

## SAIS NEWSLETTER MARCH 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear SAIS members,

Below, please find this week's newsletter.

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### FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **VII-th Conference of the South African Immunology Society - abstract submission deadline extended**

Please see more details below.



**sais**  
SOUTH AFRICAN IMMUNOLOGY SOCIETY

VIIth Conference of the South African Immunology Society  
**Abstract Submission Deadline Extended**  
[www.sais-bookings.co.za](http://www.sais-bookings.co.za)

# Synergy in Immunology

18 – 20 June 2019

aha Gateway hotel, Umhlanga, Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa  
Please join us at one of the most beautiful coastal villages in the world

**IMPORTANT DATES**  
22 March 2019 - Abstract submission closes  
10 May 2019 - Early bird registration closes

To register or submit an abstract please visit: [www.sais-bookings.co.za](http://www.sais-bookings.co.za)

Enquiries: Bridget de Beer [conference1@onscreenav.co.za](mailto:conference1@onscreenav.co.za) / +27 21 486 9111

#### **VII-th Conference of the South African Immunology Society - Pre Conference Workshop - Immunology 101 - 17 June 2019**

Monday, 17 June - 13:00-18:30. For more details, please visit <https://lnkd.in/dkqjTM2>.

#### **28th International Workshop on HIV Drug Resistance and Treatment Strategies (SAHCS) - Johannesburg, SA - 16-18 October 2019**

Registration is now open! Please find more details here: <https://lnkd.in/dQZu3YS>.

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### PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:

#### **Salt Could Play a Role in Allergies - interesting read**

High salt concentrations are present in the affected skin of people with atopic dermatitis and promote the differentiation of the T helper cells involved in the development of allergic diseases. <https://lnkd.in/dnxm6fc>.

#### **Molecules Found in Ginger Remodel the Microbiome - interesting read**

Small RNA-containing particles in ginger root are found to promote the growth of beneficial bacteria and alleviate colitis in mouse guts. <https://lnkd.in/ddYaCXm>.



**Why Nigeria is battling to control disease outbreaks like Lassa fever**

<https://lnkd.in/dfN7Aaf>.

**Rethinking Thymic Tolerance: Lessons from Mice (open access)**

<https://lnkd.in/dqrf4g9>.

**Optimal therapeutic activity of monoclonal antibodies against chikungunya virus requires Fc-FcγR interaction on monocytes (open access)**

<https://lnkd.in/d5-aeVB>.

**Insights from the Role of the Genital Tract Microbiome in Sexual and Reproductive Health meeting (December 11-15, 2018 - Cape Town, South Africa)**

<https://lnkd.in/d4ygFPy>.

**A new model for disease research in Africa - interesting read**

Locally led studies on public health are good for the continent and the globe. Scientists, politicians and funders should support it. <https://lnkd.in/deMp9sf>.

**This Nigerian doctor might just prevent the next deadly pandemic - interesting read**

As leader of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, Chikwe Ihekweazu works to protect the nation — and the world — from devastating outbreaks. <https://lnkd.in/dcx6ZEt>.

**Biomimetic Micromotor Enables Active Delivery of Antigens for Oral Vaccination**

<https://lnkd.in/dj5gxUy>.

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**JOBS and POSITIONS**

**Post-doctoral position available - the Precision Vaccines Laboratory, the Precision Vaccines Program at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School (Boston, USA)**

The *Precision Vaccines* Laboratory, directed by Ofer Levy MD, PhD, is the focal point of the *Precision Vaccines Program* at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School (Boston, MA;; USA). Due to distinct immunity, life-threatening infections most often occur at the extremes of life motivating development of improved vaccines that are safe and effective in the young and old. The *Precision Vaccines Program* is a platform for international collaboration employing cutting edge technologies to understand age- and sex-specific features of immune responses to inform development of vaccines tailored for optimal safety and immunogenicity towards distinct populations. **We seek a skilled and motivated post-doctoral scientist with background in Immunology (experience in T and B lymphocyte studies a plus), Vaccinology, and/or Systems Biology to lead a project on development of novel adjuvanted vaccines.** We are funded by NIH/NIAID via an Adjuvant Discovery and Development Program contracts, a UO1 grant on adjuvant synergy and a U19 Human Immunology Project Consortium (HIPC) award to study systems vaccinology. Studies will employ *in vitro* modelling of human new-born, adult and elderly antigen-presenting cells, T and B lymphocytes, small molecule screens, medicinal chemistry, adjuvant formulation as well as *in vivo* animal and human studies and big data "OMIC" technologies, to identify and develop adjuvants that enhance immune responses of those at the extremes of age. Our laboratory is dynamic, international, supportive and productive. We offer excellent opportunities for publication, attendance at scientific meetings, and career advancement with graduates of the lab holding prominent positions in academia and industry. The candidate should have obtained their PhD within the last 1-3 years. Interested applicants should e-mail their CV and arrange to have 3 statements of reference **e-mailed to: [ofer.levy@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:ofer.levy@childrens.harvard.edu)**. International candidates are encouraged to apply.

**Site Liaison Associate vacancy - HCRISA**

Interested candidates should send their full Curriculum Vitae to Bongzi Vilakazi at [svilakaz@hcrisa.org.za](mailto:svilakaz@hcrisa.org.za). Closing date: **08 March, 2019**. Please find more details below.



<b>Position Title:</b>	<b>Site Liaison Associate</b>
<b>Position Purpose:</b>	The purpose of the position is to assist in the development of sites in the start-up phase, and upon trial implementation, oversee the execution of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) practice of HIV vaccine trials at various Clinical Research Sites (CRSs) in Southern Africa. This position is a trial management resource for CRS staff and other HVTN Leadership Operations Center (LOC) staff based in South Africa, and is a liaison between Southern Africa-based clinical CRS staff and Seattle-based staff.
<b>KEY RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	
<b><u>Project Management, coordination, support and implementation</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Manage expectations for LOC, HVTN Leadership, and CRSs related to study implementation, including the start-up timeline, enrollment, and site performance.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepares and presents study material at meetings and communicates outcomes to project team.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other duties and assignments as requested for the overall performance of the department and company.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Serve as the primary contact for site knowledge and site-related queries</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Operational Management, develop, maintain and implement clinical research protocol processes</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Work to carry out the operational strategy of the Network.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Represent and advocate for CRSs in strategic &amp; operational discussions. Serve as the primary “go-to person” for CRS knowledge and CRS-related queries.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drawing on knowledge and relationships with sites’ operations, provide input to clinical research teams on site expertise and potential obstacles and challenges.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Upon trial start, provide primary trial management support to the GCP standard to a portfolio of CRSs, including frequent travel for on-site training and assessment, ensuring effective implementation of HIV vaccine research protocols.</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Clinical Research Support, quality assurance, protocol adherence</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Interact with the CRS PIs to address issues related to site management, enrollment and performance.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In the startup phase, develop a portfolio of CRSs in Southern Africa to conduct rigorous clinical trials to US NIH/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) and HVTN standards.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other duties, as required</li> </ul>	

**Scientific Officer vacancy - Cape Town HVTN - Immunology laboratory (deadline 11 March)**

Please see more details below. Bongsi Vilakazi



<b>Position Title:</b>	Scientific Officer
<b>Position Purpose:</b>	The Scientific Officer will conduct laboratory research to profile immune responses induced by vaccination in human clinical trials in a Good Clinical Laboratory Practice (GCLP) environment. S/he will write standard operating procedures, reports, grant proposals, manuscripts and present research at scientific meetings.
<b>Reporting To:</b>	Laboratory Director
<b>KEY RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	
<p><b>Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and implement cutting edge immunological techniques in the laboratory to investigate immune responses to vaccination.</li> <li>Perform advanced data analysis and troubleshooting of experiments, providing guidance to the team.</li> <li>Train and supervise research technologists.</li> <li>Write lab protocols, standard operating procedures, study plans and other related documents/reports.</li> <li>Write grants and manuscripts, and present research at scientific meetings.</li> </ul> <p><b>General Laboratory Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct all work according to Good Clinical Laboratory Practice (GCLP) guidelines and auditable-standards, ensuring accurate and timely reporting and record keeping.</li> <li>Develop and manage relevant components of quality systems (documentation, training, deviation reporting, etc.).</li> <li>Attend and participate in appropriate laboratory meetings.</li> <li>Contribute to the development of the laboratory environment (e.g. laboratory safety).</li> </ul>	
<b>EDUCATION, CERTIFICATION, QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE NEEDED</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PhD with experience in immunology, virology, or related field</li> <li>Track record of productive research demonstrated with first author publications and presentations at prominent scientific meetings</li> <li>Experience working with clinical trials preferred</li> </ul>	
<b>COMPETENCIES /SKILLS/ KNOWLEDGE</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced data analysis, experience with statistics, data interpretation and scientific writing skills</li> <li>Expertise in HIV and/or TB</li> <li>Ability to take initiative and work independently but also to work with a team</li> <li>Highly flexible and adaptable to the changing needs of a fast-paced and dynamic environment with a desire to learn</li> <li>Excellent attention to detail and scientific rigor</li> <li>Advanced problem-solving skills</li> <li>Advanced project management skills; excellent time management skills and ability to work within set deadlines</li> <li>Understanding of importance, implementation and maintenance of GCLP principles</li> <li>Effective communication (oral, written and presentation) and interpersonal skills</li> </ul>	

Interested candidates should send their full Curriculum Vitae to Bongsi Vilakazi @ [svilakaz@hcrisa.org.za](mailto:svilakaz@hcrisa.org.za)

Closing date: 11 March 2019



Thank you to our sponsors for the VII-th Conference of the South African Immunology Society in June 2019:



(Platinum Sponsor);



(Silver Sponsor);



inqaba biotec™  
Africa's Genomics Company



Thank you to the prize sponsor of the November 2018 Lucky Draw for Paid Up members.



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

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