SAIS NEWSLETTER – MAY 1ST, 2020

Dear SAIS members

Please find this week's newsletter below. The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday, 8 May 2020.

FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monitoring the immune system to fight COVID-19: CD4 status, lymphopenia, and infectivity
Thursday, 30 April 2020, 12 noon Eastern, 9 a.m. Pacific, 5 p.m. UK (BST), 6 p.m. Central Europe (CEST)
For more information and to register, please visit: https://www.sciencemag.org/custom-publishing/webinars/monitoring-immune-system-fight-covid-19-cd4-status-lymphopenia-and

Menarini Prize for Outstanding Woman Immunologist
https://iuis.org/activities/menarini-prize-for-outstanding-woman-immunologist/

Workshop: How to Prepare Your Manuscripts for Publication in Top Journals, 12 May 2020, 16:00.
For more information and to register, please visit:
https://researcheracademy.elsevier.com/workshop/8992f4c4-9562-44fd-a790-9e54c8ae53b1?utm_campaign=STMJ_111624_EVNT_WEB&utm_medium=email&utm_dgroup=111624_MAIN_NOAB_ST1_ALL&utm_acid=-797362217&SIS_ID=-1&dgcid=STMJ_111624_EVNT_WEB&CMX_ID=&utm_in=DM675849&utm_source=AC_7&utm_term=111624_EVNT-WEB_MAIN_NOAB_STEP1_ALL

SAMRC Internship Scholarship Programme
The purpose of this particular Request for Applications (RFA) is to facilitate and promote increase in number of black scientists with specialized skills in the following research fields; Biostatistics, Data Science, Digital Health, Demography, Epidemiology, Health Economics, Genomics and Immunology.
Applications must be completed online and all additional documents (full call) requested emailed to Ms Jorene Naidoo on or before 31 May 2020 at jorene.naidoo@mrc.ac.za - Tel 021 938 0945
For more information, please visit: https://www.samrc.ac.za/request-for-applications/samrc-internship-scholarship-programme

African Independent Research (FLAIR) Fellowships for early career researchers
Application deadline: Wednesday 27 May 2020
https://www.aasciences.africa/calls/future-leaders-african-independent-research-flair-fellowships-2021

PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:

Against pandemic research exceptionalism
https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/04/22/science.abc1731

Mycobacterium tuberculosis associated with severe tuberculosis evades cytosolic surveillance systems and modulates IL-1β production
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-15832-6

Protecting against different subtypes of influenza viruses: a nanoparticle approach
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41392-020-0157-3

Anti-HIV agents inspired by antibodies
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41589-020-0521-1

'Designer Virus' is First New Polio Vaccine in 50 Years
Phase 1 Trial Shows Promise for Completion of Stalled Eradication Effort, Offers Lessons for COVID-19 Vaccine.
https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/04/417241/designer-virus-first-new-polio-vaccine-50-years

SARS-CoV-2 entry factors are highly expressed in nasal epithelial cells together with innate immune genes
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0868-6

New test for COVID-19 may deliver faster results to more people
Scientists have developed a novel assay capable of detecting the causative viral pathogen of COVID-19 that can be run in decentralized test facilities, reports The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics.
https://jmd.amjpathol.org/article/S1525-1578(20)30090-8/pdf

Promising MERS coronavirus vaccine trial on humans – useful insights for vaccine development against SARS-CoV-2
https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/laninf/PIIS1473-3099(20)30248-6.pdf

Could Curbing Runaway Immune Responses Treat COVID-19?
https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/could-curbing-runaway-immune-responses-treat-covid-19--67450

Coronapod: The race to expand antibody testing
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01252-5

Ethanol consumption inhibits TFH cell responses and the development of autoimmune arthritis
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-15855-z

A possible role for B cells in COVID-19?: Lesson from patients with Agammaglobulinemia
https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(20)30557-1/abstract

Diagnosing malaria and other febrile illnesses during the COVID-19 pandemic
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(20)30210-2/fulltext

"Immunity passports" in the context of COVID-19
https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/immunity-passports-in-the-context-of-covid-19

The current and future state of vaccines, antivirals and gene therapies against emerging coronaviruses
https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmicb.2020.00658/full

New research highlights blood clot dangers of COVID-19
http://press.rsna.org/timssnet/media/pressreleases/14_pr_target.cfm?ID=2173

A tale of two itaconates
Mouse study shows that the precise source of the anti-inflammatory chemical itaconate can changes its effect on immune responses to particles of air pollution.
https://elifesciences.org/digests/54877/a-tale-of-two-itaconates

Chloroquine hype is derailing the search for coronavirus treatments
With politicians touting the potential benefits of malaria drugs to fight COVID-19, some people are turning away from clinical trials of other therapies.
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01165-3

Saliva is more sensitive for SARS-CoV-2 detection in COVID-19 patients than nasopharyngeal swabs - MedRxiv preprint
https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.16.20067835v1

Rapid development of an inactivated vaccine for SARS-CoV-2 - medRxiv preprint
https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.17.046375v1

Therapeutic modulation of phagocytosis in glioblastoma can activate both innate and adaptive antitumour immunity
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-15129-8

UMBC team makes breakthrough discovery in HIV research, opening path to new, better therapies
https://news.umbc.edu/umbc-team-makes-breakthrough-discovery-in-hiv-research-opening-path-to-new-better-therapies/

AID in Antibody Diversification: There and Back again
https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906(20)30089-2

Analyzing the impact of Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection on primary human macrophages by combined exploratory and targeted metabolomics
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-62911-1

New York clinical trial quietly tests heartburn remedy against coronavirus
https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/new-york-clinical-trial-quietly-tests-heartburn-remedy-against-coronavirus

Scientists shed light on action of key tuberculosis drug
https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2020/04/scientists-shed-light-on-action-of-key-tuberculosis-drug.aspx

Integrative functional genomics decodes herpes simplex virus 1
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-15992-5

Let Africa into the market for COVID-19 diagnostics
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01265-0

High-dimensional immune profiling by mass cytometry revealed immunosuppression and dysfunction of immunity in COVID-19 patients
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41423-020-0447-2

Whose coronavirus strategy worked best? Scientists hunt most effective policies
Researchers sift through data to compare nations' vastly different containment measures.
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01248-1

Preliminary support for a "dry swab, extraction free" protocol for SARS-CoV-2 testing via RT-qPCR - BioRxiv preprint
https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.22.056283v1

COVID-19: Flattening the curve
Professor Sean Wasserman, infectious disease specialist at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and Groote Schuur Hospital (GSH), explains what flattening the curve really means
https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2020-04-17-covid-19-flattening-the-curve

The race for coronavirus vaccines: a graphical guide
Eight ways in which scientists hope to provide immunity to SARS-CoV-2 .
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01221-y

Neutrophil extracellular traps in COVID-19
https://insight.jci.org/articles/view/138999

Tissue-resident ductal macrophages survey the mammary epithelium and facilitate tissue remodelling
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41556-020-0505-0

Receptors for SARS-CoV-2 Present in Wide Variety of Human Cells
https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/receptors-for-sars-cov-2-present-in-wide-variety-of-human-cells-67496

Large trial yields strongest evidence yet that antiviral drug can help COVID-19 patients
https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/large-trial-yields-strongest-evidence-yet-antiviral-drug-can-help-covid-19-patients

NIH launches competition to speed COVID-19 diagnostics
https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/nih-launches-competition-speed-covid-19-diagnostics

Type I IFN immunoprofiling in COVID-19 patients
https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(20)30578-9/pdf

Please don't forget to send me any info you may have on funding opportunities, meetings, workshops and/or conferences, so I can post it on the SAIS LinkedIn page. Additionally, if you are recruiting/hiring, I am more than happy to advertise it on LinkedIn and in the newsletter.

Thank you.

Kind regards
Heena Ranchod (PhD)
Tel: +27 11 386 6461
Email: HeenaR@nicd.ac.za
Linked In: https://www.linkedin.com/in/heena-ranchod-44b96379/