

# ASI NEWS

DECEMBER 2018

## WOMEN'S Initiative 2018 Wrap up **P12**

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## ASI2018 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

APPROXIMATELY 420 DELEGATES ATTENDED THE ASI2018 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING IN PERTH

# 19

#### 2017 JARED PURTON AWARD RECIPIENT

Dr Arabella Young, NHMRC CJ Martin Overseas Fellow

#### **CONTACT US**

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**AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY** 



#### **2019 INCOMING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

John Fraser



#### **MEET THE ICB EDITORIAL TEAM**

Anne La Flamme intoduces the new Editorial Board members



**KEYSTONE SYMPOSIA ON B CELLS, GERMANY** Imogen Moran

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** SUSANNE HEINZEL, OUT-GOING ASI president



This is my last newsletter column as ASI president. As I'm writing this, I've just returned from the ASI conference in Perth. And what a fabulous meeting that was.

The meeting was outstanding on every level, the organisers have done a brilliant job, the venue worked really well, the science was outstanding and I liked the mix of topics, and it was great to catch up with old friends and colleagues, meet new people and peers, learn new things and get new ideas. ASI meetings are about so much more than just hearing about the latest advances in Immunology and Connie and Scott and their team have really delivered a perfect environment for that.

Overall, what a year this has been. I'm very pleased to report that we have once again exceeded the magic number of 1000 members! This is due to no small part to our General Manager Tyani Chan and her tireless efforts working through our database and the renewal system that she inherited and an active membership drive. Around a quarter of our members are new to the society and this is a wonderful reassurance that ASI and our programs are received well in the community.

Our financial position allows us to investigate ways how we can better support our members. We have already doubled the amount of travel bursaries and international travel awards and hopefully this will allow most of our student members to obtain one of these during their postgraduate studies. For the Perth meeting we gave out 45 bursaries in total, >60% for students and >50% for postdocs. We have also created the travel award for women to attend to the annual meeting, which has become a successful scheme. For the first time we were supporting child care facilities at our annual meeting. While the uptake was relatively low, this is only the start and I hope this will only grow over time, when parents become more aware of the option to bring their children. A more detailed report on this 'ASI-Creche' will be in this (or the next) ASI newsletter. We have restructured our Special Interest Groups and have set aside funds for SIG events. The details on how the SIGs can apply for these funds are currently being

finalised.

But we need to look further how we can support the membership. Last year we set aside \$200k and asked membership for ideas. however this hasn't delivered many concrete plans or concepts. What has emerged though throughout the years is that members sometimes approach us with ideas that we would like to support but don't have an appropriate funding scheme for. I'm therefore very pleased to announce that we have created a 'special ideas fund' where members can apply for financial support for ideas and schemes that benefit our membership that are not covered elsewhere. The details are currently finalised and will be announced in the next few months.

I'm also very excited to announce that we will run the inaugural ASI advanced training course in

We have already doubled the amount of travel bursaries and international travel awards and hopefully this will allow most of our student members to obtain one of these during their postgraduate studies. June 2019 (if all goes to plan). The course will be held at the Illuka retreat, Red Hill, VIC (yes, that is amongst beautiful scenery and very near to some lovely wineries) will run over 3 nights and is aimed at ASI early career members (advanced PhD and Masters students and early career post-docs). The theme for the first course is 'Ageing and the immune system' and we will send out more details soon. Please spread the word and look out for the announcements.

Given our location and the current funding situation it is critical to build relationship with other societies. These collaborations generally greatly increase the potential to apply for funding, build CVs and often enhance research outputs. We have been approached by other societies in the past (i.e. from Brazil and Singapore) and have an existing ongoing program with the Germans via the DGfI-ASI workshop. We are investigating a session at the AAI meeting 2020 through our journals. The BSI is also very interested to build a joint program and I would highly encourage everybody to actively seek new interactions with other societies.

We have developed strong policies on gender equity for ASI supported events. The importance of having strong policies has become acutely obvious recently while I was involved in the selection of speakers at two international meetings. The resistance to 'give up' slots for male speakers is remarkable. Amongst many other comments I was met with remarks suggesting that the quality of the sessions / the event would be lowered if one adhered to the gender and / or regional diversity policy. There is still a lot of work ahead of us, but I believe that we are in an

excellent position to lead the way by ensuring that we are not only applying these policies to our own meetings, but to any event that is supported by ASI.

Overall I think we are in a very good shape and have some exciting new schemes and initiatives in place. Attending the Perth meeting really drove home to me once again what a great society the ASI is, I'm so proud of the culture and every single person in ASI, it is such an honour to be part of it.

Immunology in Aus and NZ is highly regarded throughout the world, our visitors from overseas love to come here and interact with the members of the society. Our annual meeting is viewed highly in the world and those speakers who come for the first time keep telling us how special (in a good way, they assure me) the meeting and our culture is. They love the collegiality and good humour, the quality of the science, the Burnet Oration and Foundation Lectures and the overall atmosphere. This is only possible through the fantastic people that make up our membership. Such culture doesn't just happen, it needs to be nurtured and I would like to thank all members of the society for contributing to this. So much work goes on in the background, from our branch councillors, the meeting organisers, the speakers, the debaters, the councillors running the Women's initiative, representing us at the international unions of IUIS and FIMSA, the newsletter editors and so many more.

Our branches play such an important role to the local membership. I was able to visit some branches at their branch retreats or other occasions. The enthusiasm of the branch committees to support their members (particularly students I was able to visit some branches at their branch retreats or other occasions. The enthusiasm of the branch committees to support their members (particularly students and early career members) is wonderful to see.

and early career members) is wonderful to see. Thanks to Connie Jackman, Ian Cockburn and Iain Comerford as outgoing branch councillors. All of you have led your respective branches brilliantly over the past 3 years.

I would also like to extend special thanks to our non-voting council. Firstly Vanessa Bryant, who really moved the Women's Initiative forward, Meredith O'Keeffe, who did a fantastic job advising the LOCs on the meetings and Laura MacKay, who did such a brilliant job on FIMSA council that she was recently elected FIMSA president! Congratulations to Laura! First female and I think also one of the youngest FIMSA presidents in FIMSA history!

I want to take this opportunity too to give my very special thanks to our outgoing treasurer Kim Jacobson. Kim became treasurer in 2016 before ICI. when we still didn't know how ICI would pan out. That was very brave of her. Kim has done a great job looking after our finances, she has always had a very measured and careful approach based on the situation and I always felt very reassured that our finances were in save hands with her. She was reluctant to spend money when we didn't know how much we'd have and has been committed to increase the support to our members once she knew that we could. Her goal was always the long term viability of ASI and our programs. This has helped to set up the path and structure for some long term initiatives that our members will

benefit from for many years to come. She's handing over our finances in a very sound state to the very capable hands of Asolina Braun.

So thanks Kim, it's been great working with you.

Last but not least a few personal words. When I took over as president in 2017 we had just made a lot of money and had never been in a better financial position, thanks to ICI and our journals. This was a great position to be in, but it came also with a lot of responsibility and there were a lot of expectations. Some might argue we could have spent more money here and now, but I hope we made the right decisions to lay a solid foundation for the future and to carefully consider the best schemes and programs to invest in our membership long term.

I think all presidents come in with big plans and ideas and I was no different. But some of those plans had to give way to the inevitable - getting bogged down in details and the simple day-to-day running of the society. Nonetheless I hope that the overall goal of expanding an inclusive society that looks after their members and provides as many opportunities to advance knowledge, science and careers and general opportunities for our members has not been lost completely. I took ASI over in great shape from Chris and I believe that I'm handing over to John in an equally good position. And I know it is in excellent hands with John. Thanks to all who helped me along the way.



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## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

ELISSA DEENICK, Honorary Secretary E: secretary@immunology.org.au

#### I'd like to add my thanks to Su's to all the outgoing members of council. Thanks for all the hard work you've put into the society, it's been great working with you for the last 3 years.

This meant we had a call several months ago for new council members. We had a great response to the call meaning we had elections for several positions - it was great to see so many of our members wanting to be actively involved in ASI.

The results are in and I'd like to welcome our incoming council members:

#### **Voting council**

- SA/NT branch councillor
  Damon Tumes
- ACT branch councillor - Anselm Enders
- WA branch councillor
   Bree Foley

#### Non voting council

- Meeting co-ordinator
  Antje Blumenthal
- Women's initiative co-ordinator
  Kylie Quinn
- IUIS rep Alejandro Lopez (reappointed)
- FIMSA rep Jo Groom

At the end of the year it's great

to look back and see all that we've been able to do. One of the things we've been able to do is to increase the awards that are available to our members to help support their careers. At mid-year council meeting we decided to double the funding for International Travel Awards and Travel bursaries for the annual meeting. The impact of this was already seen in Perth with over 40 students or postdocs receiving bursaries to help them attend the meeting.

This increase in funding also means we're increasing the number of Gordon Ada Senior awards we'll be giving next year and moving to two rounds of applications per year for these awards. Look out in the next Newsletter for a summary of all the awards that are available so you can make sure that you meet the deadlines and can benefit fully from the opportunities available.

One thing I will mention now is the introduction of the Margaret Baird - Women in Immunology Award.



#### MARGARET BAIRD - WOMEN IN IMMUNOLOGY AWARD -ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA

#### **Background:**

This award was established in 2018 in memory of Professor Margaret Baird, a New Zealand immunologist who passed away in 2016. Margaret was known for her work on dendritic cells, but also as a mentor and supporter of women in science. She prepared multiple reports and analyses on the status of women in academia and in science and was a role model for several generations of postgraduate students. Margaret's door was always open and her distinctive laugh lives



PROFESSOR MARGARET BAIRD (PHOTOGRAPH: SUSANNE HEINZEL)

long in the halls of the University of Otago. Margaret was an active member of ASI and was awarded the Derek Rowley Medal in 2013 for her service to the society.

#### **Purpose:**

The award will provide an earlymid career immunologist (and ASI member) with an advancement opportunity in teaching through the funding of a trans-Tasman lectureship. This lectureship will involve a series of guest lectures across New Zealand and Australia, focusing on the applicant's research, but also including perspectives on equity and balance in science careers. While not limited to female applicants,

While not limited to female applicants, all applicants will need to demonstrate a leadership role in supporting and mentoring women in immunology. all applicants will need to demonstrate a leadership role in supporting and mentoring women in immunology.

Margaret was known for her work on dendritic cells, but also as a mentor and supporter of women in science.

#### Award Value:

The value of the award is \$5000 to go towards trans-Tasman return airfares, accommodation, internal travel and transfers, dinners with hosts, and includes a \$500 personal award.

#### Criteria:

The awardee is expected to give at least 2 lectures in each of New Zealand and Australia (and not in the applicants home state or region). The visits and hosts are to be coordinated with branch councillors or their nominees, in much the same way as the current VSP programme. The lectures should be given within the calendar year following the receiving of the award. It is expected that the funds and recognition by the Society will make a major difference to the career advancement of the awardee. Selection of the awardee will be based on this criterion, with preference for outstanding individuals not already recognised by awards of this nature, taking into account the prior achievements relative to opportunity (CV), and evidence of their support and mentoring of women in immunology.

#### **Eligibility**:

Applicants must be current ASI members who were also financial members for at least the year prior to the year of application. Awardees are required to maintain their membership during the year the lectureship funded by the award is being undertaken.





The full financial report of ASI for the year ended 31st July 2018 can be accessed via the ASI member's portal on the society website. (www.immunology.org.au/financial-reports/)

Please note you must be logged in.

## 2019 INCOMING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

JOHN FRASER E: president@immunology.org.au

#### It is both an honour and privilege to begin my term as the new president of the Australia and New Zealand Society for Immunology. My first task is to warmly acknowledge Su Heinzel as the outgoing president.

Su's presidency has been marked by a number of positive initiatives such as the Advanced Training Course scheduled for June 2019. Congrats Su on an outstanding presidency! In the background the Society has a new management company Association Executive Services (AES) and General Manager Tyani Chan to ensure our back office runs smoothly and professionally.

ASI is in very good hands both financially and scientifically. As we end 2018, there has never been a better time to call oneself an immunologist. The impact that our science is making on clinical medicine is profound but we must be mindful that medical advances always begin with basic discovery. Funding agencies often demand direct sight of clinical relevance before agreeing to fund research, so it is now more important than ever that we think about how our research can and will make a difference.

Over the 30 years I've been a member of ASI, there have been many dramatic phases from the early days of TcR and MHC structure, to Th1/2 subsets, Treg, DCs, TLR and the inflammasome and now tumour immunotherapy - the progress has been breathtaking and many of our members have been involved in those discoveries. Most importantly ASI has and continues to be the important vehicle to connect

ASI has and continues to be the important vehicle to connect and collaborate with those at the heart of our science and to foster collaboration amongst our members. and collaborate with those at the heart of our science and to foster collaboration amongst our members. We are two countries at the bottom of the Pacific but ASI's purpose has always been to minimise that isolation through our superb annual conference and support for fellowships, travel and particularly supporting the young investigators looking to establish a research career – not the easiest thing to do!

You will note that we are no longer the Australasian Society for Immunology. The name has been officially changed to Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology but our internationally recognized acronym ASI will remain. This removes the confusing term Australasian - which was often shortened to Australian.

I look forward to serving you all over the next two years and would welcome suggestions on how we can further improve our society.

## **ASI2018 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

CONNIE JACKAMAN AND SCOTT FISHER, 2018 ASI Annual Meeting Organisers Perth, WA, December 2nd-6th 2018

## This year we saw approximately 420 delegates attending the ASI2018 annual scientific meeting in Perth, including a large contingency of students with the doubling of ASI travel bursaries.

Highlights of the conference included Ken Shortman's Foundation lecture (including "what not to do"), Franca Ronchese's inspirational Burnet Oration, Su Heinzel's fantastic President's lecture, as well as a dynamic scientific program with outstanding international and national speakers. Importantly, this was the first ASI annual scientific meeting to host childcare facilities onsite and I am sure this initiative will continue to build at future ASI meetings.

The social functions were incredibly well received and highlighted key locations around Perth; including the Welcome Reception at Elizabeth Quay and conference dinner at Beaumonde on the Point, Point Fraser. There were also many laughs with the Lafferty debate topic "Size Does Matter: Big Data is Best". The best limerick was won by Anne La Flamme along the themes of "Big Data", which went something like this\*:-

 \*disclaimer: this may not be exactly as performed by Anne, please contact Anne for further details.

The Lafferty debate was won by the opposition team (captain Helen McGuire, Kate Schroder and Phil Hodgkin) who just edged out the affirmative team (captain Tom Ashhurst, Claudine Bonder and Graham Le Gros). This may have been due to the late inclusion of a cameo appearance by Luke O'Neill with a guitar. Some called this cheating, but all's fair in love and war ..... and the Lafferty debate. Side note: for writing this meeting report I decided to take Tom/Claudine/Graham's advice and put the previous meeting reports (2013-2017) through the Harry Potter Botnik so that I could head to the beach. Botnik wrote that we had over 4000 delegates attend (pretty good), but Hermione Granger had won all the prizes and her family was eaten (not good......). I then decided to go back the drawing board and

#### The social functions were incredibly well received and highlighted key locations around Perth.



CHARIS TEH (LEFT) AND RHEA LONGLEY (RIGHT), WOMEN'S INITIATIVE AWARD RECIPIENTS

re-wrote this report 3 times. Each version looked relatively the same so it turns out n of 3 really is enough (thanks Kate/Phil/Helen).

Finally, a big thank you to all the sponsors as the event would not have been possible without their very generous support. Also big thanks to the local organising committee: Michaela Lucas, Chris Andoniou, Joost Lesterhuis, Delia Nelson, Iona Schuster, Jonatan Leffler, Caitlyn Tilsed, Lelinh Duong, Amy Prosser, Bree Foley, Niamh Troy, Demelza Ireland, Alistair Cook, Jeanne Edmands, Mark Agostino, Emma De Jong, Dino Tan. Senta Walton and Mel McCoy. A special thanks as well to key ASI central liaisons Su

Heinzel, Meredith O'Keeffe and Tyani Chan for all their help and advice; they were essentially extra members of our local organising committee! Finally, we are also very appreciative of the volunteer social media ambassadors, photographers and of course all the delegates for attending and making ASI2018 a great conference!

Some posts and images captured from twitter (thanks everyone!) are included and you can also check out at #ASI2018WA

Congratulations to all of the meeting-related prize winners:-

- Pharmaxis-ASI Travel Bursary: Elena Cavallaro
- ASI Travel Bursaries: Simone Nüssing, Thomas Ashhurst, Caitlin Abbott, Meg Donovan, Deborah Burnett, Tina Nguyen, Ruth Marian Guzman-Genuino. Luca Hensen, Rochelle Tixeira, Timona Tyllis, Minyu Wang, Karolina Bednarska, Sherly Mardiana, Bethany Pillay, Maria Auladell Bernat, Tamekha Develyn, Md. Al Amin Sikder, Milda Naciute, Kerrie Foyle, Juewan Kim, Anthony Lau, Etienne Masle-Farquhar, Isabella Kong, Pengcheng Zhou, Amanda Oliver, Elise Gressier, Emma Grant, Kirsteen McInnes

Tullett, Imogen Moran, Sarah Gabriel, Jason White, Tom Sidwell, Jessica Engel, Pirooz Zareie, Catarina Filipa dos-Santos Sá e Almeida, Marios Koutsakos, Simone Park, Jessica Tempany, Xavier Yi Xiong Sng, Julia Bier Nogueira

- ASI Women's Initiative Bursaries: Charis Teh, Rhea Longley, Carine Farenc, Hongyan An
- ASI Poster Award: Catriona Nguyen-Robertson
- ICB Poster Award: So Ri Jung
- CTI Poster Award: Madeline
  Massy-Westropp
- Overall ASI Poster Award: Sherly Mardiana
- ASI New Investigator Award (sponsored by Pfizer): Imogen Moran
- BD Science Communication Award: joint award to Amy Prosser and Catriona Nguyen-Robertson
- Amazing race winner: Katherine Goodall. Her "Perth-ect Experiment" was to perform a high throughput RNAseq to determine if WT (Perth) or Quokka KO (not Perth) people express higher "happy" genes.



LAFFERTY DEBATE, THE WINNERS WITH A SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE



BURNET ORATOR, FRANA RONCHESE



#### FOUNDATION LECTURE, KEN SHORTMAN



PRESIDENT'S LECTURE, SUSANNE HEINZEL

#### ASI NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

## WOMEN'S INITIATIVE 2018 WRAP-UP

VANESSA BRYANT, Outgoing Women's Initiative Coordinator



#### Gender equity and inclusion policy for speakers and session chairs at ASI events

Gender equality is achieved when people are able to access and enjoy the same rewards, resources and opportunities regardless of gender. To support ASI's commitment to gender equity, this year the Women's Initiative developed policy to ensure that the ASI is proactive in ensuring gender equity at annual meetings and symposia and meetings financially supported by ASI. This visible display of gender equity will contribute to an equal number of females and males being acknowledged for their achievements, provides opportunities for emerging research leaders and increases the diversity of role models for meeting attendees. Further, to support inclusiveness and diversity. ASI seeks to ensure that students, early career researchers and (senior) academics from all backgrounds are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the conference regardless of gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, disability, religion or age. For more information, see the Gender **Equity and Inclusion Policy** featured in this newsletter issue.

Congratulations to Connie Jackaman, Scott Fisher, Michaela Lucas and the Perth scientific program team (Chris Andoniou, Joost Lesterhuis, Delia Nelson and Iona Schuster) for putting together a diverse and stimulating program and for working so hard to provide on-site childcare for the first time at an ASI conference!

We are proud to report that at this year's meeting female speakers

ASI seeks to ensure that students, early career researchers and (senior) academics from all backgrounds are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the conference regardless of gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, disability, religion or age.



(LEFT TO RIGHT) DR RHEA LONGLEY (WEHI); DR CHARIS TEH (WEHI); DR CARINE FARENC (MONASH); DR HONGYAN AN (KIRBY INSTITUTE)

represented over 50% of plenary talks (9/16) and chairs (28/54) and the committee achieved equal representation among our Australian/NZ invited speakers.

Furthermore, the Perth organising committee showcased ASI's wealth of talent amongst our early career researchers in stimulating symposia and workshops sessions, the all-female BD Science Communication prize presentations and the high female representation in this year's outstanding New Investigator session. Supporting gender and career diversity in our program clearly supported great science!

#### Female speaker database

Our female speaker database continues to grow, and the launch of a new ASI website next year will allow us to update the database and populate links to professional and social sites (Twitter, LinkedIn, Scopus etc) to enhance the representation of female immunologists as speakers at conferences, seminars, participants on review panels, and on editorial boards. The database is accessible to all visitors to ASI website, WI page and promoted on the IUIS website. We will be updating the database over the coming months to promote as a resource for female reviewers (including for our own ICB and CTI Journals), so please join if you haven't already or email to update! Click here to check out the female speaker database on the ASI website.

#### **Increased WI Travel Bursaries**

This year, ASI supported 4 travel awards (each up to \$1000) to support travel of ASI women to attend our national meeting in Perth. The aim of these awards is to provide a more flexible approach to facilitate women with parental responsibilities to attend our society's annual national meeting. The awards are intended to support women to attend annual ASI meetings who are the primary carer of one or more children of primary school age or younger. Thank you to our judges and congratulations to our outstanding recipients for 2018, who will tell you all about their conference experience in the next issue.

#### On a personal note

As my term as Women's Initiative Councillor ends and I now hand over the role to Dr Kylie Quinn [Link: https://research.monash. edu/en/persons/kylie-quinn], I take the opportunity to thank ASI Exec and Council for supporting the Women's initiative and for ASI's commitment to gender equity in our society, with particular thanks to Su, Kim, Elissa and Chris. I'm proud of our achievements and am grateful for the opportunity to represent our members on council.

I also wish to express my immense gratitude to the women who came before me, and want to particularly acknowledge Ros Kemp and Barbara Fazekas for establishing the WI, for the continued support from senior and junior women in our society, the sustained and vocal support from Exec and council.

I wish Kylie all the best in the role and look forward to exciting new initiatives to promote and support our female members.

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### **GENDER EQUITY AND INCLUSION POLICY** FOR SPEAKERS AND SESSION CHAIRS AT ASI EVENTS

#### Background

Gender equality is achieved when people are able to access and enjoy the same rewards, resources and opportunities regardless of gender. To support the Australasian Society for Immunology's commitment to gender equity, ASI seeks to ensure that there is an equal representation of men and women as speakers and session chairs at all ASI scientific meetings and symposia, etc.; and at meetings financially supported by ASI. This visible display of gender equity will contribute to an equal number of females and males being acknowledged for their achievements, provides opportunities for emerging research leaders and increases the diversity of role models for meeting attendees. It is anticipated that this practice will be adopted more broadly as one mechanism to address gender imbalance and differential visibility in the medical research sector.

In addition to the ASI annual national scientific meeting, ASI state branches also hold annual meetings, as well as a number of special symposia and affiliated meetings each year for local members. ASI has made great efforts, particularly in recent years, to achieve gender equality at all meetings. This policy seeks to formalise this commitment and support organising committee members to ensure that there is an equal representation of men and women as committee members, speakers and session chairs at all future ASI and ASIsponsored events.

Gender equity at ASI will have the legacy effect of ensuring that both females and males have equal opportunity of being acknowledged for their achievements, which will promote emerging research leaders and an increased diversity of role models in the Australian scientific research community. Further, to support inclusiveness and diversity, this committee will seek to ensure that students. early career researchers and (senior) academics from all backgrounds are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the conference regardless of gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, disability, religion or age.

The underlying reasons for the current dominance of male speakers and chairs are:

- (1) Men continue to occupy the most senior roles and therefore enjoy greater visibility
- (2) Women tend to selfnominate less frequently than equally qualified men

- (3) Women tend to be nominated by senior men less frequently than equally qualified male colleagues
- (4) Women are more frequently unable to take up invitations than men, so to achieve equal representation at the final conference/symposium more women need to be invited to speak or chair

The approaches described below address each of these key factors and will ensure that the ASI is proactive in ensuring gender equity at annual meetings and symposia.

#### **Objectives**

This policy seeks: To achieve equal representation of males and females as speakers and session chairs at all ASI conferences, symposia, scientific meetings etc; and at conferences supported by ASI.

#### Scope and exclusions

This policy applies to all ASI symposia including conferences, symposia organised by members that is supported by ASI, financially or in-kind contributions (including advertising).

Excluded from this policy are affirmative action initiatives such as the 'Women Initiative' events and awards that specifically seek to promote female members.

#### Procedure

1. Initial information for organising committee

When planning begins for a new conference, the organising committee will be made aware of this policy via the Women's Initiative Councillor and Meeting co-ordinator or Local Councillor (and previous conference reporting, as outlined below). This policy will also be widely communicated within the society and published on the ASI and conference webpage to ensure high levels of awareness.

2. Included information when requesting self-nomination

When calling for self-nominations, the organising committee will include a statement to the following effect: 'Please remember women tend to selfnominate less frequently than men so every effort should be made to counter this tendency to ensure gender equity.' This should be noted in the minutes as having been discussed at conference/ symposia organising committee meetings.

3. Included information when requesting nominations

When calling for nominations for prizes or honorary roles such as chairing of sessions, the organising committee will include a statement to the following effect: 'We strongly encourage you to consider gender equity in your nominations as, in keeping with ASI's policy, we are committed to selecting an equal number of male and female nominees as speakers and chairs and giving equal access to

The organising committee is encouraged to invite equal numbers of male and female invited speakers both national and international. awards.' This statement should be included in any nomination forms. This should be discussed and noted in the minutes at organising committee meetings.

4. Selection of speakers from nominees, abstracts and invitation of speakers

The organising committee is encouraged to invite equal numbers of male and female invited speakers both national and international. The committee is advised to have a surplus of female speakers on their list of invitees, in case women invitees are unable to accept invitations to speak. If a preponderance of men is nominated, a second round of requests for female nominations should take place, and a proactive effort should be made to find appropriate female speakers, to ensure gender equity in the final speaker list and session chairs.

All efforts will be made to ensure selection of abstracts that result in oral presentations at national conferences and local meetings have equal representation of male and female speakers. In addition, all efforts will be made to promote students and early career researchers in both speaker representation as well as chairing and networking opportunities with more senior delegates, through such initiatives as oral presentations across conference sessions (by selecting either or both a student and early career researcher to speak at each workshop and symposium sessions) and social events targeted towards ensuring parity of access to networking opportunities.

5. Checks when arranging final speakers and session chairs

Final lists of speakers and chairs should be circulated to all members of the committee to be endorsed at a committee meeting, with final approval made by the local organising committee chair(s). Where gender equity balance has not been achieved, the organising committee should briefly document the steps that have been taken and note barriers encountered and report to ASI council.

Local organising committees that have completed their conference/ symposia are encouraged to write a brief report summarising the meeting that includes specific reference to performance in terms of gender equity and inclusion. This could be accompanied by summaries of any questionnaire results collected, as stated below - eg by conference organisers such as ASN events. This report is to be forwarded to ASI council and the succeeding ASI organizing committee.

6. Event evaluation

Where formal evaluation of event participants is undertaken there should be a question included regarding this policy, such as: 'Australasian Society for Immunology 20yy is committed to ensuring diversity, such as gender equity, among speakers and chairs. Was this commitment adequately demonstrated at this event? Did it have an impact on you as a participant?"

#### 7. Monitoring

The Gender Equity and Inclusion document is included as a downloadable file in all ASI conference (and branch) webpages. The ASI executive council and WI councillor will monitor the outcomes achieved and report annually to the succeeding conference organising committee, with successive committees striving to achieve gender targets if not met. This document will be reviewed and updated every 3 years. ■

## **MEET THE ICB EDITORIAL TEAM**

ANNE LA FLAMME, ICB Editor-in-Chief

We have now added another 10 stimulating issues of Immunology & Cell Biology to our library for 2018 and are looking forward to publishing our first issue in 2019. This year, ICB has exciting new publications in the pipeline including 3 new Special Features on primary immunodeficiencies, macrophages & wound healing, and memory; we will keep you posted! The publishing of these issues takes an enormous amount of effort from many people from authors to reviewers and publishers and all overseen by the ICB Editorial Team. Thus, I would like to take this moment to thank all of those who have made 2018 such a successful year for ICB but especially the outgoing Editorial Team (Gabrielle Belz and Adrian Liston) and Editorial Board members.

It is now my pleasure to announce and welcome the <u>new Editorial</u> <u>Board members</u> who will continue to maintain and highlight the high quality research of our society members and international collaborators. We have recently expanded the Editorial Team to better enhance our journal activities so let me introduce you to the team at ICB. Anne La Flamme, Editor-in-Chief



- BSc in Life Sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) followed by an MSc in Molecular Parasitology and PhD in Immunoparasitology from the University of Washington, Seattle.
- She is a Professor in the School of Biological Sciences at Victoria University of Wellington and leads the Multiple Sclerosis Research Programme at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research.
- Her current focus is on translational research in multiple sclerosis and in particular, identification of innate immune targets during progressive multiple sclerosis.

Sammy Bedoui, Deputy Editor - International and Society Relationships



- MBBS graduate from the Hannover Medical School in Germany and heads a research laboratory at the Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity in Melbourne, Australia.
- His current research focus is on how dendritic cells and T cells interact during infections, with a particular interest in deciphering how specific innate signals shape these interactions.
- This research has defined how memory T cells protect the host from bacterial infections through non-cognate functions, uncovering that these responses are regulated through the stimulation of inflammasomes within DC

James Harris, Deputy Editor Special Features, Virtual Issues, and Invited Content



- BSc in Zoology from the University of Nottingham in the UK and PhD in (fish) immunology at the University of the West of England, UK.
- He has worked as a postdoctoral scientist at the Institute for Animal Health and Oxford University, University of New Mexico and Trinity College Dublin.
- Since 2013, he has run the Rheumatology Group at Monash University, and his interests are in autophagy, innate immunity and the regulation of inflammation, particularly cytokine release by macrophages and dendritic cells.

Justine Mintern, Deputy Editor Special Features, Virtual Issues, and Invited Content



- PhD at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Australia and Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard Medical School (Boston, USA) and the Whitehead Institute for Medical Research (Boston, USA).
- She heads the Vaccine Biology laboratory in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Melbourne and the Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute.
- Justine's research dissects the molecular pathways involved in promoting effective immune responses. Ongoing research projects include the

investigation of dendritic cell biology, understanding how to initiate immunity to tumours and infection and the use of cutting-edge nanotechnology to advance the design of effective vaccines.

#### Ian Parish, Deputy Editor International and Society Relationships



- B.Sc. (Hons) from the Australian National University followed by a PhD at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne.
- He has worked at the Yale School of Medicine and ANU, and is currently a Senior Researcher at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne.

## 

## DISCOVER A SMARTER WAY TO ISOLATE CELLS.





 Ian's research focuses on the molecular and cellular pathways that limit T cell immunity in a range of contexts, including during steady-state tolerance, viral infection and tumour growth. He was the first to define the molecular signature of CD8+ T cell tolerance, and was thereby able to demonstrate that tolerance is transcriptionally distinct from CD8+ T cell exhaustion.

#### Ashraful Haque, News & Commentary Editor



- BA(Hons) in Natural Sciences at Cambridge University, UK (1997), followed by a PhD (2002) in microbial biochemistry (Salmonella pathogenesis) with Prof. Gordon Dougan FRS at Imperial College, London.
- After a first post-doctoral research position at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, he moved to QIMR Berghofer in Brisbane, Australia, to study T cell responses during parasitic infection.
- He is an Associate Professor at the University of Queensland and an adjunct Associate Professor at the Queensland Institute of Technology and is exploring T-cell differentiation and blood-stage parasite responses during malaria using single-cell genomics technologies.

#### Colby Zaph, News & Commentary Editor



- BSc Honours degree in Biochemistry from the University of Saskatchewan and his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania working on CD4 T cell memory development during Leishmania infection.
- In his postdoctoral work he studied the immune response against the parasitic whipworm Trichuris.
- Professor and Head of the Mucosal Immunity and Inflammation Laboratory in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Biomedicine Discovery Institute at Monash University.
- His research continues to focus on the cellular and molecular mechanisms that control immunity and inflammation at mucosal sites, with new extensions into the epigenetic regulation of innate and adaptive immune responses.

#### Simone Farrer, Editorial Office Manager

- BSc(Hons) at Monash University and MSc degree at the University of Melbourne.
- She has extensive experience both in editing and publishing through 18 years in editorial roles at CSIRO Publishing from 1991 to 2009 where she worked with several zoological and botanical journals as a Production Editor and Managing

#### Editor.

 Simone has run the Editorial Offices for both ICB and CTI since 2010 and is central for coordinating the engine house of the journal.

#### Jessica Borger, Associate Editor Web Content



- Bachelor of Medical and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology (Hons) from University of South Australia and PhD from University College of London.
- She has worked at National Institute of Medical Research (now Francis Crick Institute), University of Edinburgh, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Monash University.
- Her research interests broadly focus on investigating the signaling pathways of unconventional T cells and their contribution to inflammation in models of lung disease, investigating T cell memory and its dysregulation in immune disorders as well as interrogating signaling pathways involved in B cell development, activation and function.

In 2019, ICB has exciting new publications in the pipeline including 3 new Special Features on primary immunodeficiencies, macrophages & wound healing, and memory; we will keep you posted!

## **2017 JARED PURTON AWARD RECIPIENT**

DR ARABELLA YOUNG, NHMRC CJ Martin Overseas Fellow <u>Arabella.Young@ucsf.edu</u>



ARABELLA YOUNG, 2017 JARED PURTON AWARD RECIPIENT

Whether it was Mark Twain or not, I emphatically agree that, "the coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco". Far removed from the Californian ideals that I grew up with (Baywatch, the O.C., California Gurls by Katy Perry), the University of California San Francisco Parnassus is predominantly shrouded in fog, but thankfully

Following completion of my PhD, which targeted immunosuppressive adenosine to promote an immune response against cancer, I wanted to further understand the juxtaposition between anti-tumor immunity and immunotoxicity in response to cancer immunotherapies.

also a wealth of innovative science. Here, I am conducting the overseas portion of an NHMRC CJ Martin Fellowship in the Sean N. Parker Autoimmune Research Laboratory led by Professor Jeffrey Bluestone. Jeff has formed a group of dedicated individuals with a diverse repertoire of skills to investigate the next-generation of CAR T cells, understand the influence of site-specific immune tolerance to cancer immunotherapies, identify novel autoantigens in type 1 diabetes and even run clinical trials with autologous Tregs in autoimmune disease.

Following completion of my PhD, which targeted immunosuppressive adenosine to promote an immune response against cancer, I wanted to further understand the juxtaposition between anti-tumor immunity and immunotoxicity in response to cancer immunotherapies. In the Bluestone lab, I generated novel tumor models in autoimmuneprone mice that enable profiling of autoimmune and anti-tumor immune responses to cancer immunotherapies, simultaneously. This system provides improved understanding of the kinetics and tissue specificity of cancer immunotherapy-induced irAEs, the impact of irAEs on tumor development, and an ability to assess which therapeutic strategies may inhibit irAEs without impeding anti-tumor immunity (Young et al. Cancer Immunology Research, 2018; DOI:10.1158/2326-6066.CIR-



L TO R: FERNANDO GUIMARAES, JIM ALLISON AND ARABELLA YOUNG AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF IMMUNOLOGY 2016 HELD IN MELBOURNE.

18-0487). Together, these preclinical models provide a platform to assess safety profiles for cancer immunotherapies, identifying cellular mechanisms and therapeutic interventions that inhibit the development of autoimmunity while preserving anti-tumor immunity.

In 2017, my research efforts were significantly bolstered as runnerup of the Jared Purton Award. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Jared's parents and ASI for the opportunity to represent Jared as a recipient of this award as well as for their ongoing support of young Immunologists. The generosity from this award enabled me to establish a collaboration with the Schreiber and Artyomov

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Jared's parents and ASI for the opportunity to represent Jared as a recipient of this award as well as for their ongoing support of young Immunologists.



PRESENTING AT THE FOURTH CRI-CIMT-EATI-AACR INTERNATIONAL CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY CONFERENCE.

 The intersection between preclinical and clinical studies

 Image: Strategie and the strategi

PRESENTING AT THE FOURTH CRI-CIMT-EATI-AACR INTERNATIONAL CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY CONFERENCE.

laboratories at Washington University in St Louis to define autoantigens and neoantigens that are recognized during immunotherapy treatment, an essential step in understanding immune cell regulation in my newly generated models. In addition, I was able to showcase my research findings at the Fourth CRI-CIMT-EATI-AACR International Cancer Immunotherapy Conference in New York City. Here, Australia was strongly represented with speakers Peter Savas and Clare Slanev from Peter MacCallum Cancer Center, Jake O'Donnell from QIMR Berghofer and myself all detailing our latest research findings. This was my first opportunity to present my preclinical irAEs model and it was met with a plethora of collaborative opportunities to test the interconnectivity of autoimmunity and cancer immunity when challenged with new therapeutic combinations.

This conference continues to expand with the cancer immunotherapy field appearing increasingly interdisciplinary as immunologists work in tandem with geneticists, oncologists and specialists in individual organ system pathologies to understand therapeutic response and predisposition for irAEs. For both stalwarts and newcomers to cancer immunotherapy, a clear highlight of this conference was the announcement that Professor Jim Allison, who was in attendance, was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (joint with Professor Tasuku Honjo). This is the first time that the Nobel Prize has been awarded for an advancement in cancer treatment. While the growing number of patients receiving clinical benefit is validation of the power of these therapeutic modalities, this represented a monumental milestone for cancer immunotherapy. For me personally, it was an aweinspiring moment that would not have been possible without support from the Jared Purton Award, an immense honor and I again thank Jared's family for their contribution to supporting the development of my independent research program at this early stage of my career.

## 2017 GORDON ADA SENIOR AWARD RECIPIENT- KATHERINE KEDZIERSKA

**Catherine Somerville** 

Since receiving her PhD from Monash University in 2002, University of Melbourne Professor Katherine Kedzierska's career has been on an upwards trajectory, including significant scientific discoveries, publishing close to 130 peer-reviewed papers and receiving some of Australia's leading scientific awards, including the Australian Academy of Science Jacque Miller Medal in 2016 and the Australasian Society for Immunology Gordon Ada Senior Award in 2017.

Katherine's research on understanding immunity towards pandemic, seasonal and newly emerged influenza viruses is internationally renowned, spanning immunity in the young, elderly, Indigenous Australians and patients hospitalised with severe influenza. But it all began at the Burnet Institute in Melbourne where Katherine worked with distinguished HIV clinician and researcher Professor Suzanne Crowe AM. Katherine's studies proposed mechanisms of why HIV-infected patients develop specific opportunistic infections as their disease progresses. It was this research that earned her a Premier's **Commendation for Medical** Research and the Monash



PROFESSOR KATHERINE KEDZIERSKA

University Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal.

Now, she heads up a laboratory at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute) – a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital, and named after Nobel Laureate, Professor Peter Doherty. A man whom Katherine undertook her postdoctoral research with, ironically enough, with the support of an NHMRC Peter Doherty Postdoctoral Fellowship. It was working with Laureate Professor Doherty that sparked her interest and enthusiasm for influenza research - she focussed on the early establishment of influenza-specific CD8+ T cell memory, TCR repertoire diversity and viral escape in a mouse model of influenza infection.

"With a fantastic team, we did a lot of beautiful cutting-edge science, spent long days and nights in the lab, and Peter was always there within reach, in person or by emails, to share our experimental highs and lows," Katherine remembers.

"Peter was, and still is, the most wonderful and inspiring mentor. Through his scientific brilliance, he not only taught us how to do research, but also shared his pearls of wisdom on how to think

## Peter was, and still is, the most wonderful and inspiring mentor.

outside the box, work in a group situation, ask key immunological questions and see where they lead you, and then creatively write about them."

"Sometimes I wonder what kind of researcher I'd become if I was not trained by Peter. And I know, for sure that I would not be where



PHD STUDENT MARIO KOUTSAKOS WITH PROFESSOR KATHERINE KEDZIERSKA

I am now, doing research I love doing in the way I am doing it."

Katherine was able to establish her own research team after being awarded an NHMRC RD Wright Fellowship and an NHMRC project grant in 2007. She head's up a team of four postdoctoral fellows, six PhD students and one research assistant in the Human T cell Laboratory at the Doherty Institute.

"One of the responsibilities of senior scientists is to supervise students, I don't treat it as an obligation but as an exciting opportunity. It's something I'm very passionate about and I've been incredibly privileged to have some very impressive young scientists in my lab previously, and now. They are the future and I take my teaching, guiding and supporting of them very seriously," Katherine said.

PhD student, Marios Koutsakos approached Katherine to be part of her lab because of her expertise and reputation in the field of influenza immunology.

"I had the opportunity to chat to a former member of the University of Melbourne's Department of Microbiology and Immunology who was visiting London where I was studying prior to moving to Melbourne, and they recommended Katherine to me as a great supervisor," **Mr Koutsakos** said.

"As a lab head she is highly invested in all lab members,

making sure we are all learning and progressing. The track record of her previous students was also something that attracted me to her lab - everyone was doing extremely well. She has an open door policy and somehow manages to make time for everyone."

Katherine's recent findings on the vulnerability of Indigenous populations, including Indigenous Australians, to influenza viruses have implications for vaccine design and development. Katherine is a Co-Head of Indigenous Health at the Doherty Institute.

Her research has found

#### ASI NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

Indigenous populations are more vulnerable to the newly emerged avian H7N9 influenza strain, that emerged in China in 2013, resulting in around a 35 per cent mortality and 99 per cent hospitalisation rates.

"There are concerns that the virus may mutate to allow human-tohuman transmission. Our group looked at the level of pre-existing killer T cell immunity to the new H7N9 virus and found that 16-57 per cent of the population would have pre-existing T cells to H7N9, however the prevalence greatly varied across ethnicities," Katherine explained.

"We found Caucasians might be



best positioned to fight the new H7N9 strain, while Indigenous populations, including Indigenous Australians and Alaskans, are most vulnerable to the newly emerged H7N9 influenza virus."

This genetic susceptibility is caused by allelic differences in the protein complex, named HLA, essential to generate robust T cell responses. These findings also explain the high level of mortality observed in Indigenous adult Alaskans (100 per cent in some isolated villages) and Australians (10-20 per cent) that occurred during the catastrophic Spanish 1918-19 influenza pandemic.

This study, published <u>in PNAS</u>, has implications for vaccine development and delivery to protect Indigenous populations globally.

"If H7N9 spreads outside China, Indigenous populations need to be a priority for the vaccine delivery. It suggests a need for a vaccine tailored to the Indigenous populations," **Katherine said**.

One of Katherine's main collaborations is with Fudan University in Shanghai, where she is an Adjunct Professor, and a Co-Director of the Sino-Australia Joint Research Laboratory for the Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Disease Research, Fudan-Melbourne University, located at the Shanghai Public Health Clinical Centre.

A project of particular note that stemmed from this collaboration is research with Professor Jianqing Xu in China that dissected the factors leading to severe and fatal avian influenza.

"We found that elevated levels of inflammatory cytokines/ chemokines early in the disease, linked to a defective variant of the protein IFITM3, can predict the disease outcome for H7N9infected patients. People with the defective genetic IFITM3 variant are more likely to succumb to the cytokine storm in their lungs and severe or fatal influenza infection," Katherine described.

"These data suggested that the early monitoring of inflammation together with IFITM3 sequencing might allow the clinicians to design early intervention strategies for the treatment of severe H7N9 influenza."

Katherine and her team are working hard on developing a universal, one-shot influenza vaccine, that is, a vaccine that will cover the strains of the flu that cause the most morbidity and mortality and targeted at the populations who are affected the most by influenza. "We can't predict when or what the next influenza pandemic will be, but we can be as prepared as possible, which is why my team and I are investigating possible avenues to prevent severe influenza in people," Katherine said.

"I think it's entirely possible that within five to ten years as well as having a universal vaccine at our disposal, treatment for severe influenza will have drastically improved, using immunotherapy to fight the virus is just one example. It's an ever-changing area of research to be a part of and I'm really excited to see what the next breakthrough will be."

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## **BRANCH REPORTS**

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA & NORTHERN TERRITORY**

IAIN COMERFORD, out-going SA/NT Councillor



#### ASI Prizes for Immunology

• The SA/NT ASI branch sponsored the 'ASI Prize for Immunology'

(\$200) at the University of South Australia, which was awarded to the students who achieved the highest overall mark in the Immunology course in the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences. The 2018 winner was Emily Zotti.

• The 2018 prize (\$250) for top



LAUREN NEWMAN AND MONICA HANSEN (FLINDERS UNI PRIZE WINNERS) undergraduate immunology student at Flinders University was shared between Monica Hanson and Lauren Newman.

Well done to all of the award winners!

#### 2019 ASI in Adelaide

2019 promises to be an exciting year in the branch as we are hosting the annual conference in Adelaide on 8-12th December. The local organising committee are actively putting together a diverse and vibrant scientific and social program and we look forward to seeing you there.

The local organising committee are: lain Comerford & Damon Tumes (co-chairs), Lisa Ebert (secretary & sponsorship), Timothy Sadlon (sponsorship), Danushke Wijesundara (co-treasurer), Preethi Eldi (co-treasurer), Simon Barry (program subcommittee), Antonio Ferrante (program subcommittee), Claudine Bonder (social sub-committee), Patrick Hughes, Susan Pizzutto, Isaac Sakala, Stanley Yu, Alex Quach, Toby Coates, Stephen Blake, Mohammed Alsharifi, Tessa Gargett, Tim Tyliss (student rep), Nikki Landsdown (student rep),

2019 promises to be an exciting year in the branch as we are hosting the annual conference in Adelaide on 8-12th December. The local organising committee are actively putting together a diverse and vibrant scientific and social program and we look forward to seeing you there.

James McEvoy (student rep), Elena Cavalero (student rep). If there are other members in the branch who would like to help out please let us know!

#### New state councillor

This is my final year as state councillor. Thanks to everyone in the branch who has helped out with all of the ASI activities over the past 3 years and to everyone on council for all of their help and support. Dr Damon Tumes (damon.tumes@unisa.edu.au) has taken on this role going forward. I am certain he will do a terrific job as state councillor and I wish him all the best!

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2019!

#### **NEW ZEALAND**

#### **RIES LANGLEY, NZ Councillor**



This year has been a successful one for the NZ Branch. We had an increase in membership

with both the return of some old members and the introduction of new membership.

Those who attended the Branch meeting in Queenstown gave positive feedback about the change of format for this year. The NZ Branch gave out 30 travel bursaries (totalling \$10,903.28) to student, post-doc, and technician members to attend the Branch Meeting. We congratulate our winning speakers: Alana Whitcombe (Glenn Buchan (Buck) Award for best student presentation), Evert Jan Loef (Barbara Heslop Award for best post-doctoral presentation), and Jody Hazlett (John Marbrook Award for best technician presentation). Catherine Tsai won the challenging 3 Minute Presentation category sponsored by Jomar Life Research. I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2019 Branch meeting in Wellington.

We were fortunate to have many excellent immunologists come to NZ as part of the Visiting Speaker Program including Carina Mallard (Auckland), Alan Sher (Dunedin, Wellington), Diane Mathis (Wellington), Arne Akbar (Wellington), Uri Hershberg (Dunedin), and Joel Ernst (Dunedin). Many thanks to those members that hosted speakers in their regions and those that attended VSP events.

NZ will be hosting the ASI 2020 ASM and I am still happy to accept anyone interested in joining the organizing committee.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing summer break, and all the best for 2019.

#### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### CONNIE JACKAMAN, out-going WA Councillor



This is my last newsletter report as WA branch councillor and it has been a busy 3 years with immunology

in WA! Over the last few years, our local branch has broadly focussed on building the profile of immunology in WA in the lead up to the national scientific meeting recently held in Perth 2018. We have held 7-9 events/ year to engage with the local WA immunology community and cross-promote the immunology discipline across other fields and societies.

#### **Highlights include:-**

- Day of Immunology public symposiums and lab tours (organised by the student subcommittee).
- Regular visits from international visiting speakers through the

ASI visiting speaker program (Ben Seddon, Muzlifah Haniffa, Lars Nitschke, Cezmi Akdis, Mübeccel Akdis, Carina Mallard, Arne Akbar and Uri Hershberg) as well as fantastic national speakers (Kate Schroder, Nick Huntington, Axel Kallies, Su Heinzel, Ben Marsland).

 Return of the local branch meeting, Perth Immunology Group meeting (P.I.G) in October 2017, organisation of an immunology-themed session for the Combined **Biological Sciences Meeting** in August 2018, sponsorship of the inaugural Pan-Sepsis Symposium and regular participation in the ASCIA WA Day of Immunology. P.I.G. is next scheduled for 2019 and then CBSM again in 2020 (alternating years between P.I.G and CBSM). The happy hour sessions at these events were

very well received, although feedback suggests we should try a new venue for P.I.G. next time!

.....

We have also focussed on supporting early career researchers and have awarded many ASI WA travel bursaries and prizes for students/early career postdocs throughout the years.

Over the last few years, our local branch has broadly focussed on building the profile of immunology in WA in the lead up to the national scientific meeting recently held in Perth.

A big thanks to all of our local committee members for all their hard work and dedication to ASI WA over the last 3 years. I know Bree Foley will do a fantastic job as the next WA branch councillor and see you all at the next event!

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

#### HELEN MCGUIRE, NSW branch Councillor



NSW ASI members along with our ACT colleagues celebrated a stellar NSW/ACT

branch meeting hosted at Sebel Harbourside, Kiama on the 13th and 14th September.

Special thanks to our invited speakers: internationally Prof Uri Hershberg (Drexel University, Philidephila, PA, USA), nationally Prof Mariapia Degli-Esposti (Lions Eye Institute, The University of Western Australia), and locally Prof Emad El Omar (UNSW) with Prof Barbara Fazekas de St Groth (The University of Sydney) and Dr Pablo Silveira (ANZAC Institute) speaking in a special session dedicated to Derek Hart who was a keen supporter of our branch meetings. And as is always the case, our branch retreat cannot go ahead without the solid support we receive from our sponsors, for which we are greatly appreciative. Special thanks to our sponsors, my fellow councillor Ian Cockburn and our organising committee (below) with registration&website support from Tyani Chan and Natalia Zych.

ASI ACT/NSW Branch Meeting Organising Committee Helen McGuire Ian Cockburn Naomi Truong Kirstie Bertram Ron Sluyter David Tscharke Alicia Wilson Anne Bruestle

Scott Byrne

Pablo Silveira

Mainthan Palendira

IAN "FIXING" THE PROJECTOR



CELEBRATING DEREK HART IN A DEDICATED SESSION



WE ENJOYED AN ENTERTAINMENT FILLED EVENING, WITH TRIVIA, THANKS TO OUR UNI SYD ECRS AND LIVE MUSIC THANKS TO OUR BIOLEGEND REP KATHRYN FRIEND.



TAKING IN THE SIGHTS AT OUR BRANCH MEETING VENUE, THE SEBEL HARBOURSIDE, KIAMA

#### Fabio Luciani

Regarding the ASI Visiting Speakers Program, in addition to Uri as mentioned above whom attended our branch meeting, NSW benefited from a visit from Joel Ernst in October. Prof Warwick Britton hosted this visit at the Centenary Institute, including an interesting afternoon seminar. Prior to this, ASI sponsored a networking lunch with Joel and 7 student and early career ASI members.

Next year NSW is looking forward to hosting Bob Seeder in February and Donna Farber in August. Stay tuned to hear about presentation dates and coordinated ASI networking events.

And finally, **ASI NSW** was delighted to support additional travel support to our junior members to attend ASI 2018 in Perth. Congratulations go out to:

#### Students

- Hui Chi Lai, University of NSW, NSW
- Benita Ci Yin Tse, University of Sydney, NSW
- Lisa Worley, University of NSW, NSW
- Jessica Pedersen, University of Technology Sydney, NSW
- Postdocs
- Angelica Lau, Garvan Institute, NSW
- Anneliese Ashhurst, University of Sydney, NSW
- Felix Marsh-Wakefield, University of Sydney, NSW

We hope you enjoyed the wonderful conference experience.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to get more information or make any suggestions for upcoming events (helen.mcguire@sydney.edu. au). I'm always keen to hear the thoughts of ASI members. ■



JOEL ERNST PRESENTING AT THE CENTENARY INSTITUTE

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#### **VISITING SPEAKER PROGRAM UPDATES**

STUART MANNERING



The up-coming speakers, in the ASI Visiting Speaker Program are:

1. Prof Bob Seeder,

from NIH. Bob works on the development of vaccines for 'hard diseases' such as HIV, TB and malaria. Bob was nominated by Ian Cockburn and will visit in February 2019. At this stage his itinerary is: Brisbane on Monday 18th of February, Canberra on Tuesday 19th, in Canberra to Melbourne on Wednesday 20th, Lorne for the infection and immunity conference on Thursday 21st, Melbourne Friday 22nd. He returns home on Saturday 23rd.

2. Prof Donna Farber, from Columbia University. Donna works on memory T cells, particularly tissue resident memory T cells and their roles in influenza infection and transplantation. Donna was nominated by David Tarlington and will visit in August 2019.

Bob was nominated by lan Cockburn and will visit in February 2019. At this stage his itinerary is: Brisbane Monday 18, Canberra Tuesday 19, Melbourne Wednesday 20, Lorne Thursday 21, Melbourne Friday 22.

The following speakers have been confirmed, but their travel dates have not been finalized.

1. Dr Paul Kubes, from the University of Calgary. Paul's lab work on developing tools for visualizing the immune cells during inflammation and tissue injury. Paul was nominated by Tonia Woodberry, he will visit sometime in 2020. 2. A/Prof Mirjam van der Berg from Leiden University Medical Centre. Mirjam's group works on immune deficiency. She was nominated by Emily Edwards.

**3. Prof Joachim Schultze, from the University of Bonn.** Joachim's group use single cell sequencing approaches to study macrophage biology. He was nominated by Stephen Turner.

**4. Dr Kate Jeffery, from Harvard.** Kate's group study epigenetic regulation of immune responses. Kate was nominated by Joanna Groom.

5. Dr Micheal Gerner, from the University of Washington. Micheal's group study the micro anatomy of immune responses and immune cell interactions. He was sponsored by Cameron Bastow.

The speakers' presentations will be advertised locally closer to the time of their visit. ■



## **THE IUIS CORNER**

J. ALEJANDRO LOPEZ

Here is a brief update of the news coming from IUIS. If you wish to follow the news coming directly from the IUIS, visit the <u>www.iuisonline.org</u> and/or <u>register for the Newsletter</u>.

You can also follow IUIS on Twitter: <u>twitter.com/iuis\_online</u>

Immunology without Borders

International Union of Immunological Societies

#### IUIS Council and Executive membership

The three-year term of the IUIS executive and Council members is to be completed soon and the new council will be elected during the 17th IUIS General Assembly on Saturday, 19 October 2019, prior to the IUIS 2019 Opening Ceremonies in Beijing, China. The roles of Vicepresident, Treasurer, Secretary and members to the Council will be voted on then.

The vice-president Faith Osier (Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kilifi, Kenya) will take the reins of the presidency. You can learn from her passion for immunology and her work on the development of a malaria vaccine in this engaging TED talk delivered earlier this year.

The representation of ASI to the IUIS Council has also been voted on and I am very humbled to have been elected for a new term as the ASI representative. I will be nominated by the ASI and, with all other Council positions, it will be voted on during the IUIS General Assembly 2019.

#### Immunopaedia

Contributions are welcome for this forum allowing all immunologist to enhance their CV by supporting the teaching of immunology via this tool used in training courses across the world. Visit the regularly renewed content at <u>www.immunopaedia.</u> org.za/.

Interviewee María Moreno discusses the role of attenuated Salmonella in the treatment of cancer and physician Güenter Fröeschl discusses his experience with Tropical Diseases and Immunology in developing countries.

#### New member societies

Currently totalling 83 membersocieties, the newest members of IUIS are:

 Algeria - Algerian Society of Immunology



- Bosnia and Herzegovina Association of Immunology in Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Chile Chilean Association of Immunology (ASOCHIN)
- Ivory Coast Society of Clinical and Biological Immunology of Côte d'Ivoire
- Kazakhstan Kazahkstan Association of Allergology and Clinical Immunology
- Luxemburg Luxembourg Society for Allergology and Immunology



17th International Congress of Immunology October 18-23, 2019 | Beijing, China

There has been slow progress in the organisation of IUIS 2019 where a new management model has been implemented. This will be the first time in which the IUIS itself takes a substantial role in the organisation of the International meeting and some teething issues have slowed down the progression. The Scientific Programme committee met in Beijing in November 9th and will soon make the preliminary program available. iuis2019.org

## **TRAVEL REPORTS**

#### KEYSTONE SYMPOSIA ON B CELLS: MECHANISMS IN IMMUNITY AND AUTOIMMUNITY Dresden, Germany, June 17-21, 2018

IMOGEN MORAN, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Immunology Division E: <u>i.moran@garvan.org.au</u>

In June this year I was fortunate to receive funding from ASI to attend the Keystone Symposia meeting on B cells: Mechanisms in Immunity and Autoimmunity in Dresden, Germany. This is the key meeting for the leaders in the B cell biology field and having studied B cells during both honours and my PhD was very excited to attend my first B cell Keystone. This was an excellent conference with some inspiring talks on unpublished work. Some of the presentations I most enjoyed were from Associate **Professor Marion Pepper at** the University of Washington on memory B cells in malaria infections and from Assistant Professor Gabriel Victora at the Rockefeller University on the germinal centre reaction in the recall response. Overall, I learnt much about my specific area of research, memory B cells, as well on broader aspects of B cell biology. I was given the opportunity to present my work on the re-activation of memory B cells in the lymph node in both a short talk and a poster. This opportunity resulted in many fruitful conversations leading to new research questions and experimental ideas to consider.



THE SIGHTS OF DRESDEN

In addition to attending this conference, I also had the opportunity to visit two labs in the United Kingdom. Firstly, I visited the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine at the University of Oxford. Here I was hosted by Dr Oliver Bannard and had an excellent opportunity to present my work to his lab, meet his lab members and see the institute facilities. Subsequently, I travelled to Cambridge to meet with Dr Michelle Linterman at the Babraham institute. I presented a seminar to the institute and met with many of her lab members to discuss their research. Michelle was a wonderful host for my visit and along with these scientific discussions also involved a British afternoon tea of scones in the garden at the Babraham and dinner at high table at Churchill College with some of her lab members.

Overall it was a very valuable and rewarding trip and I would sincerely like to thank ASI for their funding support as this International Travel Award allowed me to attend an excellent conference and to make contacts that will be invaluable in my future career.

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PRESENTING MY POSTER AT THE KEYSTONE CONFERENCE



\*promo codes expire 31/12/18. Not combinable

with other offers or institutional pricing



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#### TOLL 2018: EDITING INNATE IMMUNITY June 6-9, 2017, Porto, Portugal

KAIWEN CHEN, Inflammasome Lab, Institute for Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland & Department of Biochemistry, University of Lausanne, Switzerland E: z.tuong@uq.edu.au



AERIAL VIEW OF THE CONGRESS CENTER OF ALFANDEGA AND THE DUORO RIVER IN PORTO.

I am extremely grateful to receive an ASI Postdoctoral Travel Award, which enabled me to participate in one of the largest and most important innate immunity conference series - The Toll 2018 meeting. The Toll conference series started back in 2004 and is held every 3-4 years at various fantastic locations. This year's Toll meeting was no exception, and was held at the Congress Center of Alfandega, along the beautiful Duoro River of Porto, Portugal, home of the famous Port wine (picture below).

The Toll 2018 meeting featured a number of international renowned speakers and showcased recent advances in innate immunity and cell death. A particular standout talk was from Andreas Ablasser of EPFL, Switzerland, where she described a smallmolecule inhibitor that potently and specifically antagonizes the cGAS-STING pathway. Remarkably, this new antagonist potently inhibits STING-mediated inflammatory response in both human and murine cells, and also blocks STING-mediated autoinflammatory disease in mice. Another standout talk was from the cell death expert, Vishva Dixit of Genetech USA, where he dissected the functions of LUBAC in regulating cell death and embryogenesis. Lastly, Kate Schroder from IMB

After the meeting, I spent the weekend in Porto where I visited Livraria Lello Porto book store which inspired the Harry Potter's library in Hogwarts! Overall, I am extremely grateful to ASI for this wonderful opportunity to attend the Toll meeting and to maintain my relationship with Australian immunology research. presented a new Caspase-1 termination mechanism during inflammasome signaling that was very well received by the scientific community.

During the course of the meeting, I was very fortunate to meet up with friends and colleagues that I have made during my time in Australia. I also had the chance to catch up with my PhD advisor Kate Schroder, and my current supervisor Petr Broz where we discussed ideas for collaboration.

After the meeting, I spent the weekend in Porto where I visited Livraria Lello Porto book store which inspired the Harry Potter's library in Hogwarts! Overall, I am extremely grateful to ASI for this wonderful opportunity to attend the Toll meeting and to maintain my relationship with Australian immunology research. ■



KATE SCHRODER GIVING A TALK ON CASPASE-1 TERMINATION MECHANISM.

#### 5TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF IMMUNOLOGY Amsterdam, September 2-5, 2018

ANN LY, Infection and Immunity Division, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research E: ly@wehi.edu.au

In September, I had the opportunity to attend the **European Congress of** Immunology held in Netherlands. I was welcomed to Amsterdam by sunshine and blue skies-a perfect escape from the chilly weather of Melbourne at the time. The congress took place at the **RAI Amsterdam Exhibition and** Convention Centre, which was a very large complex; despite all the signage, it took a bit of time to navigate! The congress covered a spectrum of immunology topics, ranging from molecular regulation of immune cell differentiation to vaccine development, with a particular emphasis on bridging fundamental and translational research. It was a great opportunity to gain insight into emerging, novel research areas that were relevant to my work and also of general interest to me.

Each day involved a number

The congress covered a spectrum of immunology topics, ranging from molecular regulation of immune cell differentiation to vaccine development, with a particular emphasis on bridging fundamental and translational research.

of parallel keynote lectures, symposia and smaller workshops on diverse topics. The opening ceremony on the first day kickstarted with an immunology trivia quiz that was both entertaining and engaging- especially as it was live-streamed across two theatres and required efficient use of the congress app via our smartphones.



CONGRESS VENUE AT THE RAI AMSTERDAM EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE

Of particular interest to me were the sessions on humoral immunity and its regulation in infectious diseases. Inspiring talks were delivered in the sessions dedicated to germinal centre responses, which involved the presentation of novel models and various omics approaches to explore the processes of B and T cell differentiation. and studies on the molecular dynamics of memory generation. Another interesting theme centred around immune modulation during infection, exploring how pathogens can regulate the fine balance between protective and pathogenic immune responses in the host, extending results from in vivo models to human settings.

It was an exciting opportunity to hear from some of the pioneers of modern immunology from Europe, but also those from other international locations including Australia. Highlights included hearing from Florain Klein on the therapeutic potential of broadly neutralizing antibodies to viral infections including HIV-1, and from Antonio Lanzavecchia, about his ground-breaking research on monoclonal antibodies in individuals exposed to malaria. I was fortunate enough to present my work on B cell responses to malaria infection in the poster session on the last day, where I had some interesting discussions with researchers of diverse immunology backgrounds and received useful feedback.

After the congress, I visited a few labs around Europe to discuss potential post-doctoral opportunities. It was definitely an eye-opening experience to visit some internationally renowned research institutes and build professional connections which I hope to maintain throughout my future career.

The opportunity to attend an international conference and visit various labs as part of my PhD was an invaluable experience, and I am extremely grateful to ASI, as this would not have been possible without the support of the ASI International Travel Award!



WESTERMARKT, AMSTERDAM

#### GORDON RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON PROTEIN PROCESSING, TRAFFICKING AND SECRETION New London, America, July 15 - 20, 2018

NATALIE BORG, Monash University, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Immunity and Infection Laboratory

E: <u>natalie.borg@monash.edu</u>

I left the bleak Australian Winter to attend the Gordon Research Conference on Protein Processing. Trafficking and Secretion held in New London during the American Summer (July 15 - 20, 2018). This meeting of around ~115 people was focused on the cell biology of the secretory and endocytic pathways, with an emphasis on human health and disease. This conference, chaired by Klaudia Brix, sure did not disappoint. The location. set in the beautiful surrounds of Colby-Sawyer College, made for a relaxed atmosphere. This combined with the enthusiasm and expertise of the attendees made for an inspirational and vibrant conference that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Gordon Conferences are renowned for their quality, and this, my first Gordon Conference, lived up to its expectations. My personal highlights were the

Each of these talks were focused on target enzymes of the secretory pathway, but strikingly had something else in common. They were an absolute tour de force, highlighting the journey, investment, and breadth of techniques required to turn discoveries into drugs.



NATALIE BORG SPENDING A PLEASANT AFTERNOON AT PLEASANT LAKE. PHOTO BY ASHLEY BUCKLE.

presentations of Timo Müller (Helmholtz Zentrum München, Germany), Irit Sagi (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel), Daniel Kirchhofer (Genentech, USA) and fellow Aussie Christopher Overall (University of British Columbia, Canada). Each of these talks were focused on target enzymes of the secretory pathway, but strikingly had something else in common. They were an absolute tour de force, highlighting the journey, investment, and breadth of techniques (e.g. cell biology, genetics, structural biology) required to turn discoveries into drugs. These talks were simply mind-blowing and had implications for cancer, heart disease, immunodeficiency, obesity and diabetes.

I myself presented unpublished work on the trafficking of an

enzyme that has implications for drug development. In that regard, another highlight was a general discussion put together by Nabil Seidah (Institut de **Recherches Cliniques de** Montréal, Canada). Nabil put forward a clever and valuable summary of retrospective lessons learnt from past drug discovery approaches that should guide future therapeutic approaches. Following a discussion with Nabil afterwards, I was humbled by his willingness to share both his time and expertise.

Overall, I was impressed by the approachability and accessibility of the delegates. It was remarkably easy to spark a conversation at this conference and there certainly was some interesting discussion both during the sessions and afterwards - not to mention some light-



NATALIE BORG IN FRONT OF ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS THAT CONSTITUTE COLBY-SAWYER COLLEGE. PHOTO BY NATHAN LEWIS.

hearted fun when speakers went overtime and became contenders for the illustrious Golden Toilet Seat Award. The balance between the sessions and breaks was also spot on. New London certainly has some beautiful lakes, such as Lake Sunapee and the aptly named Pleasant Lake, hidden gems worth visiting.

I am honoured to have received a Gordon Ada Senior Travel Award and would like to thank the ASI for supporting my travel to foster my career. The benefits were many, but chiefly afforded me an opportunity to enhance my international profile, make valuable new contacts in the field, and think about research questions from a different and much wider perspective.

These talks were simply mind-blowing and had implications for cancer, heart disease, immunodeficiency, obesity and diabetes.



#### 17TH MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR NATURAL IMMUNITY (NK2018) San Antonio, TX, USA, May to 1st of June

FERNANDO SOUZA FONSECA GUIMARAES, Molecular Immunology Division, The Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

#### E: guimaraes.f@wehi.edu.au



AFTER THE INVITED SEMINAR AT THE DANA FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE IN BOSTON (HOST DR. LUCAS FERRARI (LEFT) DE ANDRADE, ON BEHALF OF THE WUCHERPFENNING LAB). THE FAMOUS STATUE IN THE NETRANCE OF THE CANCER CENTRE, REPRESENTS THE FOUNDER OF THE INSTITUTE (DR. SIDNEY FARBER, MD), AND ONE OF HIS EARLY LEUKEMIA PATIENTS (THE 12 YEAR OLD EINAR GUSTAFSON), TO REFLECT THEIR HISTORIC RELATIONSHIP.

#### I received the ASI Travel Award to attend the 17th Meeting of the Society for Natural

Immunity (NK2018) that took place in San Antonio, TX, USA during 28th May to 1st of June, 2018. The meeting was held at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort's conference centre and joined the world experts in all the aspects of Natural Killer (NK) research.

NK cells have recently emerged as a new relevant field in cancer immunology, and currently demonstrate its potential in tumour immunotherapy according promising clinical trials results. The organizing committee composed by Emily Mace, Jordan Orange, Silke Paust, Katy Rezvani and Krishna Vankayalapati had put together a wonderful scientific program with eminent scientists presenting exciting insights on this cellular topic, not only in cancer immunotherapy but also in viral and bacterial infection, pregnancy, autoimmunity, cell biology and other contexts. In my opinion, this conference demonstrated that research in this topic is still expanding as we have now discovered new functions of this immune cell type that go beyond their immunological role.

The benefits to have participated to this meeting were limitless. I had an opportunity to present my projects and data to world leaders in the field, such as Professors Lewis Lanier (USA), George Leclerc (Belgium), Nadia Guerra (UK), etc. 5 new collaborations



AFTER THE INVITED SEMINAR AT THE MSKCC IN NEW YORK (HOST: PROF. JOSEPH SUN). THE PICTURE AT THE ENTRANCE OF MSKCC REPRESENTS THE RENOMED PROF. HAROLD VARMUS, AMERICAN NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING SCIENTIST IN ONCOLOGY. were started with international scientists after networking during the meeting.

After the meeting, I was invited to give seminars while visiting the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York (host: Prof. Joseph Sun) and

Eminent scientists presenting exciting insights on this cellular topic, not only in cancer immunotherapy but also in viral and bacterial infection, pregnancy, autoimmunity, cell biology and other contexts.

the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston (host: Dr. Lucas Ferrari de Andrade, on behalf of the Wucherpfennig Lab), where I also had the opportunity to showcase my work and expand my visibility and collaborative network with other immunologists outside the NK cell field. All the new concepts/update and collaborative networks will provide me excellent resources to develop cutting edge projects within Australia. WEHI (the Huntington Laboratory) and Monash University were the only institutions to have researchers representing Australia, and the concepts/contacts I'm bringing back will be of great value for many of the laboratories I collaborate with here.

I'm grateful for ASI to help me to have this priceless international networking opportunity. Please don't hesitate to contact me if any other information or document is necessary for this application.

## **PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST**

**OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS** 

## abcam

Anti-CD11b antibody [EPR1344] (ab133357) RabMAb <u>https://www.abcam.com/cd11b-antibody-epr1344-ab133357.html</u> Chen et al. (2018) SLAMF7 is critical for phagocytosis of haematopoietic tumour cells via Mac-1 integrin. Nature, DOI: 10.1038/nature22076

Anti-FANCD2 antibody [EPR2302] (ab108928), RabMAb, KO Validated <u>https://www.abcam.com/fancd2-antibody-epr2302-ab108928.html</u> Richardson et al. (2018) CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing in human cells occurs via the Fanconi anemia pathway Nature genetics, DOI: 10.1038/s41588-018-0174-0

Anti-NEK7 antibody [EPR4900] (ab133514) RabMAb, KO Validated <u>https://www.abcam.com/nek7-antibody-epr4900-ab133514.html</u> Zhong et al. (2018) New mitochondrial DNA synthesis enables NLRP3 inflammasome activation. Nature, DOI: 10.1038/s41586-018-0372-z



#### ChIP-IT Express Kit

Song J, et al. Aug 24 2018. Dysregulation of the NUDT7-PGAM1 axis is responsible for chondrocyte death during osteoarthritis pathogenesis. Nature Communications.10.1038/s41467-018-05787-0

Summary: The ChIP-IT Express Kit was used to examine the status of H3K4me3, a mark associated with active gene expression, on the PGAM1 promoter via ChIP qPCR. With increased PGAM1 expression, they also saw increased expression of IL-1B and increased apoptotic cell death. Elucidation of this mechanism provides potential targets for controlling cartilage-degrading disorders.

#### Antibodies for histone modifications H3K4me3, H3K27me3, and H3

Suzuki J, et al. Aug 17 2018. The tumor suppressor menin prevents effector CD8 T-cell dysfunction by targeting mTORC1-dependent metabolic activation. Nature Communications. 10.1038/s41467-018-05854-6 Summary: Antibodies for these histone modifications were used in immunoblotting experiments to support the claim that demethylation of histone H3K27 is involved in CD8 T-cell dysfunction.

#### **ChIP-IT High Sensitivity**

Chan HL, et al. Aug 23 2018. Polycomb complexes associate with enhancers and promote oncogenic transcriptional programs in cancer through multiple mechanisms. Nature Communications. 10.1038/s41467-018-05728-x

Summary: The ChIP-IT High Sensitivity Kit was used with two breast cancer cell lines to enrich for RINGIB, which is overexpressed in breast cancers. ChIP-seq libraries were constructed, and genome-wide binding of RINGIB was analyzed.



#### EasySep Human CD4+ T Cell Isolation Kits

EasySep Human CD8+ T Cell Isolation Kits

#### EasySep Human PE Selection Kit

Salter et al. (2018). Phosphoproteomic analysis of chimeric antigen receptor signaling reveals kinetic and quantitative differences that affect cell function. Science Signaling. doi: 10.1126/scisignal.aat6753

#### EasySep<sup>™</sup> Human B Cell Isolation Kit

#### EasySep<sup>™</sup> Mouse B Cell Isolation Kit

Yu et al. (2018). Complex interplay between epitope specificity and isotype dictates the biological activity of anti-human CD40 antibodies. Cancer Cell. doi: 10.1016/j.ccell.2018.02.009

THP1-Lucia<sup>™</sup> NF-κB Cells (https://www.invivogen.com/thp1-lucia-nfkb) Polari et al. (2018) SERMs Promote Anti-Inflammatory Signaling and Phenotype of CD14+ Cells. Journal of Inflammation. DOI: 10.1007/s10753-018-0763-1



#### HEK-Blue<sup>™</sup> IFN-α/β Cells (https://www.invivogen.com/hek-blue-ifn-ab)

Olagnier et al. (2018) Nrf2 negatively regulates STING indicating a link between antiviral sensing and metabolic reprogramming. Nature Communications. DOI: 10.1038/s41467-018-05861-7

#### RAW-Blue™ Cells (https://www.invivogen.com/raw-blue)

Pizzuto et al. (2018) Cationic lipids as one-component vaccine adjuvants: A promising alternative to alum. Journal of Controlled Release. DOI: 10.1016/j.jconrel.2018.08.020



Knock-in mice (https://www.ozgene.com/services/knock-in-mice) Williams et al. (2018). Anti-TNFR1 targeting in humanized mice ameliorates disease in a model of multiple sclerosis. Scientific Reports. doi: 10.1038/s41598-018-31957-7.

Knockout mice (<u>https://www.ozgene.com/services/knockout-mice</u>) Pandey et al. (2018). CLEC16A regulates splenocyte and NK cell function in part through MEK signaling. PLoS One. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0203952.

#### Knockout mice (https://www.ozgene.com/services/knockout-mice)

Drareni et al. (2018). GPS2 Deficiency Triggers Maladaptive White Adipose Tissue Expansion in Obesity via HIF1A Activation. Cell Reports. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2018.08.032.



Monash Genome Modification Platform















## AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY INC.



The aim of the ASI is to encourage and support the discipline of immunology in the Australia and New Zealand region.

The Australasian for Immunology Incorporated (ASI) was created by the amalgamation in 1991 of the Australian Society for Immunology, formed in 1970, and the New Zealand Society for Immunology, formed in 1975. It is a broadly based society, embracing clinical and experimental, cellular and molecular immunology in humans and animals. The Society provides a network for the exchange of information and for collaboration within Australia, New Zealand and overseas. ASI members have been prominent in advancing biological and medical research worldwide. We seek to encourage the study of immunology in Australia and New Zealand and are active in introducing young scientists to the discipline.

#### **ASI Member Benefits include:**

- International Travel Awards
- <u>Bursaries to attend ASI's Annual</u> <u>Meeting</u>
- New Investigator and Student
  Awards at ASI Annual Meeting
- ASI Women's Initiative to support female scientists
- ASI Member's benefits
  publishing in ASI Journals ICB
  and CTI
- Special offers from ASI's
  Sustaining Members
- Full access to the journals
  Immunology and Cell Biology,
  <u>Clinical and Translational</u>
  Immunology

#### **ASI COUNCIL**

#### Executive

President - John Fraser <u>president@immunology.org.au</u> Past President - Susanne Heinzel <u>heinzel@wehi.edu.au</u> Honorary Secretary - Elissa Deenick <u>secretary@immunology.org.au</u> Treasurer - Asolina Braun <u>treasurer@immunology.org.au</u>

#### **Voting Council**

NSW Councillor - Helen McGuire <u>helen.mcguire@sydney.edu.au</u> SA/NT Councillor - Damon Tumes <u>damon.tumes@unisa.edu.au</u> QLD Councillor - Sumaira Hasnain <u>sumaira.hasnain@mater.uq.edu.au</u> VIC/TAS Councillor - Scott Mueller <u>smue@unimelb.edu.au</u> ACT Councillor - Anselm Enders <u>anselm.enders@anu.edu.au</u> NZ Councillor - Ries Langley <u>r.langley@auckland.ac.nz</u> WA Councillor - Bree Foley <u>broley@ichr.uwa.edu.au</u>

#### Non-voting council

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