



SAIS NEWSLETTER MARCH 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 - 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

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

Enquiries: Bridget de Beer 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>.

Improving T-cell Function in the Solid Tumor Microenvironment using Advanced Immunotherapeutic Strategies - Webinar - April 11 - 14:30 Eastern Time

Topics to be covered: - Improving T-cell functionality for adoptive T-cell therapy in metastatic colon cancer, using small-molecule strategies. - Applying polyfunction to a range of solid tumor microenvironment challenges in immunotherapy. For more details and to sign up, please follow https://lnkd.in/gU4_DUe.

PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:

Counting growth factors in single cells with infrared quantum dots to measure discrete stimulation distributions
(open access)

<https://lnkd.in/dv-cDby>.



Endocardially Derived Macrophages Are Essential for Valvular Remodeling (open access)

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

Top List: What's Hot in CRISPR Gene Editing Technology - interesting collection on the latest technology, news and products in gene editing technology

https://lnkd.in/d_XdJJX.

Mycobiome profiles in breast milk from healthy women depend on mode of delivery, geographic location and interaction with bacteria

<https://aem.asm.org/content/early/2019/02/25/AEM.02994-18>.

Rationally designed carbohydrate-occluded epitopes elicit HIV-1 Env-specific antibodies (open access)

Proteins designed in a computational manner generate antibodies that target HIV: <https://lnkd.in/d4b8hUv>.

Second patient free of HIV after stem-cell therapy

The breakthrough suggests first case was not a one-off and could pave way for future treatments.

<https://lnkd.in/gh5rGZK>.

Are We Headed for a New Era of Malaria Drug Resistance?

Plasmodium falciparum has shown an ability to evade everything we throw at it, most recently artemisinin-based combination therapies, today's front-line treatment. <https://lnkd.in/gCNapTF>.

Stick-On Immune Cell Monitor

A microneedle-containing skin patch offers researchers a noninvasive way to survey immune responses in mice.

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

Can the Flu and Other Viruses Cause Neurodegeneration? - interesting read on the link between pathogens and neurodegenerative diseases

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

'Mutation hotspot' allows common fungus to adapt to different host environments

A new study finds that samples of Candida albicans from patients frequently lack one copy of a vital master regulator, which gives them flexibility to lose the other copy and adapt to different environments.

<https://lnkd.in/gHvMUV3>.

Does Prior Dengue Exposure Help or Hurt a Zika Infection? - interesting read

Animal and cell culture studies show evidence that dengue antibodies can both neutralize and enhance Zika, but human investigations have only found protective effects. <https://lnkd.in/dMHHDjm>.

Are viruses the best weapon for fighting superbugs?

<https://lnkd.in/d-tka6V>.

JOBS and POSITIONS

The Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (BRIP) of the SAMRC is looking for a Senior Scientist

Senior Scientist (Competent) Permanent Position in the Cape Town office; **deadline** for applications - **18 March**.

Please find more details here: <https://lnkd.in/dNKiW5Y>.

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

Please see more details below. Bongzi Vilakazi



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

Interested candidates should send their full Curriculum Vitae to Bongzi Vilakazi @ svilakaz@hcrisa.org.za

Closing date: 11 March 2019

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.** International candidates are encouraged to apply.

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



(Platinum Sponsor);



(Silver Sponsor);



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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