

GCC Immunology NEWSLETTER

May 2, 2022

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Meet your new GCC Immunology Scholars Subcommittee

Our Objective

The Immunology Scholars Subcommittee (ISS) is a group of trainees that are working to help GCC Immunology to foster communication and collaboration throughout the Texas Medical Center. Working towards that goal, we are establishing this monthly newsletter and a monthly seminar series.

Who are we?

Lynn is a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. David Corry's lab studying cerebral mycosis. She went to the University of Dallas for undergraduate, where she studied abroad in Rome and earned a B.S. in Biology and a B.A. in History. In 2014, she joined Baylor College of Medicine as a graduate student in Immunology. Growing up in San Antonio and going to college in Dallas, she was definitely accustomed to the Texas heat, but not the Houston humidity! Lynn completed her PhD in the lab of Dr. Silke Paust focusing on universal treatments and vaccines for Influenza. In 2019, after graduating she shortly worked for Dr. Paust at Scripps Research Institute and then joined the lab of Dr. Corry at Baylor. Some quick fun facts about Lynn: Her first job was as a caricature artist, she was married during the pandemic, and she and her husband have two cute havanese dogs named Charlie and Cleo!

Jacob is a 3rd year graduate student in Dr. Julian Hurdle's Lab at the Texas A&M University Institute of Biosciences and Technology. He did his undergrad at North Carolina State University

and earned a B.S. in Microbiology. He completed a 12 month Post-Bac ORISE Fellowship at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center where he studied a porcine virus as a potential vaccine vector. Currently, his work is focused on investigating the lipid biology of *Fusobacterium nucleatum* as a potential drug target. Outside of the lab, he enjoys hiking at national and state parks, reading science fiction novels, and lounging around with his two lazy cats. He also regularly fosters kittens for the Houston Humane Society!

Dorothea Morris is a 3rd year graduate student in the labs of Drs. Antonella Casola and Roberto Garofalo at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). She obtained her Master of Science in Biology from Tarleton State University where she studied the antiviral and immunomodulatory effects of silver nanoparticles against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Following graduation, she worked as a research associate at UTMB where she demonstrated the age-dependent transfer of exosomal microRNA between the retinal pigment epithelial layer and retinal microglia as well as characterizing how this activity contributed to chronic inflammation driving macular degeneration. She is currently a dual-degree graduate student in the Microbiology & Immunology Ph.D. program and the Master of Public Health- Epidemiology track. Her graduate studies focus on immunomodulatory therapy development for respiratory viral infections and the epidemiology of viral co-infections in children. She is also involved in community outreach programs promoting the learning of public health topics in school-aged children. She loves hanging out with her cats, volunteering at the local food bank, and picking up trash off the Galveston beaches.

Bhakti is a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Stephanie Watowich's lab at MD Anderson Cancer Center. She studies the role of Stat3 in hematopoietic stem cell function and myeloid cells in both steady and inflamed conditions. She is also involved in immunotherapy related projects in Watowich lab focused on DC vaccine therapy and mechanisms involved in immune related adverse events against immune checkpoint blockade therapy. Bhakti obtained her PhD in Life Sciences from National Institute of Technology Rourkela, India where she studied the function of novel immunoglobulin IgZ and the role of T cell-independent activation of immunoglobulin in fish. Her favorite pastimes are dancing, mimicry, and reading biographies.

Haizi graduated from School of Medicine in Soochow University with his MD degree in 2007. His professional career started with a residency in Radiotherapy at the Changhai Hospital in China. He was invited to join in a project named "negative effects of irradiated hosts on transplanted Hematopoietic Stem Cells (HSCs)" as a Visiting Scholar in Dr. Tao Cheng's lab in University of Pittsburgh in 2009. From 2013 to 2019, he completed the PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. He is a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Momoko Yoshimoto's lab at UT Health. His research focuses on B cell development and the therapeutic role of B cells in atherosclerosis.

Upcoming Immunology Events

MAY
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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson
Cancer Center
Making Cancer History

Research Exchange Virtual Series

Sachet Shukla, PhD

MD Anderson Cancer Center

"Computational discovery of antigen and drug targets for Cancer immunotherapy"

Monday, May 2nd at 11:00 [via Zoom \(Click here\)](#).

MAY
3

Baylor
College of
Medicine

BCM Immunology and Microbiology Seminar Series

Jorge Contreras, PhD

UC Davis Health

"Pannexin Channels as Mediators of Neuroinflammation"

Tuesday, May 3rd at 4:00 [via Zoom \(Click Here\)](#).

MAY
4

Baylor
College of
Medicine

CVRI Seminar Series

Jeffrey E. Saffitz, MD, PhD

Harvard Medical School

"Immune Signaling in the Pathogenesis of Arrhythmogenic Cardiomyopathy"

Wednesday, May 4rd at 12:00 [via Zoom \(Click Here\)](#).

MAY
5



CTRID Seminar Series

Dennis Villareal, MD

Baylor College of Medicine

"Lifestyle, Hormonal, and Anabolic Interventions to Ameliorate Frailty in Older Adults"

Thursday, May 5th at 4:00 [via Zoom \(Click Here\)](#).

MAY
11

Baylor
College of
Medicine

Emerging Pathogens Research Seminar Series

Hana El Sahly, MD

Baylor College of Medicine

"Anti-Nucleocapsid Antibodies Following SARS-CoV2 Infection"

Jennifer Whitaker, MD

Baylor College of Medicine

"COVID-19 Variant Immunologic Landscape (COVAIL) Trail"

Wednesday, May 11th at 2:00 [via Zoom \(Click Here\)](#).

MAY
12

Baylor
College of
Medicine

CMMR Seminar Series

Dana Blackburn, PhD

Baylor College of Medicine

"Fitness Determinants of Host-Microbiome Interactions in Caenorhabditis elegans"

Rafael Tomoya Michita, PhD

Baylor College of Medicine

"In Utero Exposure to Ralstonia Insidiosa Occurs during Pregnancy and May Promote Tolerance"

Thursday, May 12th at 12:00 [via Zoom \(Click Here\)](#).



CTRID Seminar Series

Ernest Ramsay Camp, MD

Baylor College of Medicine

Thursday, May 12th at 4:00 [via Zoom \(Click Here\)](#).

MAY
19



Myeloid Diversity Interest Group

"Dysregulation of myeloid cell trafficking and polarization in diseases"

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Thursday, May 19th at 11am [via Zoom \(Click Here\)](#).



CTRID Journal Club

Thursday, May 19th at 2:45 [via Zoom \(Click Here\)](#).

CTRID Seminar Series

TBA

Thursday, May 19th at 4:00 via Zoom.

MAY
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CTRID Journal Club

Thursday, May 26th at 2:45 [via Zoom \(Click Here\)](#).

CTRID Seminar Series

TBA

Thursday, May 26th at 4:00 via Zoom.

Future Editions and Participation

Future editions of this newsletter will include interviews of upcoming speakers, features on different labs, recent publications, and job opportunities.

We will need your help! Let us know if you're interested in participating as an interviewee and speaker or telling people about the amazing work happening in your lab. Keep us up to date by sharing your most recent publications and let us help broaden your hunt for your newest lab member.

Please fill out or update your information here: <https://forms.gle/b6sGFYGcPinRRAHK7>