

## SAIS NEWSLETTER AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear SAIS members,

Below, please find this week's newsletter.

---

### FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Fall 2019 Labroots Scholarship (open worldwide)**

The program welcomes applications from students needing support for research projects, travel expenses, and training supplies associated with their academic pursuits in one of the STEM fields. Eligibility: \*Applicants must be enrolled or accepted for a graduate or undergraduate degree (BSc or higher) for the 19/20 academic year at a recognized university; \*The degree program/research area must be in a STEM field; \*Open worldwide. <https://www.labroots.com/scholarships/details/8>. Scholarship application will close on September 6.

#### **Keystone Symposia meeting: Antibodies as Drugs: From B Cell Biology to New Treatments - February 2-6, 2020 - Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA**

Abstract deadline: November 5, 2019; Discounted registration deadline: December 5, 2019. <https://www.keystonesymposia.org/index.cfm?e=web.Meeting.Program&meetingid=1669>.

#### **Keystone Symposia meeting: Stromal Cells in Immunity and Disease - February 19-23, 2020 - Victoria, British Columbia, Canada**

Discounted abstract deadline: October 17, 2019; Discounted registration deadline: December 18, 2019. <https://www.keystonesymposia.org/index.cfm?e=web.Meeting.Program&meetingid=1676>.

#### **Early Career Research Prize in Vaccinology R&D - application open!**

Deadline for application submission: 31st August 2019. For more information, please visit [http://www.iuisonline.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=379:prize-vac&Itemid=139](http://www.iuisonline.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=379:prize-vac&Itemid=139).

#### **Bongani Mayosi National Health Scholars Programme request for applications**

The aim of this RFA is to fund PhDs in the Maternal and Child Health research area. HIV research related to the maternal and child health domain will also be considered. Deadline for applications is **22 August 2019**. Please find more details here: <http://www.mrc.ac.za/request-for-applications/bongani-mayosi-national-health-scholars-programme-request-applications>.

#### **American Thoracic Society (ATS)'s Call for Abstracts and Case Reports for the ATS 2020 International Conference - May 15-20 - Philadelphia, USA**

Deadline: October 30, 5 pm ET. [https://conference.thoracic.org/program/call\\_for\\_abstracts/submission-criteria.php](https://conference.thoracic.org/program/call_for_abstracts/submission-criteria.php).

---

### PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:

#### **T cell-mediated regulation of the microbiota protects against obesity**

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/365/6451/eaat9351>.

**Neoantigen prediction for personalized vaccine design**

See how a computational pipeline uses next-generation sequencing data to identify genetic alterations that produce cancer-specific antigens. <https://www.the-scientist.com/infographics/infographic--neoantigen-prediction-for-personalized-vaccine-design-66140>.

**Multimeric epitope-scaffold HIV vaccines target V1V2 and differentially tune polyfunctional antibody responses (open access)**

[https://www.cell.com/cell-reports/fulltext/S2211-1247\(19\)30854-X](https://www.cell.com/cell-reports/fulltext/S2211-1247(19)30854-X).

**Structure-guided drug design identifies a BRD4-selective small molecule that suppresses HIV (open access)**

<https://www.jci.org/articles/view/120633>.

**Special edition: what are the symptoms and effects of Ebola?**

Janusz Paweska, head of the Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in South Africa, discusses the terrible physical effects of Ebola. <https://theconversation.com/special-edition-what-are-the-symptoms-and-effects-of-ebola-121376>.

**Long-term tolerance of islet allografts in nonhuman primates induced by apoptotic donor leukocytes (open access)**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-11338-y>.

**Biomedical sciences researchers discover blocking key mineral uptake could prevent gonorrhoea infection**

<https://news.gsu.edu/2019/08/05/biomedical-sciences-researchers-discover-blocking-key-mineral-uptake-could-prevent-gonorrhoea-infection/>.

**Scientists discover immune cell subtype in mice that drives allergic reactions**

<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/news-events/scientists-discover-immune-cell-subtype-mice-drives-allergic-reactions>.

**How microorganisms protect themselves against free radicals**

[https://www.charite.de/en/service/press\\_reports/artikel/detail/wie\\_sich\\_mikroorganismen\\_gegen\\_freie\\_radikale\\_schuetzen/](https://www.charite.de/en/service/press_reports/artikel/detail/wie_sich_mikroorganismen_gegen_freie_radikale_schuetzen/).

**Nanosecond pulsed electric fields induce extracellular release of chromosomal DNA and histone citrullination in neutrophil-differentiated HL-60 cells (open access)**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-44817-9>.

**Human apolipoprotein E promotes hepatitis B virus infection and production (open access)**

<https://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/article?id=10.1371/journal.ppat.1007874>.

**Lung lining fluid key to elderly susceptibility to TB infection**

<https://www.txbiomed.org/news-press/news-releases/lung-lining-fluid-key-to-elderly-susceptibility-to-tb-infection/>.

**Ensilation improves the thermal stability of the tuberculosis antigen Ag85b and an Sbi-Ag85b vaccine conjugate (open access)**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-47657-9>.

**Laboratory mice born to wild mice have natural microbiota and model human immune responses**

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/365/6452/eaaw4361>.

**Finally, some good news about Ebola: Two new treatments dramatically lower the death rate in a trial**

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/08/finally-some-good-news-about-ebola-two-new-treatments-dramatically-lower-death-rate>.

**Study finds an unexpected link between farming and immune system evolution**

<https://phys.org/news/2019-08-unexpected-link-farming-immune-evolution.html>.

**Context-dependent role for T-bet in T follicular helper differentiation and germinal center function following viral infection (open access)**

[https://www.cell.com/cell-reports/fulltext/S2211-1247\(19\)30931-3](https://www.cell.com/cell-reports/fulltext/S2211-1247(19)30931-3).

**The cervicovaginal microbiota-host interaction modulates Chlamydia trachomatis infection (open access)**

<https://mbio.asm.org/content/10/4/e01548-19>.

**Brain's fluid drains via lymphatic vessels at the base of the skull**

Detailed imaging of the rodent central nervous system reveals new information about the route cerebrospinal fluid takes to leave the brain. <https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/brains-fluid-drains-via-lymphatic-vessels-at-the-base-of-the-skull-66193>.

---

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.

Kind regards

Dana Savulescu (PhD), Pr.Sci.Nat.

Mobile: +27 74 6800082

Email: danams79@gmail.com