



SAIS NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 15th, 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

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 February 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

CRISPR 2019 - Webinar - October 3, 2019 - 6:00 AM PDT

LabRoots invites you to the 2nd Annual CRISPR Virtual Event! This follow up event to a very popular first-year event will continue the conversation of the abilities of CRISPR-based editing, next-gen editing tools, precision in gene editing and using CRISPR for drug discovery. To submit a virtual poster, please follow <https://lnkd.in/dNAJ4Yt>. For more details and to sign up, please follow <https://lnkd.in/djYky4E>.

ELISA-like Assay Formats and the Benefits of Assay Automation - Webinar - February 28, 2019 - 07:00 AM PST

To sign up, please follow <https://lnkd.in/dJ6NVh3>. Learning objectives: - Understanding of the many variants of the classic ELISA assay as well as newer, "ELISA-like" assay formats and the benefits that they bring. - Understand key challenges to automating assay methods or entire processes.

PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:

Multifactorial heterogeneity of virus-specific T cells and association with the progression of human chronic hepatitis B infection (open access)

<https://lnkd.in/dbXKxAr>. "Here, Cheng et al. have generated a comprehensive panel of peptide class I major histocompatibility complex tetramers to study CD8⁺ T cells that recognize hepatitis B virus (HBV)."



Tracking HIV's ever-evolving genome in effort to prioritize public health resources

<https://lnkd.in/dQhKC8E>.

A bioengineered factory for T-cells

Injectable sponge-like gel enhances the quantity and quality of T-cells. <https://lnkd.in/dUt-fgV>.

Cofilin hyperactivation in HIV infection and targeting the cofilin pathway using an anti- α 4 β 7 integrin antibody (open access)

Finding clues to a functional HIV cure. <https://lnkd.in/dXNhrym>.

Corticosteroids inhibit Mycobacterium tuberculosis-induced necrotic host cell death by abrogating mitochondrial membrane permeability transition (open access)

Inhibiting host cell death with immunotherapy. https://lnkd.in/dD8yz_6.

Plasmodium vivax transcriptomes reveal stage-specific chloroquine response and differential regulation of male and female gametocytes (open access)

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

Plasma lipidome reveals critical illness and recovery from human Ebola virus disease

Sophisticated blood analysis provides new clues about Ebola, treatment avenues. <https://lnkd.in/dmPnrXR>.

Small-Molecule Agonists of Ae. aegypti Neuropeptide Y Receptor Block Mosquito Biting (open access)

Blocking neuropeptide Y receptor to prevent mosquitoes from biting. <https://lnkd.in/gVXfaqx>.

Mosaic deletion patterns of the human antibody heavy chain gene locus shown by Bayesian haplotyping (open access)

Why immune response differs widely among people? <https://lnkd.in/g9Bc4Sg>.

Preventing sexually transmitted infections: why South Africa isn't winning

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

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>.

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>.



Site Liaison Associate vacancy - HCRISA

Interested candidates should send their full Curriculum Vitae to Bongzi 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 	



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

Please see more details below. Bongsi 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><u>Research</u></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><u>General Laboratory Operations</u></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 Bongsi Vilakazi @ svilakaz@hcrisa.org.za

Closing date: 11 March 2019

sais

SOUTH AFRICAN IMMUNOLOGY SOCIETY



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.

MSc project (2 years) studying allergic mechanisms at the Red Cross Children's Hospital & Division of Immunology at UCT is available immediately

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.

Division of Immunology
...driving science to promote World Health

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

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

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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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