



SAIS NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 8th, 2019

Dear SAIS members,

Below, please find this week's newsletter.

FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

VII-th Conference of the South African Immunology Society - registration & abstract submission now open

Please see more details below.



VIIth Conference of the South African Immunology Society

Abstract Submission & Registration Now Open

www.sais-bookings.co.za

A promotional poster for the VIIth Conference of the South African Immunology Society. The background is a vibrant, abstract image of colorful, overlapping circles and lines, resembling a molecular or cellular structure. The text is overlaid on this background. At the top, the title "Synergy in Immunology" is written in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, the dates "18 – 20 June 2019" are displayed in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Further down, the location "aha Gateway hotel, Umhlanga, Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa" is written in a white, sans-serif font, followed by the tagline "Please join us at one of the most beautiful coastal villages in the world". Below this, the section "IMPORTANT DATES" is highlighted in a white, sans-serif font, with two lines of text: "22 February 2019 - Abstract submission closes" and "10 May 2019 - Early bird registration closes". At the bottom, the registration information "To register or submit an abstract please visit: www.sais-bookings.co.za" is provided in a white, sans-serif font. Finally, at the very bottom, the contact information "Enquiries: Bridget de Beer conference1@onscreenav.co.za / +27 21 486 9111" is listed in a small, white, sans-serif font.

6th Annual Short Course in Basic and Translational Virology of the GVN - a course for emerging leaders in Medical Virology

A one-week intensive course on basic, translational, and clinical aspects of viruses of importance to human health. Lecturers will be leading medical virologists drawn from GVN Centers. All didactic courses will be on state-of-the-art aspects of research on specific viruses. Significant time for discussion and interaction with renowned medical virology leaders are hallmarks of the course, as are opportunities to meet with policymakers and program officials from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Please visit <https://lnkd.in/g6R3E8B> for more details. Final deadline for applications - April 26.

Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme: Experts in HIV service delivery - Call for applications

The Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme, an initiative of the IAS Educational Fund, is aimed at contributing to improving the quality of HIV service delivery in resource-limited settings by providing two-year fellowships to five clinicians from sub-Saharan Africa, who will spend one year in Europe and one year in Africa at clinical institutions. The programme will offer in-depth training for clinicians committed to careers in HIV clinical service delivery in sub-Saharan Africa with the aim of strengthening access to high-quality services for sub-Saharan Africa populations, with a client-centred service delivery approach. <https://lnkd.in/dPgGhb3>. Application deadline - 1 March.



ProQuantum Immunoassays Enable Low-Level Cytokine Detection - Webinar - February 12, 2019 - 08 AM PST

Invitrogen™ ProQuantum™ high-sensitivity immunoassays are a new platform with a repertoire of relevant cytokine proteins. It combines excellent sensitivity for low-level detection of soluble proteins and low consumption of precious samples. This webinar will demonstrate the application of the ProQuantum platform to detect various cytokine proteins in serum samples of healthy and asthmatic individuals. For registration: <https://lnkd.in/dAHy6mG>.

UKRI GRCF Health and context call 2019

The UKRI GRCF Health and Context call is seeking proposals for interdisciplinary research, addressing wider contextual factors contributing to the burden of infectious and non-communicable diseases. Closing date: 2 April, 2019 at 16:00 GMT+1. For more details on eligibility, please visit <https://lnkd.in/dpUTewi>.

Virtual Keystone Symposium - "Mosquito-Borne Diseases: From Long-Time Foes to Emerging Threats" - February 27, 2019 - 12:30 PM Hong Kong Time

Filmed at the Keystone Symposia October conference in Hong Kong on "Framing the Response to Emerging Virus Infections," the panel discussion will focus on diseases such as Chikungunya, Dengue and Zika, the prospect of vaccines for these viral diseases, and ways to improve clinical care. Submit your questions either when registering for the event, during the broadcast in the chat room, or via the Twitter hashtag #VKSmosquito. Learn more and register for free at bit.ly/VKSmosquito.

Virtual Keystone Symposium - "Preparing for the Next Pandemic: The Emerging Infectious Disease Threat"

Filmed at the Keystone Symposia October conference in Hong Kong on "Framing the Response to Emerging Virus Infections," the panel discussion features experts on zoonotic diseases discussing how we can better prepare for the next pandemic and which emerging diseases pose the greatest threats. Learn more and register for free at bit.ly/VKSpandemic.

ONE HEALTH: A focus on Infectious Diseases in Africa - 27 – 28 May 2019 - Durban, South Africa - Call to Young Scientists to Submit Abstracts for Oral Presentations

The theme of the symposium on 'ONE HEALTH: A focus on Infectious Diseases in Africa' seeks to increase knowledge and build capacity in infectious disease research amongst early career researchers in the Africa region. The main aim of convening this symposium from a One Health stance stems from the growing global threats of epidemics and the need for realisation of a collective sense of responsibility towards a proactive public health regime. ASSAf is seeking young scientists from Africa to participate in this symposium. Application deadline - **15 February, 2019**. Application forms to be sent to Ms Edith Shikumo (Edith@assaf.org.za); Tel: +27 (0)12 349 6614. <https://lnkd.in/dxaWXKR>. <https://lnkd.in/dcnp3aX>.

Low cost viral diagnostics training workshop - 13-15 March, 2019

In collaboration with the CSIR, University of Cambridge and Imperial College London, the University of Pretoria is proud to host a three-day workshop dedicated to practical and theoretical training in the use of cell-free synthetic biology technologies, paper-based microfluidic techniques and open-source electronics and detection systems for low-cost viral diagnostics (LCVD) applications. Participants will benefit from joining a UK-South Africa network centred around a UK Global Challenges Research Fund-supported LCVD project until Feb 2021. The deadline for applications is **15 February 2019**. For further enquiries, kindly contact Dr Letrisha Padayachee (letrisha.padayachee@up.ac.za) or Dr Steven Hussey (steven.hussey@fab.up.ac.za).

The tenth annual Clinic on the Meaningful Modeling of Epidemiological Data (MMED) - May 27-June 7, 2019 - the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Muizenberg, South Africa - Call for Applications

Please find more details here: <http://www.ici3d.org/mmed/>.

PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:

The World Health Organisation lists 10 threats to global health in 2019

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

Assessment of Humoral Alloimmunity in Mixed Lymphocyte Reaction - new method that might be of interest to those studying humoral immunity

<https://lnkd.in/g-Bq-ec>.

Antibodies of SARS-survivors Mimic Membranes to Trick Viruses

<https://lnkd.in/dgYei3n>.

Single-cell RNA sequencing unveils an IL-10-producing helper subset that sustains humoral immunity during persistent infection - open access

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

Cell Death Processes Are Reversible - interesting read

Molecular programs can rescue cells already engaged in the process of apoptosis or other forms of programmed cell death. <https://lnkd.in/dC7jG5A>.

Initiative Aims to Limit Excessive Red Tape for African Science

Research organizations and universities have typically faced burdensome paperwork to convince funders their money would not be wasted. <https://lnkd.in/dXMQugM>.

What bioRxiv's first 30,000 preprints reveal about biologists - interesting read

More than 1 million studies are now downloaded from the site every month, mostly in neuroscience, bioinformatics and genomics. <https://lnkd.in/dFmBgVA>.

HIV-1 protein suppresses immune response more broadly than thought

New insight on how an HIV-1 protein hinders the immune response to infection could inform the development of more effective treatments. <https://lnkd.in/dehKeJm>.

How lung tissue forms immune cell hubs in times of need

Findings hold promise for broader immunization against flu. <https://lnkd.in/dHjN9UA>.

New disease surveillance tool helps detect any human virus

Computational method helps scientists examine microbes at a larger, more comprehensive scale than previously possible. <https://lnkd.in/dGQ2ai8>.

Dual HLA B*42 and B*81-reactive T cell receptors recognize more diverse HIV-1 Gag escape variants

<https://lnkd.in/des6ZWM>.

Microbes hitched to insects provide a rich source of new antibiotics

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

Single-Cell Transcriptomics of Regulatory T Cells Reveals Trajectories of Tissue Adaptation - new study (open access)

https://lnkd.in/dVG_ikt.

Genome structure of malaria parasites linked to virulence

UC Riverside-led research could help develop novel therapeutic strategies to combat malaria.
<https://lnkd.in/dxbr5PE>.

A New Dimension of Cell Culture: The Rise of Spheroid Culture Systems - interesting read

<https://lnkd.in/ddf7JDh>.

JOBS and POSITIONS

Master of Medical Sciences in Immunology Program at Harvard Medical School - the application for Fall 2019 is now open!

The mission of the HMS Master of Medical Sciences in Immunology (MMSc IMM) is to provide a solid, instructional and research-based foundation in both Basic and Clinical Immunology. This program serves the needs both of students with a strong undergraduate biology background with an interest in medicine or fundamental research and seeking deeper knowledge of immunology, as well as of academic physicians from a range of specialties who seek an in-depth knowledge of immunology in order to further their professional goals and research expertise. To apply, please follow <https://lnkd.in/daNCXVw>.

WACCBIP PhD Fellowships

The West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) at the University of Ghana is offering PhD fellowships under the World Bank African Centre's of Excellence (ACE) Impact project. We are looking for aspiring African scientists to work in an environment that supports high caliber research, promotes the development of scientific leadership, and enables networking with other scientists throughout Africa. Deadline for applications is **February 15, 2019**. Please find more details here: <https://lnkd.in/dfiAfEW>.

Doctoral bursary in the Experimental Tuberculosis and Immunology Research group - IDM, UCT - deadline 1st March

Please find more details here: <https://lnkd.in/dia-5ef>.

MSc opportunity - Antigenic and immunological determinants of acute allergic susceptibility to meat in a uniquely defined cohort in the Eastern Cape

An MSc project (2 years) studying allergic mechanisms at the Red Cross Children's Hospital and Division of Immunology, UCT is available immediately. Please find more details below and/or contact Prof. Michael Levin (Michael.levin@uct.ac.za) for more information.



MSc opportunity

Antigenic and immunological determinants of acute allergic susceptibility to meat in a uniquely defined cohort in the Eastern Cape.

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Questions? Contact Prof. Michael Levin (Michael.levin@uct.ac.za)



- Interested students should have a BSc(Hons) in a biomedical related subject.
- Experience in biochemical, cell biology and immunological techniques would be desirable.
- The project may require the student to spend some time in the laboratories of collaborators in the UK.



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
ITUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



Site Liaison Associate vacancy - HCRISA

Interested candidates should send their full Curriculum Vitae to Bongi Vilakazi at svilakaz@hcrisa.org.za. Closing date: 08 March, 2019. Please find more details below.



Position Title:	Site Liaison Associate
Position Purpose:	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.
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	
<u>Project Management, coordination, support and implementation</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Manage expectations for LOC, HVTN Leadership, and CRSs related to study implementation, including the start-up timeline, enrollment, and site performance. <input type="checkbox"/> Prepares and presents study material at meetings and communicates outcomes to project team. <input type="checkbox"/> Other duties and assignments as requested for the overall performance of the department and company. <input type="checkbox"/> Serve as the primary contact for site knowledge and site-related queries 	
<u>Operational Management, develop, maintain and implement clinical research protocol processes</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Work to carry out the operational strategy of the Network. <input type="checkbox"/> Represent and advocate for CRSs in strategic & operational discussions. Serve as the primary “go-to person” for CRS knowledge and CRS-related queries. <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. <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. 	
<u>Clinical Research Support, quality assurance, protocol adherence</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Interact with the CRS PIs to address issues related to site management, enrollment and performance. <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. <input type="checkbox"/> Other duties, as required 	



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



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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