

SAIS NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2nd, 2019

Dear SAIS members,

Below, please find this week's newsletter. Please note that **the next newsletter will be sent out on the 16th of August** instead of next week.

FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Better Science through Better Data 2019 - Call for lightning talks proposal - 6th November 2019 - London, UK

Springer Nature and The Wellcome Trust are inviting people to present 'lightning talks' (7 minutes or less) on sharing, publishing, integrating or reusing research data at this year's event. Proposals should be no longer than 200 words. Deadline: 31st August 2019. For more information, visit <https://researchdata.springernature.com/users/256983-irene-rodriguez/posts/50480-better-science-through-better-data-2019-scidata19-call-for-lightning-talks-proposal>.

Reminder of two upcoming Keystone Symposia meetings

- **Why So Many Ways to Die? Apoptosis, Necroptosis, Pyroptosis and Beyond** - November 19-23 - Guarujá, São Paulo, Brazil - Abstract deadline: August 20; Discounted registration deadline: September 19. <http://www.keystonesymposia.org/19T3>.
- **Helminths: New Insights from Immunity to Global Health** - December 8-12 - Cape Town, South Africa - Abstract deadline: September 10; Discounted registration deadline: October 10. <http://www.keystonesymposia.org/19T4>.

University of the Witwatersrand's Friedel Sellschop Research Award 2019 - applications are now open!

The University wishes to recognise and encourage exceptional young researchers by awarding a special category of research grants made available by the University Research Committee, to qualifying researchers. An award up to R 145,000 p.a. for three years will be available. The closing date for electronic applications is 23 August 2019. For enquiries: yolanda.davids@wits.ac.za.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) announces a Call for Papers for the conference "Virtual Exchange - borderless mobility between the European Higher Education Area and regions beyond" - Berlin, Germany - 11th December 2019

Higher Education practitioners and researchers of all academic fields are encouraged to send their abstracts and CVs via our online tool: <https://www.daad.de/surveys/449895?lang=en> no later than 30th August 2019, 5 PM CET. For more information, please visit <https://eu.daad.de/service/veranstaltungen/2019/de/72305-virtual-exchange--borderless-mobility-between-the-european-higher-education-area-and-regions-beyond>.

International Masters in Vaccinology (IMVACC) Programme: request for applications

Five scholarships for International Masters in Vaccinology (IMVACC) are available for the January 2020 enrolment. The deadline for applying has been extended to **6 August 2019 - 5 pm SA time**. Please visit <http://www.samrc.ac.za/request-for-applications/international-masters-vaccinology-impvacc-programme-request-applications> for more information.

The 40th Annual Pregnancy Meeting - February 3-8, 2020 - Dallas, Texas, USA - abstracts are due on August 5, by 9:00 pm (ET)!

To submit your abstract, please visit <https://www.smfm.org/2020>.

AREF-Sponsored Scholarships are available for an Introductory Course in Epidemiology & Medical Statistics - 11-29 November - MRC at LSHTM, The Gambia

Applications are open to clinicians and other graduates who work in medical research units, academic departments or health services for a three-week sponsored course focussing on the design and interpretation of epidemiological studies. Interested applicants may submit a complete application to arefinfo@aref-africa.org.uk no later than 16.00 hours GMT on 11th September 2019. Please find more details at <http://www.africaresearchexcellencefund.org.uk/for-african-researchers/funding-opportunities/aref-sponsored-scholarships-are-available-for-an-introductory-course-in-epidemiology-medical-statistics-the-gambia-2/>.

International Workshop on HIV Drug Resistance and Treatment Strategies - abstract submission deadline extended

Individuals interested in attending the 28th International Workshop on HIV Drug Resistance and Treatment Strategies must submit an abstract application prior to the final deadline of Tuesday, **6 August 2019**, 17h00 SA Standard Time. <https://www.hivresistance2019.co.za/abstracts/>.

PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:

A near-full-length HIV-1 genome from 1966 recovered from formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue (BioRxiv)

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/687863v1>.

ADVANCE study provides evidence for shift to dolutegravir-containing antiretroviral treatment in SA

<http://www.wits.ac.za/news/latest-news/research-news/2019/2019-07/advance-study-provides-evidence-for-shift-to-dolutegravir-containing-antiretroviral-treatment-in-sa.html>.

First- High through-put-genomics sequencing centre in Africa to decode genes

<http://www.samrc.ac.za/media-release/first-high-through-put-genomics-sequencing-centre-africa-decode-genes>.

The secret social lives of viruses

Scientists are listening in on the ways viruses communicate and cooperate. Decoding what the microbes are saying could be a boon to human health. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-01880-6>.

Antimalarial activity of primaquine operates via a two-step biochemical relay (open access)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-11239-0>.

N-of-1 trials take on challenges in health care (interesting read)

From personalizing clinical practice to aiding biomedical research, individualized clinical trials have been heralded as a solution to several problems plaguing modern medicine. But they've yet to be widely adopted. <https://www.the-scientist.com/features/n-of-1-trials-take-on-challenges-in-health-care-66071>.

Alarming surge in drug-resistant HIV uncovered

The drug-resistant form of the virus has been detected at unacceptable levels across Africa, Asia and the Americas. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02316-x>.

'Mosaic' HIV vaccine to be tested in thousands of people across the world

The experimental vaccine targets more strains of the virus than any other - and seems to have longer lasting effects. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02319-8>.

The orphan nuclear receptor LRH-1/NR5a2 critically regulates T cell functions (open access)

<https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/5/7/eaav9732>.

Meet the African researcher who is building a core of junior immunologists on the continent

Faith Osier discusses a bold plan to increase African representation in the global research community. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02334-9>.

Another trick up the immune system's sleeve: regrowing blood vessels

Antigen-containing scaffold can attract and activate T cells that promote revascularization of ischemic tissues. <https://wyss.harvard.edu/another-trick-up-the-immune-systems-sleeve-regrowing-blood-vessels/>.
<https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/5/7/eaav6313.full>.

T cell-mediated regulation of the microbiota protects against obesity (open access)

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/365/6451/eaat9351>.

Viral HIV vaccine gives durable protection against tough strains

<https://www.scripps.edu/news-and-events/press-room/2019/20190724-farzan-viral-hiv.html>.

Pain and gain: skin nerves anticipate and fight infection

<https://www.upmc.com/media/news/072519-kaplan-cell-anticipatory-immunity>.

Comprehensive subspecies identification of 175 nontuberculous mycobacteria species based on 7547 genomic profiles (open access)

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/22221751.2019.1637702>.

Lung cell patches its own DNA on the fly to survive influenza

Resilient cells make lung less hospitable to viruses but may be double-edged sword. <https://today.duke.edu/2019/07/lung-cell-patches-its-own-dna-fly-survive-influenza>.

Genetic screen identifies genes that protect cells from Zika virus

Genes found to safeguard against infection as well as resuscitate infected cells, TAU researchers say. <https://www.aftau.org/weblog-medicine--health?&storyid4704=2471&ncs4704=3>.

Exosomes containing HIV protein Nef reorganize lipid rafts potentiating inflammatory response in bystander cells (open access)

<https://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/article?id=10.1371/journal.ppat.1007907>.

Rotavirus calcium dysregulation manifests as dynamic calcium signaling in the cytoplasm and endoplasmic reticulum (open access)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-46856-8>.



JOBS and POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Research Scientist Position - Immunology and Host-pathogen interaction - Nuffield Department of Medicine (NDM), Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, University of Oxford, UK

The Infection and Immunity Dynamics group, led by Dr Pedro Moura Alves, is seeking an exceptional and motivated postdoctoral scientist with experience in host-pathogen interaction to undertake a project focused on the role of the Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor (AhR) as an Innate Immune Sensor of the cellular microenvironment during the course of infection. Applications to be received by 12 pm on Wednesday **7th of August 2019**. For more information, please visit <https://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/current-job-vacancies/vacancy/141753-Postdoctoral-Research-Scientist---Immunology-and-Host-pathogen-interaction>.

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.

Kind regards

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