

Department of Immunology

Newsletter

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May 2016

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

Over the weekend of May 7-8, the Undergraduate Immunology Student Association (IMMSA) hosted the 8th annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC). I want to congratulate the outgoing IMMSA co-presidents, **Andrea Macikunas** and **Vivian Tia**, and the fabulous IMMSA executive council for their phenomenal organizational work in delivering a very successful event, which featured keynote talks from Profs. **Connie Krawczyk** (McGill) and **Michael Julius**.

Additionally, during the OQUIC event, I had the pleasure of presenting the 3rd annual *Immunology Undergraduate Service Award* to **Vivian Tia**, IMMSA's co-president. This departmental award meant to recognize outstanding contributions to the department by an academically accomplished undergraduate student.

The Department of Immunology received a generous endowed gift targeted for the creation of a new award, "*The Immunology Undergraduate Prize*", to be given to a student with the best academic standing in both IMM340/1 and IMM350/1 third year immunology courses. I am pleased to announce that the winner is **Abraham Ogbaslase**. Congratulations to Abraham, who will be presented with this award at the Department of Immunology Winter Retreat, to be held on December 09, 2016, at the Hart House (& yes, do mark your calendars for the social event of the year).


A final exciting note, I am delighted to announce that the winner of the 4th Annual *BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize* is Dr. **Ali A. Sater** (Watts lab), and as noted on the right margin, the BD-BIPDLP will take place on Monday June 20th, same time & place as the Easton Seminars. Congratulations to Ali, and we look forward to an exciting talk, just ahead of the upcoming Department of Immunology Summer Retreat (June 21-22), see below for more details from the IGSA organizers.

If you are looking for some summer reading, how about cracking open the newly published *Encyclopedia of Immunobiology*, this 5 Volume treasure was assembled by our very own **Michael Ratcliffe**, with contributions from many UofT Immunology colleagues. Congratulations to Mike, and you can read more about the enormous task of putting this encyclopedia together [here](#).

Lastly, please join me in giving a warm welcome to our second cohort of graduate students enrolled in our M.Sc. degree in Applied Immunology.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

June 2016

BD-Biosciences Immunology Post- Doctoral Seminar with Dr. Ali A. Sater

Monday June 20th, 2016

Room 2172 MSB at 11:10 a.m.

"A new function for TRAF1 in regulation of TLR signaling underlies the role of TRAF1 in rheumatic disease "

(Host: Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker)

Special Seminar with Dr. Jamie Rossjohn

Friday June 24th, 2016

Room FG 103 at 11:00 a.m.

"Immune sensing of vitamin B metabolites "

(Host: Dr Thierry Mallevaey)



Welcome

Applied MSc Immunology Program

Evelyn Lam
Charles Lau

Congratulations

3rd Annual Immunology Undergraduate Service Award

Vivian Tia

The Immunology Undergraduate Prize

Abraham Ogbaslase

4th Annual BD-Biosciences Immunology Post-Doctoral Lecture Prize

Dr. Ali A. Sater (Watts lab)

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

Reclass/Qualifying exam season is well underway! Students are reminded to ensure your examiners receive your proposal **no later than two weeks before your exam**. A big “thanks!” to all those faculty who are participating in exams this year. Some exams are still being scheduled, so please keep your eyes peeled for emails from the Graduate Assistant.

Graduate Admissions

The final admissions deadline for September 2016 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

Summer's here but Hart House has still got you covered with awesome events like the [Annual Bike Month Breakfast](#) and the [Midsummer's Eve at Hart House Farm](#). Find more info and events at <http://harthouse.ca/>!



IMMSA

Hello everyone,

IMMSA ran the 8th annual Ontario-Quebec Undergraduate Immunology Conference (OQUIC) on May 7th-May 8th. This year we had a total of 21 undergraduate students present their amazing research. Students came all the way from McGill University, McMaster University, and of course many of our own from the University of Toronto participated. It was a great weekend comprised of knowledge filled presentations and networking among student researchers.

In addition to the student presentations, we also had the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Connie Krawczyk, from McGill University, and Dr. Michael Julius, from UofT. They gave wonderful keynote talks that covered their scientific discoveries and their own personal journey in academia or industry. We hope these talks were able to inspire and motivate the young researchers present at our conference to continue pursuing research in the future.

The students were enthusiastic and greatly contributed to the discussions following each presentation. While the presentations were all very impressive, 3 winners had to be chosen with the help of our graduate student judges. The 3rd place award went to Jaclyn Law from UofT, second place went to Rassin Lababidi from McGill, and first place went to Claire Chiu from McGill.

OQUIC concludes our IMMSA activities for this school year. We want to thank the department for all their support and guidance this year. We also want to thank our hardworking IMMSA executive team for their help in making everything happen. We hope everyone has enjoyed the events we have hosted and we encourage you to come to more events in the future. IMMSA will be back next school year with a bright new council to provide as many amazing events as this year. Thank you!

Best wishes,

Andrea Macikunas & Vivian Tia

Immunology Students Association (IMMSA) Co-Presidents

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

IGSA

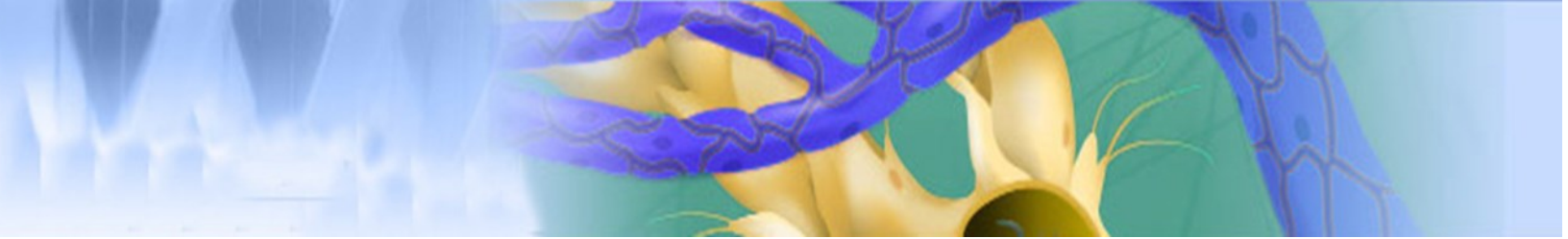
Dear Immunology Family,

The summer retreat at Geneva Park is approaching quickly! All attendees should have registered by the end of May. We look forward to seeing everyone there on June 21-22! We have a great line-up of talks including our one from our keynote speaker, Dr. Jason Cyster. This year we also have a number of new events including the case competition with a \$500 monetary prize to the winning team and the meet the vendors session. The tentative itinerary has been sent through the department email. Please remember to bring your outdoor gear in order to take part in the IMMstagram race! If there are any changes to your registration please email Dennis Lee (dsw.lee@mail.utoronto.ca).

We hope everyone had a blast at Billiards Night this month!

Sincerely,

IGSA



PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY (April 2016)

1. Blaser, H., C. Dostert, T. W. Mak, and D. Brenner. 2016. TNF and ROS Crosstalk in Inflammation. *Trends in Cell Biology* 26: 249-261.
2. Chamoto, K., T. Guo, O. Imataki, M. Tanaka, M. Nakatsugawa, T. Ochi, Y. Yamashita, A. M. Saito, T. I. Saito, M. O. Butler, and N. Hirano. 2016. CDR3 beta sequence motifs regulate autoreactivity of human invariant MKT cell receptors. *Journal of Autoimmunity* 68: 39-51.
3. Hofer, J., F. Forster, D. E. Isenman, M. Wahrmann, J. Leitner, M. A. Hoelzl, J. J. Kovarik, H. Stockinger, G. A. Boehmig, P. Steinberger, and G. J. Zlabinger. 2016. Ig-like transcript 4 as a cellular receptor for soluble complement fragment C4d. *Faseb Journal* 30: 1492-1503.
4. Li, S. K. H., and A. Martin. 2016. Mismatch Repair and Colon Cancer: Mechanisms and Therapies Explored. *Trends in Molecular Medicine* 22: 274-289.
5. MacParland, S. A., S. M. Fadel, V. Mihajlovic, A. Fawaz, C. Kim, A. K. M. N.-u. Rahman, J. Liu, R. Kaul, C. Kovacs, J. Grebely, G. J. Dore, D. K. Wong, and M. A. Ostrowski. 2016. HCV Specific IL-21 Producing T Cells but Not IL-17A Producing T Cells Are Associated with HCV Viral Control in HIV/HCV Coinfection. *Plos One* 11.
6. Norbury, W., D. N. Herndon, J. Tanksley, M. G. Jeschke, C. C. Finnerty, and I. Sci Study Comm Surgical. 2016. Infection in Burns. *Surgical Infections* 17: 250-255.
7. Russell, J. N. H., A. K. Marsh, D. O. Willer, A. P. N. Ambagala, M. Dzamba, J. K. Chan, R. Pilon, J. Fournier, M. Brudno, J. M. Antony, P. Sandstrom, B. J. Evans, and K. S. MacDonald. 2016. A novel strain of cynomolgus macaque cytomegalovirus: implications for host-virus co-evolution. *Bmc Genomics* 17.
8. Volpi, S., Y. Yasuhiro, P. Brauer, L. Du, A. Hayashida, E. van Rooijen, L. O. De Bruin, K. Felgentreff, E. Hagedorn, K. Capuder, A. Ohno, A. Boncompagni, M. Di Rocco, C. Rivolta, S. Giliani, L. Poliani, L. Imberti, K. Dobbs, F. Poulain, A. Martini, J. C. Zuniga-Pflucker, L. Zon, P. W. Park, A. Superti-Furga, and L. D. Notarangelo. 2016. EXOSTOSIN-LIKE GLYCOSYL TRANSFERASE 3 (EXTL3) GENE MUTATION CAUSES A NOVEL FORM OF IMMUNO-OSSEOUS DYSPLASIA AND UNVEILS A CRITICAL ROLE OF HEPATOCYTES IN BONE DEVELOPMENT.

We'd like to hear from you!
Comments or Questions – Please contact:
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