

ASI NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2020



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& INCLUSION**
ASI NEEDS YOU RIGHT NOW

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GREATER PUBLIC
OUTREACH**

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**DAY OF
IMMUNOLOGY 2020**
THE SHOW MUST GO ON
GABRIELA KHOURY

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ZEALAND SOCIETY FOR
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

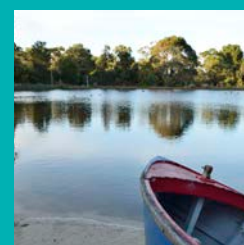
John Fraser,
ASI President



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CTI IS NOW ON TWITTER!

Gabriela Khoury,
Facebook + Twitter Manager



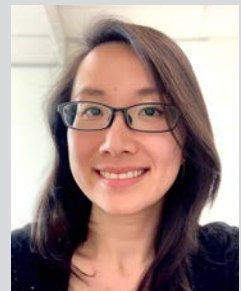
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Q&A: ASI ADVANCED IMMUNOLOGY SCHOOL

Susanne Heinzel &
Joanne Reed

SEPTEMBER IS HERE, WE ARE READY.

ANGELICA LAU, Newsletter Editor
newsletter@immunology.org.au



We are now well and truly past half way of 2020. Nothing can possibly stop us now!

Kudos to all of you for holding on tight as immunologists through this pandemic! I'm grateful to be able to prepare this September newsletter with a somewhat different mindset, where there are no physical conferences or travel reports to include, all my "free" time has now been to catch up on experimental work that were put on hold during lockdown, and somehow administrative work seems to have increased since "working from home" became the new norm.

But what really struck me when

Nothing can possibly stop us now – kudos to all of you for holding on tight as immunologists through this pandemic!

I finally caught up with my colleagues since the lockdown eased, was to find that everyone has changed for the better and came out stronger and more

persevering.

We all know everyone is in this together and I hope you know that being a member of ASI, the council is constantly working towards making this society a safe and supportive environment for you during these challenging times. In fact, the ASI council has been working very hard behind the scenes, making sure to pave the path for the near future to continue supporting YOU in various areas including diversity and inclusion, future funding, mentorship and career development, regardless what career stage you are at - a student, post-doc or lab head.

There are many new initiatives that have been implemented to adapt to this new era of pandemic lifestyle, so be sure to read the updates from our executive office and our fellow councillors!

Remember – physical distances, travel restrictions and the pandemic may separate us but being part of ASI you're

ASI council has been working very hard behind the scenes, making sure to pave the path for the near future to continue supporting YOU in various areas including diversity and inclusion, future funding, mentorship and career development, regardless what career stage you are at - a student, post-doc or lab head.

not isolated. ASI as a society is constantly moving. It is an important platform for you (now more than ever) to get in touch with [potential mentors](#), to keep an eye out on the hopeful planning of [new travel award initiatives](#) and the great line-up of [virtual events](#) that keep our immunology network nice and tight.

Hit up a chat!

Make a tweet!

Have a beer over zoom!

Scientists are progressive – a pandemic cannot stop us. ■

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

John Fraser, ASI President
president@immunology.org.au



Kia ora koutou katoa

I hope you are all well and surviving under the new stringent lockdown restrictions, particularly in Melbourne which is home to the largest ASI membership. This year has been quite extraordinary and the end seems a long way off.

Just when we thought our two countries had controlled community transmission of Covid-19 and things were looking good for a trans-Tasman bubble, the virus taught us a harsh lesson about the dangers of complacency. Containing a virus, where up to 18% of infected patients are asymptomatic, demands rigorous and sustained vigilance. Victoria health officials were slow to acknowledge the signs of an outbreak and even slower to react with the imposition of strict physical distancing. Lockdown worked in New Zealand, although after over 100 days without Covid-19 in the community, Auckland has a new community cluster so it's back to Level 3 lockdown until the cluster is quashed. Stringent restrictions are certainly slowing everyone's research and of the greatest concern is for our time-restricted graduate students who are nearing completion. A short, sharp period of physical distancing can return things to normal, although

we have to accept that Covid-19 is here to stay, and constant vigilance and quick response is the only way to sustain this new normal.

As immunologists, many of us

As immunologists, many of us have been involved in national and international research efforts to combat the virus and also to advise politicians and policy makers on the best strategy, or even to teach politicians some immunology – which has been warmly received.

have been involved in national and international research efforts to combat the virus and also to advise politicians and policy makers on the best strategy, or even to teach politicians some immunology – which has been warmly received. Moves toward an effective vaccine are moving very rapidly and it looks like by mid-2021, results from clinical trials will have identified several commercial vaccines that are safe and work and are also suitable for massive scale-up production. On the downside, it is disappointing to see how politicised the race to a vaccine has become with Russia's

Putin announcing the release of an untested vaccine, just to be first. This is madness and goes against every ethical standard that governs medical research – another example of a political leader ignoring the science.

Despite the cancellation of all face-to-face events this year, ASI secretariat remains active and responsive to member's needs. Several online initiatives were created through our web portal such as the popular fireside chats, and of course all our award opportunities remain open.

Council met by Zoom in July and passed several resolutions. The most notable being to establish a new programme that focus on the broader issue of diversity within our society. ASI has done marvellous things to build a strong and well supported Women's Initiative and of course gender equity will remain an important pillar, but it is time to widen the focus on promoting diversity in general. Kylie Quinn speaks about this new initiative in her Women's Initiative column in this newsletter, so I ask you to read and support this initiative.

Kia kaha ("Stay strong" in Maori). ■

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

CONNIE JACKAMAN, Honorary Secretary
secretary@immunology.org.au



NEW Career Advancement Awards: For research undertaken in 2021

Given the challenging times we are in and the limited opportunity for international travel, ASI will look to repurpose funds for the second round of ITAs in 2020. This career advancement award will allow flexibility to apply for support as needed, similar to the Jared Purton Award. The broad purpose is to recognise and further advance the research of early career students and postdocs at a critical point in their career. The use of the prize money is determined by the awardee but must directly support their research, with a focus on career benefit. There will be two tiers of

Given the challenging times we are in and the limited opportunity for international travel, ASI will look to repurpose funds for the second round of ITAs in 2020.

funding levels to apply for support as needed i.e. "choose your own adventure". For those who still want to apply for a conventional ITA, this will be covered in the tier two application form.

Tier one: Up to \$7000. Examples include, but are not limited to:-

- PhD completion funding or Post-PhD gap funding (equivalent of ~3 month extension)
- Interstate travel and accommodation to perform experiments or learn a new technique
- Repatriation flights
- Or similar (up to \$7,000)

Tier two: Up to \$3,000. Examples include, but are not limited to:-

- Work-life balance support (e.g. childcare cover or to buy out annual leave)
- Attendance of online workshops, conferences, training

- Software for data analysis
- Conventional international travel award
- Or similar (up to \$3,000)

The broad purpose is to recognise and further advance the research of early career students and postdocs at a critical point in their career.

Please note:

This is currently a trial scheme to replace the second round of ITAs in 2020 only. Depending on how the pandemic evolves (and potential opportunities/no opportunities for international travel), we will assess the scheme in relation to ITA rounds in 2021 and keep everyone posted. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions and we welcome any suggestions/feedback. ■

TOWARD GREATER PUBLIC OUTREACH

TYANI CHAN, ASI General Manager,
generalmanager@immunology.org.au



It's such a great time to launch our public outreach initiatives, while Immunology has the global spotlight! We endeavour to increase public access to solid, evidence-based information by creating a new section on our website dedicated to the non-scientific public.

This new page has been created especially for the family and friends of ASI Members and the general non-scientific community who simply enjoy learning more about Immunology, directly from Immunologists.

Click [here](#) to take a look!

We endeavour to increase public access to solid, evidence-based information by creating a new section on our website dedicated to the non-scientific public.

What's on the new public webpage?

- "Ask an Immunologist" feature; a direct link for the public to email us their immunological question

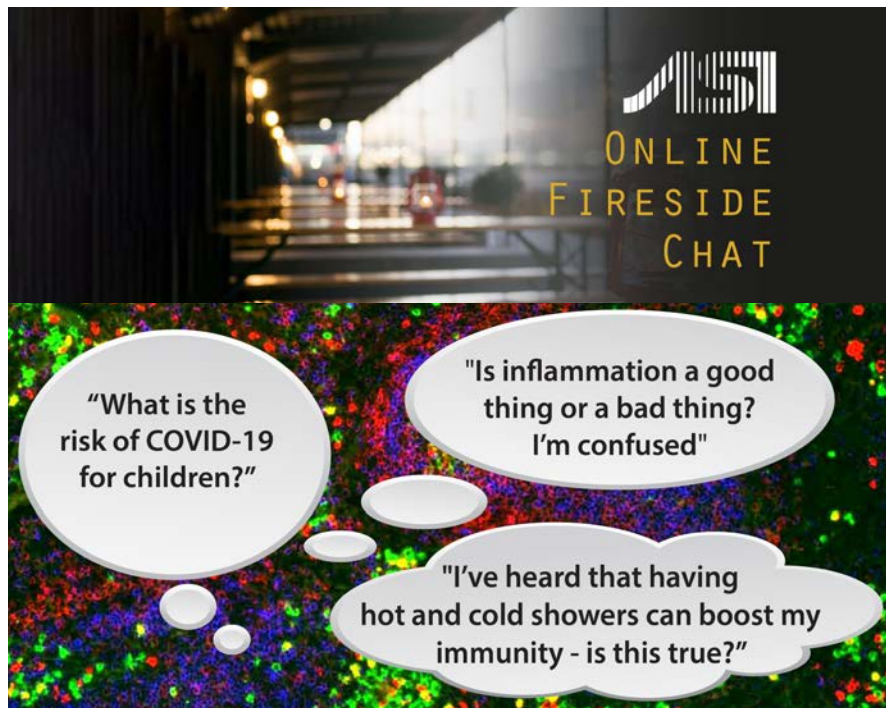


Ask an Immunologist
your question



BE INFORMED

SHARE ACCURATE INFO



links to our new ASI LinkedIn page to target a new public audience, as well as our other social media public accounts. Help grow our LinkedIn company page following by clicking [here](#).

- 'Hear it from Peter Doherty'; direct link to Prof. Doherty's weekly public column

As always we'd love to hear any ideas you might have, so feel free to [drop us an email](mailto:generalmanager@immunology.org.au) at generalmanager@immunology.org.au anytime. ■

- 'ASI Fireside Chats'; info and previous recordings of our free online Q&A sessions on different topics
- 'ASI Events listing'; direct link to see what public events are on
- 'ASI Community list'; separate email list for the public to join if they wish to receive immunology content in plain language or notification of public events
- 'Day of Immunology' event recordings; link to our previous DoI events

This new page has been created especially for the family and friends of ASI Members and the general non-scientific community

- 'Immunology concepts'; short video formats of popular topics of interest. Please join our ASI Contributors list if you'd like to help us develop more videos.
- 'Published in ASI Journals'; link to ICB's videobytes
- 'Stay social whilst distancing';

 An advertisement for Abcam. The top left features the 'abcam' logo. Below it, the text reads: "Get quick access to CRISPR with our CRISPR-Cas9-edited cell lines and lysates". The background shows a hand holding a DNA double helix. In the bottom right, there are four colorful, pill-shaped icons labeled with gene names: TGGT (red), PTEN (green), CDKA (blue), and EGFR (purple). In the bottom left, there is a QR code. Below the QR code, the text says: "Find your KO cell lines and lysates at abcam.com/KOcells". At the very bottom, the contact information for Abcam Australia is provided: "Abcam Australia", "Ordering: au.orders@abcam.com", and "Phone: 1800 960 553".

ASI DIGITAL RESOURCES



Ask an Immunologist

Do you have a burning question about something that interests you? [Email us](#) anytime.



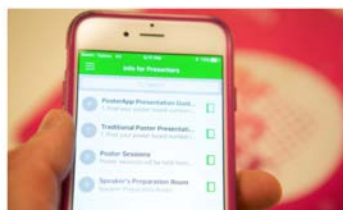
Free online Q&A sessions

Join our [Online Fireside Chats](#), Q&A sessions that focus on a variety of topics, or [watch a recording](#) of our previous chats.



ASI Public Events

Check out our Events page now - we have some informative public events



Join our list:

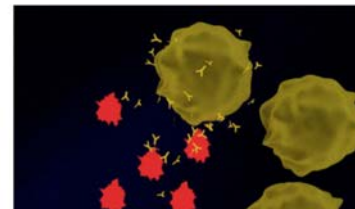
ASI Community News

Fact-checked!
Receive the latest Immunology research news, directly from Immunologists!



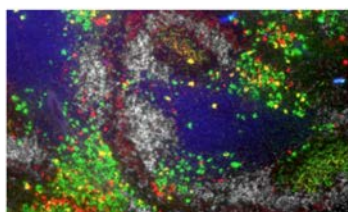
Day of Immunology

April 29 marks the International Day of Immunology.
Join in the celebrations by attending our [online event](#).



Immunology Concepts

Watch our short videos to learn some Immunology basics.



Published in ASI Journals

ASI own two top peer-reviewed scientific journals, Immunology & Cell Biology, and Clinical & Translational Immunology.



Stay social whilst distancing

Follow our public pages on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#).



Hear it from Peter Doherty

Nobel Laureate and ASI Honorary Life Member,
Prof Peter Doherty, sets it straight in his weekly column.



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ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF OUR CTI TWITTER ACCOUNT



JOIN US ON TWITTER

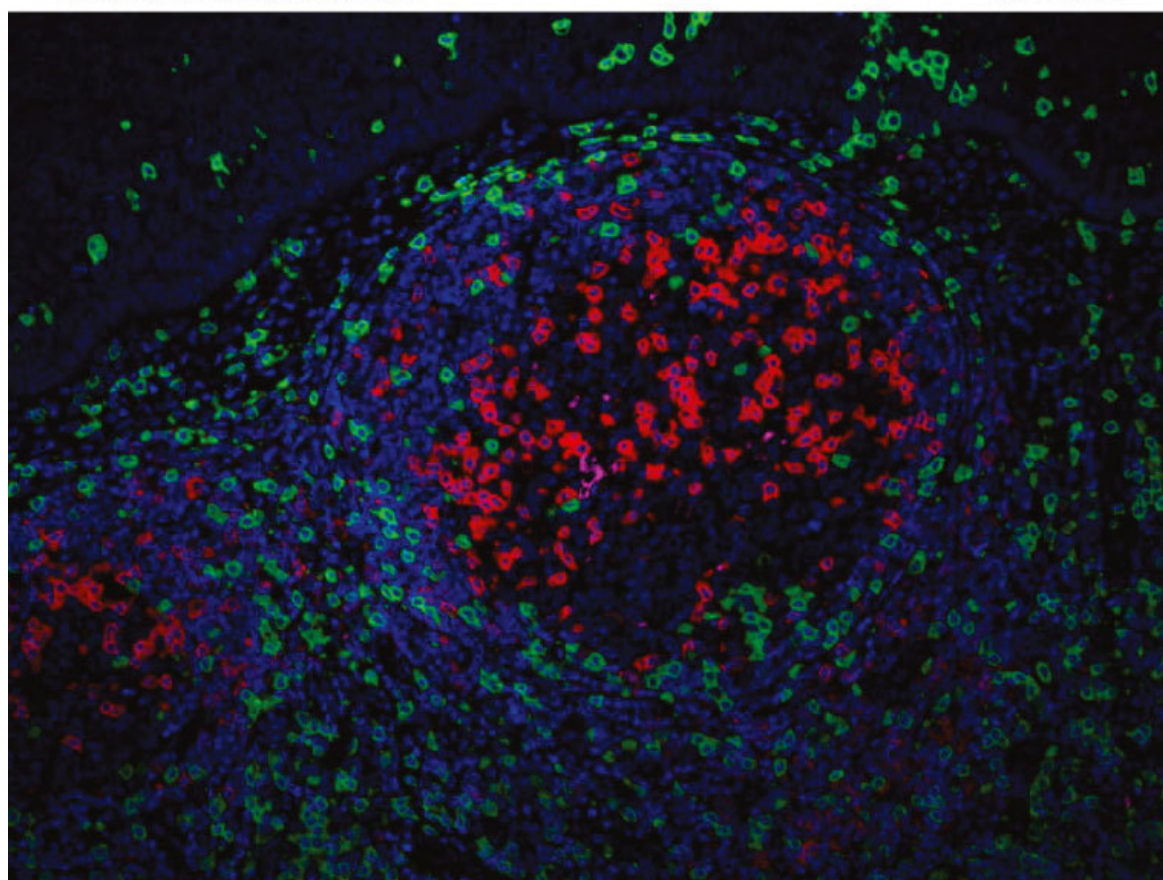
[Clinical & Translational Immunology](#) is excited to announce the launch of our Twitter account this week. Clinical & Translational Immunology is excited to announce the launch of our Twitter account this week.

Follow us on Twitter at [@ClinTransImmuno](#) and [#ClinTransImmunoI](#)
Enjoy our past twitter content via [@ASImmunology](#) and [#ClinTransImmunoI](#)

Clinical & Translational Immunology

www.wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/cti

Volume 9, 2020



Australian and New Zealand
SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY INC.

WILEY



49th Annual Scientific Meeting of The Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
30 Nov - 3 Dec 2021

(Special Interest Group Workshops on 29 Nov)

The Organising Committee cordially invites you to the 49th Annual Scientific Meeting of The Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology. The Meeting aims to provide another innovative and dynamic scientific program. We are putting together a varied and balanced program spread over 5 days to showcase the best immunological research from Australia and around the world with a wide range of topics from tumour immunology, inflammation, autoimmunity, infectious disease, translational immunology and more. There will be something for everyone!

Confirmed Speakers

Doreen Cantrell

University of Dundee, UK

Mariapia Degli-Esposti

Monash University

Stephanie Eisenbarth

Yale University, USA

Florent Ginhoux

A*STAR, Singapore

Dale Godfrey

University of Melbourne

Dan Kaplan

University of Pennsylvania, USA

Michelle Linterman

Babraham Institute, UK

Dan Littman

New York University, USA

Sharon Lewin

University of Melbourne

Kim Newton

Genentech, USA

Andrea Schietinger

Sloan Kettering Institute, USA

Kate Schroeder

University of Queensland

Feng Shao

NIBS, China

Jenny Stow

University of Queensland

David Tschärke

Australian National University

John Wherry

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Editor-in-Chief: Rajiv Khanna

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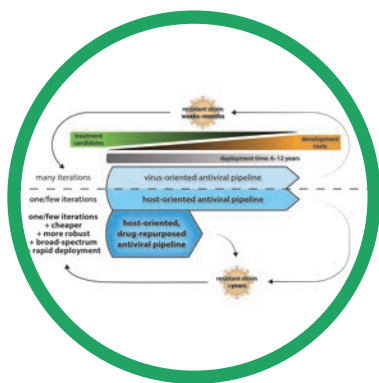
Catch up on recent Special Features from *Clinical & Translational Immunology*, including:



CTI Special Feature on Regulation of Immunity and Infection by Pathways of Cellular Metabolism

Special Feature Coordinators: Katrina Binger and Justine Mintern

Immunometabolism is an ever-growing area of research with articles on this topic published in high-impact journals on a regular basis. The promise of this field is that increased understanding of how pathways of cellular metabolism influence the function of immune cells will open novel areas for the manipulation of immunity. However, this poses significant challenges for specificity and toxicity as metabolic pathways are shared by all cells, not only immune cells. This Special Feature highlights review articles that address the complexity and putative benefits of targeting immune cell metabolism to regulate immunity and infection. The Special Feature encompasses diverse areas of immunology, from the interplay between systemic metabolism, immune responses and haematopoiesis, to recent insight into cellular metabolic pathways and molecular processes that influence immune responses to infection.

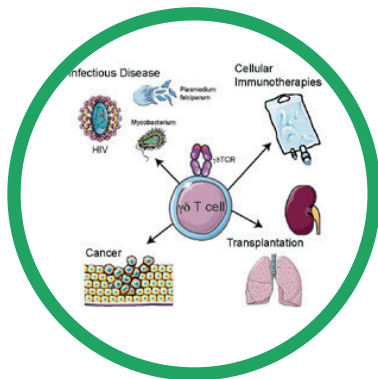


CTI Special Feature on Frontiers in Antiviral Therapy and Immunotherapy

Special Feature Coordinator: Steven Heaton

Despite recent advances in the therapeutic control of immune function and viral infection, current therapies are often challenging to develop, expensive to deploy and readily select for resistance-conferring mutants. Shaped by the host-virus immunological 'arms race' and tempered in the forge of deep time, the biodiversity of our world is increasingly being harnessed for new biotechnologies and therapeutics. Simultaneously, a shift towards host-oriented antiviral therapies is currently underway. In this *Clinical & Translational Immunology* Special Feature, the articles outline a strategic vision integrating these themes to create a new generation of effective, economical and robust antiviral treatments and immunotherapies. Durable international cooperation over the coming decades is necessary to achieve this; therefore, in this CTI Special Feature, leading international experts discuss frontiers in host-oriented therapies, methods for modulating immune gene expression and applications of recent genome sequencing technologies, including an emerging research field.

Clinical & Translational Immunology

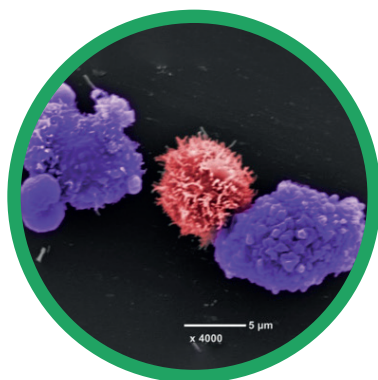


CTI Special Feature on Unconventional immunity: the role of $\gamma\delta$ T cells in host defense and disease

Special Feature Coordinators: Martin Davey and Emily Eriksson

$\gamma\delta$ T cells have been preserved alongside $\alpha\beta$ T cells and B cells for ~500 million years of vertebrate evolution. $\gamma\delta$ T cells are increasingly recognised as having important roles in immune responses to both microbial and non-microbial challenges in mice and humans. In this Special Feature of *Clinical & Translational Immunology*, we highlight the role of $\gamma\delta$ T cells in infectious disease, cancer, transplantation and the lasting contributions of a pioneer of $\gamma\delta$ T cell research.

(July 2019)



CTI Special Feature on Cell and Gene Therapy

Special Feature Coordinators: Paul Beavis and Phillip Darcy

Adoptive cellular immunotherapy involving the transfer of autologous chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells has resulted in remarkable responses in relapsed B cell malignancies such as acute lymphoid leukaemia (ALL), often resulting in long-term remission in these patients. These results have led to recent FDA approval of two CAR T cell products for the treatment of CD19+ ALL and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. However, the broad use of this type of therapy for other cancers, in particular solid tumors, has been precluded by both intrinsic and extrinsic factors. This includes the immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment, poor trafficking and infiltration of CAR T cells into the tumor site and heterogeneous expression of antigen on the tumor cells. In this Special Feature of *Clinical & Translational Immunology*, we have invited leading experts in the adoptive immunotherapy field to discuss recent innovative developments for potentially increasing the function, trafficking and safety of CAR T cell therapy and for broadening the utility of this specialised form of immunotherapy for treatment of cancers that have failed conventional treatments.

(March 2019)

2020 IGV SCIENTIFIC MEETING

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

30 OCTOBER, 2020

Every winter the Immunology Group of Victoria (IgV) hosts an annual meeting, usually somewhere in regional Victoria, to bring together Victorian and Tasmanian branch members for a few days of presentations by international, interstate and local speakers, plus networking and a fierce trivia competition.

However, with much of Victoria still in lockdown, and COVID-19 with us for the foreseeable future, the IgV committee has decided to hold this year's meeting wholly online. In doing so, for the first time we are thrilled to invite all interested ASI members to attend.

We have an exciting line-up of national speakers: Prof. Katherine Kedzierska (Doherty Institute, University of Melbourne) will

Victoria still in lockdown, and COVID-19 with us for the foreseeable future, the IgV committee has decided to hold this year's meeting wholly online. In doing so, for the first time we are thrilled to invite all interested ASI members to attend.

present her latest research including T cell responses to Sars-CoV-2; A/Prof. Sumaira Hasnain (Mater Research Institute, University of Queensland) will talk on the pathology and regulation of cellular stress; while Dr. Andy Flies (Menzies Institute, University of Tasmania) will give us a molecular update on the amazing immunology of Tasmanian devil facial tumours.

Students and postdocs who are Victorian and Tasmanian branch members are also invited to submit abstracts for consideration for oral presentations. There are some great prizes on offer for the best presentation on the day!

The IgV meeting always strives to promote the interaction of post-graduate students and early-career researchers with their senior colleagues. To achieve this virtually, we will set up breakout groups during all breaks so that attendees still have that opportunity to chat informally about the amazing presentations and discoveries. ■

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Details

Date: October 30th

Time: 9:30 – 15:30

Venue: Zoom

Registration: free for all ASI-members and only \$20 for **non-members**.

Abstract submission:
Due September 4th.

2020 IGV SCIENTIFIC MEETING

 Australian and New Zealand
SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY INC.



30 OCTOBER ONLINE
VIA ZOOM

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**PR. KATHERINE
KEDZIERKA**

PETER DOHERTY INSTITUTE,
UNI OF MELBOURNE, VIC

**A/PR. SUMAIRA
HASNAIN**

MATER RESEARCH
INSTITUTE,
UNI OF QUEENSLAND, QLD

**DR. ANDY
FLIES**

MENZIES INSTITUTE FOR
MEDICAL RESEARCH,
UNI OF TASMANIA, TAS

ABSTRACTS & REGISTRATION

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INTERESTED RESEARCHERS FROM ACROSS AUSTRALIA ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. REGISTRATION IS **FREE** FOR ALL ASI MEMBERS & \$20 FOR NON-ASI MEMBERS.

MORE INFO & REGISTER NOW AT WWW.IMMUNOLOGY.ORG.AU/EVENTS/2020-IGV-SCIENTIFIC-MEETING/



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DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: WE NEED YOU RIGHT NOW

KYLIE QUINN, Women's Initiative Coordinator
kylie.quinn@monash.edu



2020 is continuing to be a challenging year that shows us the importance of prioritising progress in diversity and inclusion in our industry. One constructive step we can take for the future is to take the Women's Initiative model and extend it to support broader diversity and inclusion. As such, we are starting the process of establishing an equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) committee.

The Women's Initiative is an important ASI flagship- we have learnt a lot about how to advance equity initiatives and the value of this flagship is clear. However, it is time for this flagship to evolve in both name and mission. The new committee will maintain and grow programs established as part of the Women's Initiative, to consolidate gains for women in immunology. It will also be tasked with starting new programs to directly address additional gaps for diversity and inclusion in our industry and in ASI.

We have received great advice on a number of folks on how we might achieve this shift and we now have a basic plan in place; the exact mechanisms, policies and initiatives that the committee will put into practice needs broader input from the ASI membership.



If you identify with an under-represented group and would like to champion events or initiatives to support that group and others, please get in contact.

We have received great advice on a number of folks on how we might achieve this shift and we now have a basic plan in place; the exact mechanisms, policies and initiatives that the committee will put into practice needs broader input from the ASI membership.

To ensure that a committee will effectively support the diverse needs of our ASI community, we need a diverse collective:

If you don't identify with an under-represented group but would like to support diversity within ASI and our profession by doing some of the hard yards to get initiatives off the ground, please get in contact.

We all can and should take on the responsibility for ensuring diversity and inclusion are practiced in our society. So, if you want to take constructive steps toward a more effective inclusion strategy for ASI, we want your input as part of our interim committee. Register your interest by emailing me on kylie.quinn@rmit.edu.au.

Our first order of business will be to finalise the committee's terms of reference and structure with

Key next steps are to advise on our draft Code of Conduct, evaluate the Gender Equity and Inclusion Policy and support a new pilot mentoring scheme. Beyond that- we have ideas but we want the next steps to be shaped and prioritised by a collective.

the aim to hold the first elections with the normal round of ASI elections later this year.

Key next steps are to advise on our draft Code of Conduct, evaluate the Gender Equity and Inclusion Policy and support a new pilot mentoring scheme. Beyond that- we have ideas but we want

the next steps to be shaped and prioritised by a collective. If you have ideas or feedback but don't have the time or capacity right now to get involved, please email me on kylie.quinn@rmit.edu.au

There will be those of you that are motivated to lend a hand and take concrete action. Your actions will ensure we can cushion the impact of COVID-19 on under-represented groups in our sector as much as possible.

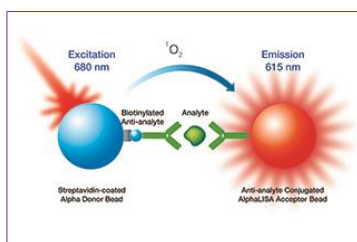
and I would be happy to present on your behalf to the interim committee.

Currently, our sector is undergoing a lot of upheaval and many of us are very time poor- but there is also clearly work to be done. There will be those of you that are motivated to lend a hand and take concrete action. Your actions will ensure we can cushion the impact of COVID-19 on under-represented groups in our sector as much as possible. ■



Immuno-oncology is a rapidly expanding area of personalised medicine. Researchers are exploring the complex relationship between tumor cells and the immune system within the tumor microenvironment to discover new immuno-oncology targets and therapies.

A recent paper by [von Scheidt et al](#) in PNAS examined how *Enterotoxins can support CAR T cells against solid tumors* (doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1904618116). The approach taken to enable CAR T cell activation and proliferation, resulting in higher responses against solid tumours in mice could lead to treatments for many common cancers. In this study, AlphaLISA® technology from PerkinElmer was used for the detection of IFN-γ.



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DAY OF IMMUNOLOGY 2020 GOES VIRTUAL – THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

GABRIELA KHOURY, DOI Coordinator
gabriela.khoury1@gmail.com



Despite being in the middle of a pandemic the show went on! Our 2020 program consisted of four highly engaging and successful virtual events ran via Zoom – a school workshop (NSW) and three public forums (Melbourne, Hobart and Perth), radio shows featuring 4 immunologists (see 'Immunology on the Radio' insert) and ICB ran a Day of Immunology campaign too. To fully embrace our virtual Day of Immunology we live-streamed all of our forums directly to Facebook.

I was and still am very impressed by the number of attendees that embraced our Zoom webinars, which was exceptionally high! The Melbourne event had 200+ people attending (this was nearly double the number we get in person).

I was and still am very impressed by the number of attendees that embraced our Zoom webinars, which was exceptionally high! The Melbourne event had 200+ people attending (this was nearly double the number we get in person). There was plenty of audience engagement at the Q and A

sessions and I noted that we even got questions from rural locations around Australia and in some cases from overseas too!

'Meet our scientists' - School student event at the Garvan

Immunology on the radio

19th April 2020 Lisa Mielke, Colby Zaph and Nicola Harris were interviewed on Einstein A Go-Go 3RRR ([click here to listen](#)) – special episode on Day of Immunology theme Gut Immunology.

26th April 2020 Menno Van Zelm was interviewed on Einstein A Go-Go, 3RRR ([click here to listen](#)) – special episode on Primary Immunodeficiency.

Institute of Medical Research. (1st May 2020).

This exciting event organised and hosted by Angelica Lau (Garvan) and the local organising committee was a huge success. Nearly 100 students and teachers from 8 private and public NSW schools attended this online Zoom event. The day was made up of 3 webinar sessions where

immunologists discussed their research and careers paths in science. These were followed by interactive Q and A sessions where students asked some great questions to the panel. To quote Angelica Lau "The future is bright!". Here are the themes of what was covered in the 3 sessions.

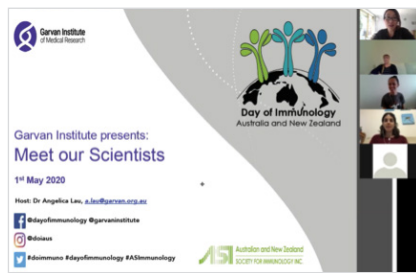
Session 1: Professor Stuart Tangye, PhD students Tina Nguyen and Clara Young. The discussion was themed around how to become successful in science and where immunology is heading.

Session 2: A/Prof Elissa Deenick, Dr Julier Bier and PhD student Cristian Pena who tackled discussions on efficacy of vaccines, vaccines in cancer and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Session 3: ECRs Dr Deborah Burnett, Dr Bethany Pillay and Senior Research Assistant Stacey Walter who provided excellent advice for year 11-12 students about subject choices and career paths as an university graduate.

Viruses, sun exposure and the immune system (3rd May 2020).

Our Perth event organised and chaired by Lelinh Duong was our



MEET OUR SCIENTIST¹ HOSTED BY ANGELICA LAU.

first Zoom webinar for the public. In this public forum Dr Silvana Gaudieri, University of Western Australia explored viral infections and vaccines including HIV and the highly topical COVID-19. Our second speaker Dr Shelley Gorman, Telethon Kids Institute, focused on the benefits of UV in immune health. Thank you to our Q and A moderators Jennifer Currenti, Eric Alves and Gabriela Khoury. You can watch the event on Facebook ([click here to view](#))

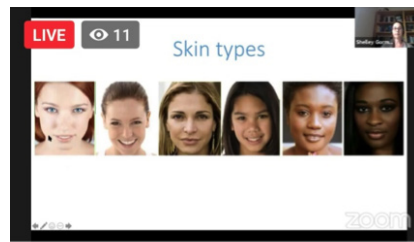


SILVANA GAUDIERI DISCUSSES HOW VACCINES WORK. (FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM SCREENSHOT)

and Vimeo.

Science in the Pub Tasmania- Your amazing immune system! (7th May 2020)

Organised and chaired by Andy Flies (UTAS), this event was in partnership with the science communication organising "Science in the Pub Tasmania". This event was live-streamed to Facebook and has had over 620+ views, including an interactive Q and A session. The event featured a fantastic line up of Women



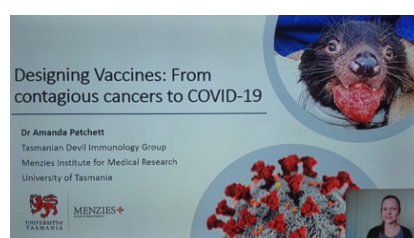
Day of Immunology: Viruses, Sun Exposure and the Immune System.

SHELLEY GORMAN DISCUSSES HOW SKIN COLOUR INFLUENCES VITAMIN D PRODUCTION.

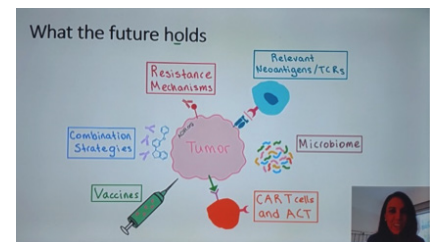
Nearly 100 students and teachers from 8 private and public NSW schools attended this online Zoom event. These were followed by interactive Q and A sessions where students asked some great questions to the panel.

in STEM. Dr Amanda Patchett (Menzies Institute for Medical Research, UTAS) discussed developing vaccination against Tasmanian devil facial tumours. Dr Kirsten Fairfax who is also from the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, UTAS, shared an update on current COVID-19 drug and vaccine developments and clinical trials. Dr Louise Nott (BMedSci, MBBS (Hons), FRACP) a medical oncologist from the Royal Hobart Hospital and Icon

This event was live-streamed to Facebook and has had over 620+ views, including an interactive Q and A session. The event featured a fantastic line up of Women in STEM.



DR AMANDA PATCHETT



DR LOUISE NOTT (SCREENSHOT)

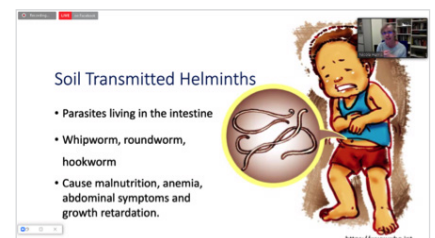
Cancer Centre discussed her work with immunotherapies for the treatment of cancers. You can watch the event on Facebook ([click here to view](#))

Gut Immunology - Trouble in the deep south. (15 May 2020)

Our Melbourne event was organised and moderated by Fern Koay and Gabriela Khoury. The theme was 'Gut Immunology- Trouble in the Deep South' and was chaired by Dr Shalin Naik from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and ABCs 'Ask the Doctor'. The forum explored the role of the gut immune system. Our expert panel discussed worm infections and regulating the immune system, gastrointestinal tract cancers and Coeliac disease. Prof Nicola Harris (Monash University), Dr Lisa Mielke (Oliver Newton-John Cancer Research



CHAIR DR SHALIN NAIK



PROF NICOLA HARRIS PRESENTATION

Day of Immunology 29th April 2020



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IMMUNOLOGY AND CELL BIOLOGY

Catriona Nguyen-Robertson and the editorial team selected 6 ICB published articles to showcase for Day of Immunology, in collaboration with Wiley who produced short video summaries. Read more and view the videobytes online. ([click here to view](#)).

Institute) and A/Prof Jason Tye-Din (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute).

You can watch the event on ASI Facebook ([click here to view](#)) or Day of Immunology Facebook (extra recording at the start, [click here to view](#)).

Congratulations and thank you to all the committee members around Australia who shared my optimism this year and helped organised our virtual events.

Some special mentions go out to Angelica Lau, Lelinh Duong,

Jennifer Currenti, Eric Alves, Andy Flies, Fern Koay, Scott Reddiex, Catriona Nguyen-Roberston, and Tyani Chan. And also thank you to all those on committees who had planned events before the pandemic.

This comment from a Melbourne audience member really captured all of the forums nicely.

"Thank you, it was wonderful. Not every night I get to sit down at dinner with my husband to watch scientists speak" Katya from

Melbourne.

See you in 2021 in-person (or maybe even virtually!) ■



Dear Immunologists,

As the world battles COVID-19 through social distancing and treatment of the sick, we are raising the "Lab Signal" for our immunologists who offer the greatest hope for an end to the pandemic through diagnostics and development of a vaccine. Jomar is pleased to offer a free gift in tribute to our pandemic superheroes. If you are an immunologist working on COVID-19, get in touch below and we will send you a free T-shirt - No order required. Follow the local research pride with #ImAnImmunologist on Twitter.

Email us for your FREE T-SHIRT info@jlresearch.com.au - No Order Required

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INSIDER REPORT - ASI ADVANCED IMMUNOLOGY SCHOOL

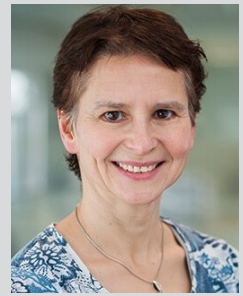
SUSANNE HEINZEL¹ & JOANNE REED²

ASI-AIS Co-chairs

ANGELICA LAU³, Newsletter Editor

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³newsletter@immunology.org.au



The ASI Advance Immunology School (ASI-AIS) had its first retreat in 2019 held at the beautiful and serene Iluka Retreat at Rawson, Victoria before all flames and viruses broke loose as 2020 began.

Sadly the ASI-AIS this year had to be postponed because of obvious pandemic reasons, but fear not – it will be back soon!

It has no doubt been a strange and stressful year for everyone mentally and emotionally, but in particular for our student members who are impacted by the lack of physical meetings, face-to-face mentorship and opportunity to be out amongst international scientists in person – these are critical experiences

for students' and ECRs' career development and growth. While some things cannot be changed and times cannot be reversed, I invited the current ASI-AIS co-chairs Professor Susanne Heinzel and Dr Joanne Reed to share their vision and thoughts about the upcoming AIS and give some insider advice on how to make the best out of these opportunities when time finally comes (and to remind you, it is already September! You are

making it through the 2020 pandemic and 2021 ASI-AIS is closer than you think!).

So, hang on tight!

I invited the current ASI-AIS co-chairs Professor Susanne Heinzel and Dr Joanne Reed to share their vision and thoughts about the upcoming AIS and give some great advice on how to make the best out of these opportunities when time finally comes



Q1: What is the purpose of the ASI Advanced Immunology School?

The AIS aims to teach Immunology beyond the textbooks or research seminars delivered from the experts in the field, while at the same time providing an opportunity meet the teaching faculty in a friendly and relaxed environment. Who knows, it could be your next postdoc position... It also provides the opportunity to meet your peers from across the different ASI branches.

Q2: What is your vision for the School and its future?

Our vision is for the ASI-AIS to become a fixture in the ASI event calendar, where young Immunologists at the beginning of their career can learn and network with their peers and the teaching faculty in a relaxed and encouraging environment.



Q3: Why have you chosen to help coordinate a program like this? What is it that motivated you to step up and take up the responsibility?

We believe that providing the next generation of scientists with the best opportunities available is our responsibility. Immunology has a rich history in Australia and NZ and we are very fortunate to have such a wealth of outstanding Immunologists. However, the size of the two countries sometimes makes it difficult for the early career researchers to access this resource and to meet scientists outside of their home city.



Q4: Who should participate in the school? Do we need to attain scholarships?

Early career researchers (late PhD / first few years of postdoc, interested RAs) with a sound knowledge in Immunology.

Q5: How does ASI help its students attend these events?

The AIS is heavily supported financially by the ASI to keep the cost for the delegates at a minimum (in 2019 \$350 for 3.5 days including food and accommodation).



Q6: What sort of background knowledge do participants need in order to get the most out of the school?

Participants should have a sound knowledge in Immunology on a level that can be expected from a second year PhD Immunology student or above. The course is not aimed at undergraduate students and goes beyond text book knowledge. The delegates hear from experts in areas that may be outside of the immediate expertise of their own field of research, but they should have an advanced understanding of the general field.



Q7: Why is it important for early career scientists to participate in programs like these?

Networking at conferences can be challenging with limited time between sessions, large numbers of people and established groups of "old friends" that can be daunting to approach. The AIS gives early career scientists the opportunity to meet with faculty and peers - a potential future supervisor or collaborator - in a relaxed environment. AIS also offers career development sessions relevant to early career scientists to help plan a successful career in immunology research.

Q8: What was your experience in attending these sort of retreat-style events (the past AIS or even the international ones) as a program-chair / participant?

As a faculty member, I found the inaugural AIS to be a fun and inspiring event. Fun because I enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere, getting to know participants and other faculty over a toasted marshmallow or glass of wine. Inspiring because hearing the talented participants talk about their research, career aspirations and experiences showed me the future of immunology research in Australia and NZ is in excellent shape.



Q9: Is it really worth our time attending these small-scale retreat workshops when we could be spending more time doing experiments? What benefits does participation bring you?

We all tend to get into the day-to-day grind of daily work responsibilities: experiments, papers, grants, thesis, etc. While this productivity is vital to our careers, success also requires careful thought and planning. Taking yourself away from the day-to-day stuff and giving yourself time to contemplate big questions like: What is the scientific/clinical problem I want to solve/be known for? Where do I want to be in 5 years from now? How can I get there? What does success look like to me? Taking some time to consider these questions in a supportive environment is as important to your career development as time in the lab.



Q10: What can we expect for the next scheduled Advanced Immunology School?

Can we have a sneak peek of the planning, the difficulties and challenges, what's currently in-line, possible themes, outlook and great ideas etc?

We are planning the next AIS for winter 2021 at a location warmer than Victoria. Stay tuned.... ■



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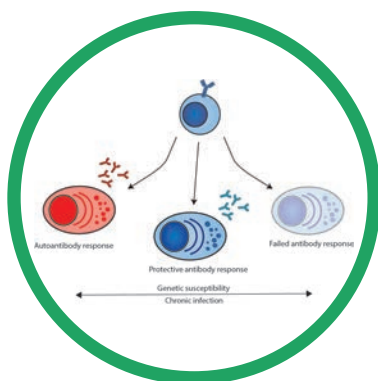
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Immunology & Cell Biology

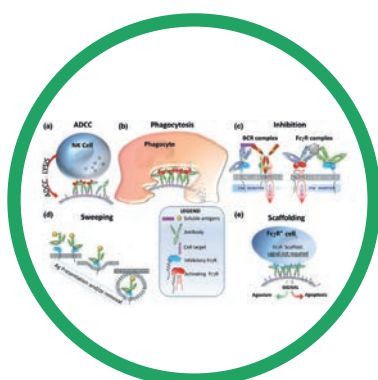
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Catch up on recent Special Features from *Immunology & Cell Biology*, including:



Special Feature on Regulation of humoral immunity in health and disease

The July 2020 issue of *Immunology & Cell Biology* contains a Special Feature on Regulation of humoral immunity in health and disease. The humoral immune response, that is, the production of antibodies by B cells, is a critical component of immunity to infection and underlies the protection provided by the majority of successful vaccines. Harnessing the power of B cells through immunisation has been one of the greatest medical advances for human health. However, we now understand that there are many ways in which B cell responses can go wrong – either failing to make a protective response or generating a response against self, resulting in autoimmunity. This Special Feature explores some of the latest advances in understanding B cell activation and differentiation, as well as how these processes can go wrong in disease. *Immunology & Cell Biology* sincerely thanks the coordinator of this Special Feature – Elissa Deenick – for her planning and input.



Special Feature on Multifaceted roles of antibody Fc effector functions

The April 2020 issue of *Immunology & Cell Biology* contains a Special Feature on Multifaceted roles of antibody Fc effector functions. Traditionally, antibody research has focused upon the recognition of antigens, in order to inhibit pathogens or block receptors. However, in recent years, there has been a growing appreciation for the critical value of the Fc region of antibodies. Despite the Fc region being designated as “constant,” it is a surprisingly mutable region, regulated by genetics and post-translational modifications, which can result in structural changes that determine Fc functional capacity. This collection of Review articles covers the multifaceted functions of Fc antibodies for the control and protection against a range of infectious diseases including viral, parasitic and bacterial pathogens and examines the complexity behind the modulation of Fc effector functions in order to improve antibody-based vaccination or to enhance monoclonal antibody therapeutic interventions. However, these articles also emphasize the need for balanced antibody responses, caution against the pathogenic consequences of dysregulated Fc effector functions, while also highlighting the many unknowns and exciting avenues of research that are yet to be explored. *Immunology & Cell Biology* thanks the coordinator of this Special Feature – Amy Chung – for her planning and input.

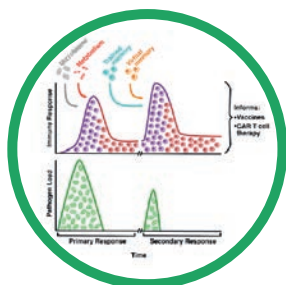


Find out more by visiting the journal's homepage here:
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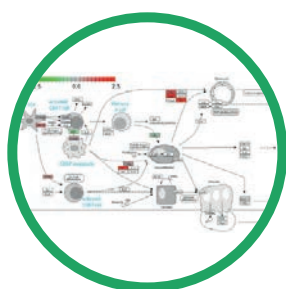
Immunology & Cell Biology

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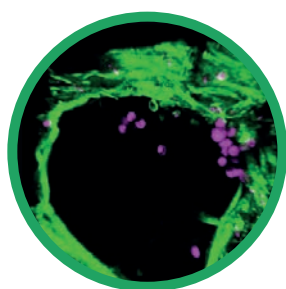
Special Feature on Immunological Memory

The August 2019 issue of *Immunology & Cell Biology* contains a Special Feature on Immunological Memory. The term “Immunological Memory” refers to the phenomenon that, after an initial exposure, immune mechanisms respond more vigorously to subsequent exposure to a pathogen. This is fundamental to the concept of immunity; it is a cornerstone many immune-based therapies and it has been documented in human history for thousands of years. However, there remains much to be learned about the basic biology underlying this phenomenon. This series of articles explores recent advances in immunological memory, by examining our current understanding of CD4 T cell memory differentiation pathways, evaluating the impact of the microbiome on developing B and T cell memory and exploring the role of metabolism in control of memory cell development. The articles also highlight how our understanding of the basic biology of immunological memory can be used to refine the design of immunotherapies, including vaccines and cell-based cancer therapies. Finally, several articles explore the broadening definition of immunological memory, with an exploration of trained immunity and virtual memory cells. *Immunology & Cell Biology* thanks the coordinators of this Special Feature – Joanna Kirman, Kylie Quinn and Robert Seder – for their planning and input.



Special Feature on Primary Immunodeficiencies

The April 2019 issue contains a Special Feature on Primary Immunodeficiencies. Inborn errors of immunity, or primary immunodeficiency disorders (PID), are monogenic diseases of the immune system. These affections give rise to complex diseases with a wide range of susceptibility to infections. The advent of next-generation sequencing has ushered in a Golden Age of PID research. The number of genes identified as responsible for PID has been rapidly rising, with a new PID gene identified on average every week for the past 10 years. Despite the recent explosion of knowledge, 90% of the estimated 3000 PID genes have yet to be studied. This Special Feature discusses recent advances in PID research, and what it means for our understanding of human immunology. *Immunology & Cell Biology* thanks the coordinators of this Special Feature – Adrian Liston & Stephanie Humblet-Baron – for their planning and input.



Special Feature on Macrophages in Tissue Repair

The March 2019 issue of *Immunology & Cell Biology* contains a Special Feature on Macrophages in tissue repair. In the late 18th century, Metchnikoff proposed the ‘phagocytosis theory’ in which he controversially placed the contribution of macrophages to organismal biology as being of even greater importance than their role in bactericidal defence. His view still prevails today, with macrophages appreciated as playing a fundamental role in the process of tissue repair. The present series of articles explores recent advances in this area, highlighting the importance of macrophage heterogeneity, plasticity, tissue specificity, activation status and cellular metabolism on the outcome of tissue repair. Finally, in a broader view of the repair process, the role of neutrophils as well as eicosanoids as supporting macrophage migration and polarisation is discussed. *Immunology & Cell Biology* thanks the coordinators of this Special Feature – Tiffany Bouchery and Nicola Harris – for their planning and input.



Find out more by visiting the journal's homepage here:
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UPDATE ON THE ASI VISITING SPEAKER PROGRAM

STUART MANNERING, VSP coordinator
smannering@svi.edu.au



Outcome from the March nomination round.

Two speakers were chosen from the nomination round that closed in March this year. The speakers are:



Prof Daniel Kaplan: Hosted by Scott Mueller (Peter Doherty Institute, Melbourne). Daniel is planning to visit Victoria,

Queensland, New South Wales and New Zealand. Travel dates and a final itinerary will be arranged once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.



A/Prof Ye Zheng: Hosted by Ajith Vasanthakumar (Peter Doherty Institute, Melbourne). Ye is planning to visit Victoria,

South Australia and Queensland. Travel dates and the itinerary will be arranged once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Like many things, the Covid-19 crisis has greatly impacted upon the ASI Visiting Speaker Program. Currently all visits are on hold until the Covid-19 situation has been resolved. Clearly nobody can predict when that will be, but we're hoping that thing will

return to normal early in 2021. I'd like to thank all the sponsors and speakers who have been extraordinarily patient and flexible during this challenging time. ■

Currently all visits are on hold until the Covid-19 situation has been resolved ... we're hoping that thing will return to normal early in 2021.

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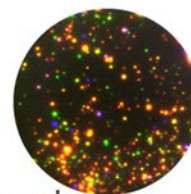
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THE IUIS CORNER

J. ALEJANDRO LOPEZ
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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 www.iuisonline.org and/or register for the Newsletter <https://iuisonline.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=b92a48d3ee8bd7233369c4b9a&id=a910cd5922>

You can also follow IUIS activities on Twitter:
https://twitter.com/iuis_online

And/or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IUISorg/>

The very successful “SARS-CoV-2 series” ended now in August and a new version of the webinars will now commence in February 2021, organised by Immunopaedia (which is coordinated by Clive Gray, from the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine and Department of Pathology, University of Cape Town, South Africa).

Gray, from the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine and Department of Pathology, University of Cape Town, South Africa). The series would serve as “lead” for the next international Conference (IUIS 2022) in Cape Town, also coming along very soon!!! Clive is also a co-chair of **IUIS 2022** (see below).

Beyond the webinars mentioned in the previous newsletter, following is a list of the webinars now available for viewing:

IUIS-Frontiers Webinar Series on COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)

IUIS via the publications committee and the president Faith Osier together with Frontiers organised a series of weekly webinars about the latest on COVID-19, from vaccine development, epidemiology and

other immunological research. These are the statistics for the 10 first webinars broadcasted.

The very successful “SARS-CoV-2 series” ended now in August and a new version of the webinars will now commence in February 2021, organised by Immunopaedia (which is coordinated by Clive



- Joyce Ngoi and Peter Quashie (West African Centre for Cell biology of Infectious Pathogens, WACCBIP, Ghana) on **Tracking SARS-CoV-2 in Ghana.**
- Kathleen Sullivan (Division Chief of Allergy Immunology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, USA) **COVID-19 in immunodeficient patients**
- Yuting Ma (Institut Gustave Roussy, and Cordelier Research Center, Paris, France). **The impacts of psychological stress on virus-associated immune responses: unignorable challenges in the COVID-19 pandemic immunity**
- Sacha Gnjjatic (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; New York, USA). **Inflammatory cytokines and SARS-CoV-2 antibody responses predict survival and severity in COVID-19**
- Elizabeth Mann and Madhvi Menon (University of Manchester, UK). **Longitudinal immune profiling reveals distinct features of COVID-19 pathogenesis**
- Michael Reth (University of Freiburg, Germany). **Ramos B cell engineering for the evaluation of the humoral anti-SARS-CoV-2 immunity**
- Adrian Hayday (King's College and Francis Crick Institute, London UK). **Seeking correlates of protection and correlates of pathology in COVID-19 patients**
- Hans-Martin Jäck (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg and Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Germany). **Prevention and Therapy of COVID-19 with Monoclonal Antibodies**
- Salim S. Abdool Karim (Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), Durban, South Africa). **COVID-19 in South Africa**
- Eric Vivier (Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, INSERM, CIML, Marseille, France). **Association of COVID-19 inflammation with activation of the C5a-C5aR1 axis**

Details could be found in this link: <https://iuis.org/webinars/>



will be COVID-19

The International Day of Immunology is just around the corner on April 29, 2021! The day is dedicated to increasing global awareness of the importance of immunology in the fight against infection, autoimmunity and cancer. The IUIS wishes to encourage national societies to participate in the Day of Immunology and to promote the benefits of immunology research.

Reserve April 29 as the day

Faith Osier and Clive Gray will co-chair the 18th IUIS Congress of Immunology in Cape Town in 2022. Africa has never hosted such a meeting and being the cradle of humankind, immunology in Africa is a blend of ancient roots with cutting edge science.

to discuss immunology with everyone you know. Your participation is shaping an international community of immunologists dedicated to improving health for people around the world.

Subtitle: IUIS 2020 website is being set up and Congress organisation is progressing

"Turn Discoveries Into Treatments". Faith Osier and Clive Gray will co-chair the 18th IUIS Congress of Immunology in Cape Town in 2022. Africa has never hosted such a meeting and being the cradle of humankind, immunology in Africa is a blend of ancient roots with cutting edge science.

Further info in this link: <https://iuis2022.org/> ■

The Vaccine Congress goes online

14th Vaccine Congress – Online Edition

Combatting the threat of Covid-19 Join us online • 28–29 September 2020



On September 28-29, 2020, the 14th Vaccine Online Congress takes place. It is being developed into a FREE online event, enabling broader access to the research development on COVID-19 during this time of crisis. The online congress will be available after the

event on-demand.

Further information from this link <https://www.elsevier.com/events/conferences/vaccine-congress>

The 14th Vaccine Online Congress... is a FREE online event, enabling broader access to the research development on COVID-19.

The Day of Immunology 2021 theme

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS



[GenScript SARS-CoV-2 Neutralization Antibody Detection kit \(cat# L00847\)](#)

Jeong Seok Lee, Seongwan Park, Hye Won Jeong, Jin Young Ahn, Seong Jin Choi, Hoyoung Le, Baekgyu Choi, Su Kyung Nam, Moa Sa, Ji-Soo Kwon, Su Jin Jeong, Heung Kyu Lee, Sung Ho Park, Su-Hyung Park, Jun Yong Choi, Sung-Han Kim, Inkyung Jung, Eui-Cheol Shin (2020) Immunophenotyping of COVID-19 and influenza highlights the role of type I interferons in development of severe COVID-19. Science Immunology. DOI: 10.1126/sciimmunol.abd1554

[Poly\(I:C\) HMW VacciGrade](#)

Eggen et al. (2020) C9orf72 suppresses systemic and neural inflammation induced by gut bacteria. Nature. DOI: 10.1038/s41586-020-2288-7

[SARS-CoV S1 Antibody](#)

Ou, X, et al. (2020). Characterization of spike glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2 on virus entry and its immune cross-reactivity with SARS-CoV. Nature Communications. DOI: 10.1038/s41467-020-15562-9



Recombinant Anti-GSDMD antibody [EPR19828] ([ab209845](#))

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