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

Members of the Department of Immunology can always count on a fabulous end-of-year Immunology Holiday party, and I would like to thank Maria Edilova (Watts lab), Mark Gower (Guidos Lab) and many IGSA members for organizing a truly fantastic event. During the evening festivities, which were kicked off by our MC Rupert Kaul, several of our students were recognized for their achievements, including: Cat Schrankel, (Rast lab) with the Hardi Cinader Prize, Oscar Aguilar (Carlyle lab) with the Richard G. Miller Award, Angela Zhou (Watts lab) with the Immunology Outreach Award, and Abraham Ogbaslase with the Undergraduate Immunology Prize.

The Department’s Graduate Coordinator, Jen Gommerman, highlighted all of our students that graduated in 2016, and recognized faculty members who have served on graduate exams: tied for 2nd place Michele Anderson and Dana Philpott, and 1st place Tania Watts. The centerpiece competition winners were from the Zúñiga-Pflücker lab. Finally, the main event of the evening was again this year’s Immunology Fashion show, MC-ed by Michael Julius, in which members from the Danska/Guidos labs won with Roman-inspired outfits, meticulously created from lab materials. Congratulations to all the winners. The evening also included some remarkable performances by our Immunology graduate student choir, and Naoto Hirano’s spectacular violin finale.

Lastly, I want to wish all in the Department a happy holiday season and best wishes for a productive and eventful 2017.

CONGRATULATIONS

**MSc in Applied Immunology**
Zoya Qaiyum (Inman lab)
Kelly Wong (Zúñiga-Pflücker lab)

**MSc in Fundamental Immunology**
Selena Cen (Paige lab)

**UPCOMING SEMINARS**

**EASTON SEMINARS**

January 2017
Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.
Monday January 2nd, 2017
No Easton Seminar

Monday January 9th, 2017
Mark Shlomchik, Ph.D.
"Germinal Center and Memory B Cells"
(Host: Dr. Tracy McGaha)

Monday January 16th, 2017
Russell Vance, Ph.D.
"Strategies for Innate Immune Surveillance of Bacterial Pathogens"
(Host: Dr. Dana Philpott)

Monday January 23rd, 2017
Gary Kobinger, Ph.D.
"TBA"
(Host: Dr. Eleanor Fish)

Monday January 30th, 2017
Stephen Girardin, Ph.D.
"How cellular stress pathways control innate immunity to bacterial pathogens"
(Host: Dr. Clint Robbins)

**HUMAN IMM PANEL DISCUSSION**

Room 7231 MSB at 5:00 p.m.
Monday January 9th, 2017
Mark Shlomchik, Ph.D.
(Host: Tania Watts)
Beyond Sciences Initiative (BSI): Website Update
The Beyond Sciences Initiative (BSI) is a not-for-profit consortium comprised predominantly of scholars from academic institutions around the globe. BSI provides a platform for dialogue and outreach to local and global communities, with a focus on mentorship. Cognizant of the value of the bidirectional partnership, a major objective is to promote cultural understanding and academic and personal growth. BSI website has been updated recently and has additional features - including a course repository (free!). Please see the following link for more information: http://www.beyonddsciences.org

GEMINI Study – Healthy South Asian Participants Needed!
Are you South Asian or do you have any South Asian friends? GEMINI Study is looking for healthy South Asians to participate in a paid research study to understand the impact of global migration on health and diseases. For more information visit our website and check out our study videos (www.geministudy.ca). For a couple hours of your time, you may be compensated up to $75!

DEADLINES/REMINDERS

Graduate Admissions
The early application deadline for all graduate programs in Immunology is January 13, 2017. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply by the early deadline.

Students currently taking IMM450 and interested in the Advanced Standing option for the MSC in Applied Immunology are encouraged to apply.

The final deadline for September 2017 starts is May 1, 2017.

Call for Supervisors
Faculty interested in taking on new graduate students in 2017-18 are asked to email graduate.immunology@utoronto.ca

STUDENT SEMINARS
January 2017
Room 4171 MSB at 10:00 a.m.
Monday January 2nd, 2017
No Student Seminars
Monday January 9th, 2017
An Qi Xu (Supervisor: J. Danska)
Xinyan Wang (Supervisor: M. Ostrowski)
Monday January 16th, 2017
Kuan-Chung Wang (Supervisor: T. Watts)
Chung-Hsi Wang (Supervisor: N. Hirano)
Monday January 23rd, 2017
Juan Mauricio Umana (Supervisor: T. Mallevaey)
Jie Li Shen (Supervisor: J. Danska)
Monday January 30th, 2017
Sridhar Kandala (Supervisor: T. McGaha)
Albert Nguyen (Supervisor: J. Gommerman)
**FEATURED CAMPUS RESOURCE**

**The all-new SGS!**

The School of Graduate Studies has renovated its space at 63 St. George Street, now featuring state-of-the-art oral exam rooms, a gender-neutral washroom, and a first-floor student lounge exclusively for graduate students. This is a great space for study sessions, casual meetings, or just lounging. Check it out!

Most SGS services are available at 63 St. George including Student Academic Services, Graduate Awards Office, Doctoral Exams Office and Master’s Thesis Submission & Graduation Office, Financial Counselling, Admissions & International Student Support and Postdoctoral Fellows Office.

The Office of English Language and Writing Support (ELWS) and Graduate Professional Skills (GPS) will remain at 704 Spadina for the time being, enjoying expanded facilities for programming, consultation services, and meetings until moving to a new home.

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**IMMSA**

Hello everyone,

We hope everyone has had a wonderful Fall Semester, and a huge thank you to everyone who participated in our events this term! The main event for December was our apparel sales, where we sold Immunology swag such as t-shirts and hoodies. We are busy preparing for our events next semester, including more academic seminars, pub nights, and OQUIC!

Good luck to all IMM undergrads for their exams, and we hope to see you at our events in January! Please feel free to contact us at immsa.immunology@gmail.com for any questions, comments, or concerns.

Regards,

Natalie Hoffmann & Conan Chua
Immunology Students Association (IMMSA) Co-Presidents 2016-17
http://immsauoft.com | @IMMSA_UofT | http://facebook.com/IMMSA.UofT
Despite a cold, snowy December the likes of which we have not seen in a couple years, things heated up at the Department Christmas Party! IGSA would like to thank everyone who came out to the event this year and we hope that everyone had a wonderful time. It’s hard to believe that they wouldn’t, with the superb centrepieces welcoming everyone at the entrance and the excellent entertainment that took place in the hall itself. This year JC’s lab took the centrepiece prize with their hilarious rendition of Lego-Batman saves Christmas. The Fashion Show continued to dazzle this year, with three great competing labs but as it is in the arena, only one gladiator can be triumphant. This year the Danska/Guidos lab took the fashion show title with their re-enactment of Empress Commodus and gladiator Maximus’ final battle. Thanks to everyone who submitted costumes and centrepieces this year!

Second to none were the musical performances put on by Naoto Hirano, who stunned the crowd with his electric violin solo, Payam, who transfixed us on his Sitar, and finally, the choir who livened the night with some pop-remixes and Christmas tunes. The choir would like to extend thanks to Jen Gommerman who joined for Jingle Bell Rock!

Congratulations to Angela Zhou who took the Immunology Outreach Award for her tireless work inside and outside the department. Also taking center stage were Dennis Lee and Nyrie Israeliian who were the Immunology Sports People of the year, thanks in no small part to their invaluable service in securing Immunology the victory at the Imm-Biochem Fall Classic.

Overall, it was a great party that could not have been possible without the help of faculty, students or the staff in the Immunology main office! We would like to especially thank all of team IGSA who helped prepare for the party these past weeks and helped us run the event the night of- we could not of done it without you guys!

Happy Holidays,

Mark & Maria
IGSA Co-presidents


