Edilova
- Mahmoud El-Maklizi
- Kaveh Farrokhi
- Alicia Fisch
- Elisabeth Foerster
- James Seong Jun Han
- Mu Hsuan Ho
- Kamy Kommaraju
- Lysa Llangevin
- Blair MacDonald
- Ndoja Silvio
- Sofia Oke
- Rodney Rousseau
- Mengyao Shi
- Kelly Tai
- Milica Tanic
- Yu Chen Yao
- Kogulan Yoganathan
- Minsoo Yoon
- Tiantian Zhao

#### IMM450Y STUDENTS

- Haixin Bi
- Eric Cao
- Audrey Chen
- Rodrigo Lima Dos Santos
- Sophie Dyzenhaus
- Najmeh Edraki
- Alexey Gurevich
- Hsiao-Han Huang
- Zarah Khan
- Adam Komorowski
- Yee Tung Leslie Leung
- Bonnie Lewis
- Cedric Li
- Hooi Fang Lim
- Tyler Liukkonen
- Cheyenne Matinnia
- Albert Nguyen
- Diane Nhieu
- Sajuran Pushpanathan
- Zoya Qaiyum
- Anuisa Ranjan
- Brandon Sit
- Chung-Hsi Wang
- Kelly Wong
- Qi Yang
- Yujing Zou

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### CONGRATULATIONS

#### PhD Exam

Thiru Selvanantham (Mallevaey & Philpott labs) – June 11, 2014

Natalia Pikor (Gommerman lab) – June 19, 2014

Dennis Ng (Gommerman lab) – July 7, 2014

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### CONGRATULATIONS

#### MSc Exam

Jaehun Ma (Carlyle lab) – June 19, 2014

Christopher Yau (Danska lab) – June 25, 2014

Brian Hershenfield (Mak lab) – August 27, 2014

#### Reclassification / Qualifying Exams

Charles Maisonneuve (Philpott lab) – June 2, 2014

Tian Sun (Gommerman & Philpott labs) – June 2, 2014

Justen Hoffman Russell (MacDonald lab) – June 3, 2014

Marion Parsons (Ehrhardt lab) – June 11, 2014

Justin Tze Ho Chan (Ehrhardt lab) – June 12, 2014

Jong Bok Lee (Zhang lab) – June 12, 2014

Catia Perciani (MacDonald lab) – June 13, 2014

Angela Zhou (Watts lab) – June 13, 2014

Michael St. Paul (Ohashi lab) – June 27, 2014

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### IGSA

Welcome back, Immunologists!

A new year is upon us, and that means a new IGSA takes the helm! We are the Immunology Graduate Students Association, and we are here to provide you with resources and events to connect you with your fellow immunologists and beyond.

First off, thank you for joining us at the orientation pub earlier this month and making it an incredible event. What a way to introduce the first years to the department!

We have several new initiatives in terms of how we communicate with you this year.

Follow us on Twitter (@IGSAuoft), on Facebook (the Immunology Graduate Students Association group), and check out our website (<http://igsa.sa.utoronto.ca>), soon to be completely revamped!

We are also revamping Blackboard Immunology (BBI) this year, tailoring it so that it is more focused on topics relevant to you in your journey through grad school.

For you first years, keep an eye out for a first-year event – to be announced soon!

We have a slate of events planned for October that you will hear about them over the next few weeks!

All of us on IGSA are looking forward to this year – we hope that you are too!

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### 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 thrive 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 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 3 GPS credits* for their involvement. Learn more here:

<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Professional-Development.aspx>

**What do our volunteers do?** Throughout the year, our volunteers partake in a variety of outreach activities, including *Immunology Day*, *StemCellTalks Symposium*, the *Let's Talk 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](mailto:lts.grad@utoronto.ca) if you have any questions or comments.



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### PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (June-August 2014)

(1-20)

1. Akram, A., A. Lin, E. Gracey, C. J. Streutker, and R. D. Inman. 2014. HLA-B27, but Not HLA-B7, Immunodominance to Influenza Is ERAP Dependent. *Journal of Immunology* 192: 5520-5528.
2. Ardelean, D. S., M. Yin, M. Jerkic, M. Peter, B. Ngan, R. S. Kerbel, F. S. Foster, and M. Letarte. 2014. Anti-VEGF therapy reduces intestinal inflammation in Endoglin heterozygous mice subjected to experimental colitis. *Angiogenesis* 17: 641-659.
3. Belcheva, A., T. Irrazabal, S. J. Robertson, C. Streutker, H. Maughan, S. Rubino, E. H. Moriyama, J. K. Copeland, S. Kumar, B. Green, K. Geddes, R. C. Pezo, W. W. Navarre, M. Milosevic, B. C. Wilson, S. E. Girardin, T. M. S. Wolever, W. Edelmann, D. S. Guttman, D. J. Philpott, and A. Martin. 2014. Gut microbial metabolism drives transformation of MSH2-deficient colon epithelial cells. *Cell* 158: 288-299.
4. Braun, J., X. Baraliakos, K.-G. A. Hermann, A. Deodhar, D. van der Heijde, R. Inman, A. Beutler, Y. Zhou, S. Xu, and B. Hsu. 2014. The effect of two golimumab doses on radiographic progression in ankylosing spondylitis: results through 4 years of the GO-RAISE trial. *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases* 73: 1107-1113.
5. Chen, P., and M. G. Jeschke. 2014. WHAT'S NEW IN SHOCK, AUGUST 2014? *Shock* 42: 83-85.
6. Dunne, J. L., E. W. Triplett, D. Gevers, R. Xavier, R. Insel, J. Danska, and M. A. Atkinson. 2014. The intestinal microbiome in type 1 diabetes. *Clinical and Experimental Immunology* 177: 30-37.
7. Figueiredo, C. A., P. C. Drohomyrecky, S. D. S. McCarthy, D. Leontyev, X.-Z. Ma, D. R. Branch, and S. E. Dunn. 2014. Optimal Attenuation of Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis by Intravenous Immunoglobulin Requires an Intact Interleukin-11 Receptor. *Plos One* 9.
8. Hawkshaw, C., J. A. Scott, C. W. Chow, and E. N. Fish. 2014. LAPCs contribute to the pathogenesis of allergen-induced allergic airway inflammation in mice. *Allergy* 69: 924-935.

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9. Johnson, R. M., E. Papp, I. Grandal, P. E. Kowalski, L. Nutter, R. C. C. Wong, A. M. Joseph-George, J. S. Danska, and C. J. Guidos. 2014. MuLV-related endogenous retroviral elements and F1t3 participate in aberrant end-joining events that promote B-cell leukemogenesis. *Genes & Development* 28: 1179-1190.
10. Kroczyńska, B., S. Mehrotra, B. Majchrzak-Kita, A. D. Arslan, J. K. Altman, B. L. Stein, B. McMahon, P. Kozłowski, P. J. Kahle, E. A. Eklund, E. N. Fish, and L. C. Plataniias. 2014. Regulatory effects of SKAR in interferon alpha signaling and its role in the generation of type I IFN responses. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 111: 11377-11382.
11. Maisonneuve, C., S. Bertholet, D. J. Philpott, and E. De Gregorio. 2014. Unleashing the potential of NOD- and Toll-like agonists as vaccine adjuvants. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 111: 12294-12299.
12. Masoodi, M., E. Lee, M. Eiden, A. Bahlo, Y. Shi, R. B. Ceddia, C. Baccei, P. Prasit, and D. E. Spaner. 2014. A role for oleoylethanolamide in chronic lymphocytic leukemia. *Leukemia* 28: 1381-1387.
13. Mbanwi, A. N., and T. H. Watts. 2014. Costimulatory TNFR family members in control of viral infection: Outstanding questions. *Seminars in Immunology* 26: 210-219.
14. Moroz, L. L., K. M. Kocot, M. R. Citarella, S. Dosung, T. P. Norekian, I. S. Povolotskaya, A. P. Grigorenko, C. Dailey, E. Berezikov, K. M. Buckley, A. Ptitsyn, D. Reshetov, K. Mukherjee, T. P. Moroz, Y. Bobkova, F. Yu, V. V. Kapitonov, J. Jurka, Y. V. Bobkov, J. J. Swore, D. O. Girardo, A. Fodor, F. Gusev, R. Sanford, R. Bruders, E. Kittler, C. E. Mills, J. P. Rast, R. Derelle, V. V. Solovyev, F. A. Kondrashov, B. J. Swalla, J. V. Sweedler, E. I. Rogaev, K. M. Halanych, and A. B. Kohn. 2014. The ctenophore genome and the evolutionary origins of neural systems. *Nature* 510: 109-114.
15. Parish, I. A., H. D. Marshall, M. M. Staron, P. A. Lang, A. Bruestle, J. H. Chen, W. Cui, Y.-C. Tsui, C. Perry, B. J. Laidlaw, P. S. Ohashi, C. T. Weaver, and S. M. Kaech. 2014. Chronic viral infection promotes sustained Th1-derived immunoregulatory IL-10 via BLIMP-1. *Journal of Clinical Investigation* 124: 3455-3468.

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16. Shannon, B., T. J. Yi, J. Thomas-Pavanel, L. Chieza, P. Janakiram, M. Saunders, W. Tharao, S. Huibner, R. Remis, A. Rebbapragada, and R. Kaul. 2014. Impact of Asymptomatic Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 Infection on Mucosal Homing and Immune Cell Subsets in the Blood and Female Genital Tract. *Journal of Immunology* 192: 5074-5082.
17. Soares, F., I. Tattoli, M. A. Rahman, S. J. Robertson, A. Belcheva, D. Liu, C. Streutker, S. Winer, D. A. Winer, A. Martin, D. J. Philpott, D. Arnoult, and S. E. Girardin. 2014. The Mitochondrial Protein NLRX1 Controls the Balance between Extrinsic and Intrinsic Apoptosis. *Journal of Biological Chemistry* 289: 19317-19330.
18. Soh, C.-L., A. Giudice, R. A. Jenny, D. A. Elliott, T. Hatzistavrou, S. J. Micallef, K. Kianizad, N. Seach, J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker, A. P. Chidgey, A. Trounson, S. K. Nilsson, D. N. Haylock, R. L. Boyd, A. G. Elefanty, and E. G. Stanley. 2014. FOXN1(GFP/w) Reporter hESCs Enable Identification of Integrin-beta 4, HLA-DR, and EpCAM as Markers of Human PSC-Derived FOXNI (+) Thymic Epithelial Progenitors. *Stem Cell Reports* 2: 925-937.
19. Stanojic, M., E. Bogdanovic, and M. G. Jeschke. 2014. Aberrations in immune and hormonal expression in burn and er stressed mice. *Shock* 41: 58-58.
20. Stanojic, M., P. Chen, R. A. Harrison, V. Wang, J. Antonyshyn, J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker, and M. G. Jeschke. 2014. Leukocyte Infiltration and Activation of the NLRP3 Inflammasome in White Adipose Tissue Following Thermal Injury. *Critical Care Medicine* 42: 1357-1364.

*We'd like to hear from you!*  
*Comments or Questions – Please contact:*  
[Immunology.newsletter@utoronto.ca](mailto:Immunology.newsletter@utoronto.ca)