



## SAIS NEWSLETTER – JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

Dear SAIS members

Please find this week's newsletter below. The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday, 12 June 2020.

### FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GLOBAL IMMUNOTALKS 2020

Organizers: Carla V. Rothlin & Elina I. Zúñiga  
Wednesdays 9 AM PST; 12 noon EST; 4 pm GMT

**ZOOM: <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/91053505061>**

**Daniel Mucida**

April 22

**Caetano Reis e Sousa**

April 29

**Hai Qi**

May 6

**Yasmine Belkaid**

May 13

**Susan Kaech**

May 20

**Bali Pulendran**

May 27

**Jason Cyster**

June 3

**Kate Fitzgerald**

June 10

**John Kappler**

June 17

**Marco Colonna**

June 24

**Carla Rothlin**

July 1

**Chris Hunter**

July 8

**Manuela Raffatellu**

July 15

**Alexander Rudensky**

July 22

**Ron Germain**

July 29

**Elina Zúñiga**

August 5



Q&A via Twitter at #globalimmuno (contingent on speaker availability)

Updated schedule and recorded talks will be uploaded at  
[https://labs.biology.ucsd.edu/zuniga/global\\_immunotalks.htm](https://labs.biology.ucsd.edu/zuniga/global_immunotalks.htm)  
and YouTube

**WEBINAR: Respiratory immunity and COVID-19, 8 June 2020, 06:00 PM Europe/Berlin**

Donna Farber from Columbia University will discuss respiratory immunity in SARS-CoV2 infection and potential immune correlates of disease severity. For more information and to register, please visit: [https://iuis.clickmeeting.com/respiratory-immunity-and-covid-19/register?\\_ga=2.97202015.1985039814.1590393592-1769454983.15846318](https://iuis.clickmeeting.com/respiratory-immunity-and-covid-19/register?_ga=2.97202015.1985039814.1590393592-1769454983.15846318)

**WEBINAR: Understanding Infection and Immunity of SARS-CoV-2: from Diagnostics to Therapies for COVID-19, 15 June 2020, 11:00 (CEST)**

In this webinar, Lisa Ng will provide an overview of the pathophysiology of SARS-CoV-2 infection. She will describe its interaction with the immune system and the subsequent contribution of dysfunctional immune responses to disease progression.

For more information and to register, please visit: <https://iuis.clickmeeting.com/from-diagnostics-to-therapies-for-covid-19/register>

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**PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:**

**Performance of SARS-CoV-2 antibody assays in different stages of the infection: Comparison of commercial ELISA and rapid tests**

<https://academic.oup.com/jid/advance-article/doi/10.1093/infdis/jiaa305/5849070?searchresult=1>

**Neutrophil Extracellular Traps May Augur Severe COVID-19**

These webs of chromatin and proteins, released by immune cells to control microbial infections, could serve as a therapeutic target in coronavirus infections.

<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/neutrophil-extracellular-traps-may-augur-severe-covid-19-67588>

**COVID-19 in Africa: no room for complacency**

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31237-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31237-X/fulltext)

**Doctors race to understand inflammatory condition in kids**

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/368/6494/923>

**Detection of air and surface contamination by SARS-CoV-2 in hospital rooms of infected patients**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-16670-2>

**Coronapod: The divisive hydroxychloroquine study that's triggering mass confusion**

The plot thickens for controversial coronavirus drug as it is mired with possible safety concerns

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01625-w>

**First Antibody Trial Launched in COVID-19 Patients**

In record time, scientists have gone from harvesting antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 from survivors of coronavirus infections to testing the antibodies' safety as a drug in humans.

<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/first-antibody-trial-launched-in-covid-19-patients--67604>

**Tissue Stiffness Regulates Immune Responses**

<https://www.labroots.com/trending/immunology/17797/tissue-stiffness-regulates-immune-responses>

Link to research article: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/581322v1>

**Low T Cells Linked To High COVID Risk**

<https://www.labroots.com/trending/clinical-and-molecular-dx/17798/low-cells-linked-covid-risk>  
Link to research article: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMcp2009575>

**Marginal zone SIGN-R1+ macrophages are essential for the maturation of germinal center B cells in the spleen**

<https://www.pnas.org/content/117/22/12295>

**We test a home antibody kit for tracking Covid-19**

Easy-to-use postal tests may be important for monitoring community transmission.  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01677-y>

**Macrophages enter CAR immunotherapy**

CAR+ macrophages modulate the tumor milieu and lead to antitumor immune responses.  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41592-020-0862-4>

**COVID-19 vaccines: neutralizing antibodies and the alum advantage**

Achieving high levels of neutralizing antibodies to the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 in a safe manner is likely to be crucial for an effective vaccine. Here, we propose that aluminium-based adjuvants might hold the key to this.  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41577-020-0358-6>

**Bolstering Africa's coronavirus detection efforts**

Molecular biologist Christian Happi is working around the clock to get testing available throughout the continent.  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01607-y>

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**JOBS and POSITIONS:**

**Medical Scientists x 2 (18 months fixed-term contract)**

“Snakebite is the biggest public health crisis you’ve never heard of” - Kofi Annan. Venomous snakes kill or disfigure half a million people every year, inflicting a burden of disease that is disproportionately borne by the developing world. At the NICD, a new research group is tackling the development of safe, effective, and affordable therapies for snakebite envenomation in Africa. The closing date for all applications is **07 June 2020**. For more information, please visit:

[https://library.witshealth.co.za/Vacancies/2020/5/29/10053/10053\\_Internal%20Advert%20-%20Medical%20Scientist%20-%20NICD.pdf](https://library.witshealth.co.za/Vacancies/2020/5/29/10053/10053_Internal%20Advert%20-%20Medical%20Scientist%20-%20NICD.pdf)

**POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN TUBERCULOSIS DRUG DISCOVERY WITH A FOCUS ON MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS BIOLOGY**

A post-doctoral fellowship is being offered in the Tuberculosis Biology group of the Drug Discovery and Development Centre (H3D) at the University of Cape Town, based in the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM). This fellowship will be under the supervision of Dr Vinayak Singh. Applications for this position close **15th June 2020**. For more information, please visit:  
[http://www.h3d.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image\\_tool/images/314/Careers/TB%20PostDoc\\_Advert\\_H3D.pdf](http://www.h3d.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/314/Careers/TB%20PostDoc_Advert_H3D.pdf)

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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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