

## SAIS NEWSLETTER – JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2020

Dear SAIS members

Below, please find this week's newsletter. Please note that the frequency of the newsletter will change from July 2020, where members will receive the new version every second week. The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday, 17 July 2020.

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The International Congress of Immunology (IUIS) is the world's leading conference in the field of immunology. Every three years the IUIS Congress assembles immunologists from industry, university, health providers and independent research organisations. IUIS meetings in the past have comprised >5000 delegates.

The next Congress will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from August 15-20, 2022. IUIS 2022 is organized by the IUIS and hosted by the South African Immunology Society along with the Federation of African Immunology Societies.

The success of IUIS 2022 depends on the involvement of the IUIS members and the activities of its committees. The role of the Scientific Program Committee is to ensure the highest possible value of the scientific content of the IUIS Congress.

On behalf of the IUIS, I would like to invite you to contribute to the scientific excellence of IUIS 2022 by submitting your nominations for members of Scientific Program Committee. Please find an overview of the roles and responsibilities of Scientific Program Committee members here.

We will unfortunately be unable to include all nominees on the Scientific Programme Committee. We are endeavouring to create a balanced Scientific Program Committee (gender, geographic, specialty, etc.) so if a nominee is excluded, please understand it may reflect our Committee goal to represent the diversity of immunology rather than the individual qualities of the nominee.

- A curriculum vitae of the candidate
- A statement on why the nominee is a good fit for the Scientific Program Committee.

Please submit nominations to [clive.gray@uct.ac.za](mailto:clive.gray@uct.ac.za) by **Friday, 10 July 2020**.

We look forward to receiving your nominations for the Scientific Program Committee – your contribution is important and highly appreciated!

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## FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **CAF Online, 13-24 July 2020**

The Central Analytical Facility (CAF) at Stellenbosch University, has a newly installed Luminex Amnis Imaging flow cytometer and will be hosting an introduction to imaging cytometry based on the Amnis technology. Training is for non-users and current users to showcase the technology and publicize access to the instrument. All workshops will be spaced on different dates (and times) from 13 – 24 July to prevent clashes. Some of the training options will be live with interaction between the presenter and attendees while others will be in the form of a pre-recorded video with the option to send questions to the presenter by email. Dates and times will be communicated to you soon. Please register by 3 July to book your space. To register please visit: <http://www0.sun.ac.za/safmachform/machform/view.php?id=137194>

### **WEBINAR: Prevention and Therapy of COVID-19 with Monoclonal Antibodies, 6 July 2020, 16:00 (CEST)**

Hans-Martin Jäck summarizes the COVID-19 pandemic and CoV-2-host cell interactions. He introduces the concept of passive immunisation and active vaccination to prevent and protect from COVID-19, and he provides an overview of the current clinical serum and vaccine trials, finishing the webinar with a review on the production of human CoV-2 neutralising antibodies in transgenic mice with an entirely human antibody repertoire.

To register, please visit: <https://www.bigmarker.com/iuis/Prevention-and-Therapy-of-COVID-19-with-mono-clonal-antibodies>

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## PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:

### **Phenotype and kinetics of SARS-CoV-2-specific T cells in COVID-19 patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome**

<https://immunology.sciencemag.org/content/5/48/eabd2071>

### **CRISPR gene editing in human embryos wreaks chromosomal mayhem**

Three studies showing large DNA deletions and reshuffling heighten safety concerns about heritable genome editing.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01906-4>

### **COVID-19 severity correlates with airway epithelium-immune cell interactions identified by single-cell analysis**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41587-020-0602-4>

### **Coronapod: The state of the pandemic, six months in**

Lockdowns are lifting but global infections are still rising. We take stock as we enter the next chapter of the outbreak.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01953-x>

### **Next Generation Sequencing of T and B cell receptor repertoires from COVID-19 patients showed signatures associated with severity of disease**

[https://www.cell.com/immunity/fulltext/S1074-7613\(20\)30279-X?dgcid=raven\\_jbs\\_aip\\_email](https://www.cell.com/immunity/fulltext/S1074-7613(20)30279-X?dgcid=raven_jbs_aip_email)

### **SARS-CoV-2 T-cell epitopes define heterologous and COVID-19-induced T-cell recognition**

<https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-35331/v1>

**South Africa has the experience and capacity to make a Covid-19 vaccine**

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-06-30-south-africa-has-the-experience-and-capacity-to-make-a-covid-19-vaccine/#gsc.tab=0>

**Macrophage metabolic reprogramming presents a therapeutic target in lupus nephritis**

<https://www.pnas.org/content/117/26/15160>

**Immune response in children with COVID-19 is characterized by lower levels of T cell activation than infected adults**

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/eji.202048724>

**LIPS method for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies to spike and nucleocapsid proteins**

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/eji.202048715>

**Swine flu strain with human pandemic potential increasingly found in pigs in China**

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/swine-flu-strain-human-pandemic-potential-increasingly-found-pigs-china>

**Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech shows positive results**

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/07/01/covid-19-vaccine-from-pfizer-and-biontech-shows-positive-results/>

**An antiviral response beyond immune cells**

Fibroblast, epithelial and endothelial cells are more than just the scaffold of an organ — it emerges that they communicate with immune cells and are primed to launch organ-specific gene-expression programs for antiviral defence.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01916-2>

**Mapping the T cell response to COVID-19**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41392-020-00228-1>

**Clinical trials of broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibodies for HIV Prevention: A Review**

<https://academic.oup.com/jid/article-abstract/doi/10.1093/infdis/jiaa377/5865449?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

**The Tricky Math of Herd Immunity for COVID-19**

Herd immunity differs from place to place, and many factors influence how it's calculated.

[https://www.quantamagazine.org/the-tricky-math-of-covid-19-herd-immunity-20200630/?utm\\_source=Nature+Briefing&utm\\_campaign=1af892beb9-briefing-dy-20200701&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c9dfd39373-1af892beb9-44620873](https://www.quantamagazine.org/the-tricky-math-of-covid-19-herd-immunity-20200630/?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=1af892beb9-briefing-dy-20200701&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-1af892beb9-44620873)

**The Contribution of Epigenetics to Cancer Immunotherapy**

[https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906\(20\)30126-5](https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906(20)30126-5)

**Cytokine Storms: Understanding COVID-19**

[https://www.cell.com/immunity/fulltext/S1074-7613\(20\)30272-7](https://www.cell.com/immunity/fulltext/S1074-7613(20)30272-7)

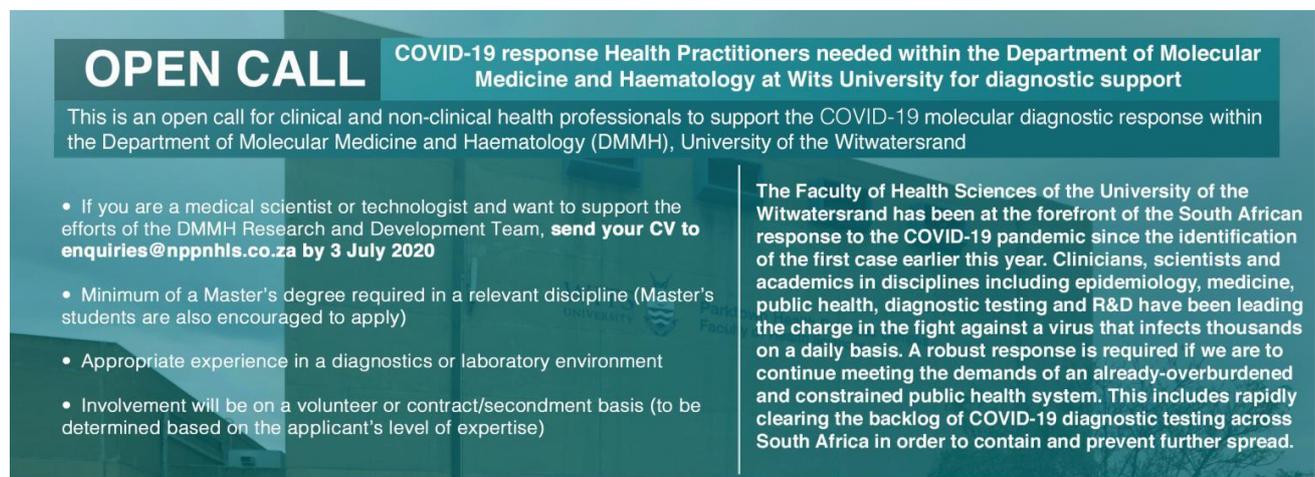
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## JOBS and POSITIONS

### **MSc opportunity in HIV immunology, African Health Research Institute**

Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI) is looking for an enthusiastic and motivated MSc student to be based at AHRI's Durban Research Campus. This position offers the opportunity to study a novel area of HIV infection through unique human tissue samples in a state-of-the-art research facility with access to new technologies and international collaborations. Please send your cover letter and CV to [henrik.kloverpris@ahri.org](mailto:henrik.kloverpris@ahri.org) by **Friday 3 July, 2020**. For more information, please visit: <https://www.ahri.org/career/msc-opportunity-in-hiv-immunology/>

### **Call for Research support – Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology, University of the Witwatersrand**



**OPEN CALL** COVID-19 response Health Practitioners needed within the Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology at Wits University for diagnostic support

This is an open call for clinical and non-clinical health professionals to support the COVID-19 molecular diagnostic response within the Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology (DMMH), University of the Witwatersrand

- If you are a medical scientist or technologist and want to support the efforts of the DMMH Research and Development Team, **send your CV to [enquiries@npphls.co.za](mailto:enquiries@npphls.co.za) by 3 July 2020**
- Minimum of a Master's degree required in a relevant discipline (Master's students are also encouraged to apply)
- Appropriate experience in a diagnostics or laboratory environment
- Involvement will be on a volunteer or contract/secondment basis (to be determined based on the applicant's level of expertise)

The Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of the Witwatersrand has been at the forefront of the South African response to the COVID-19 pandemic since the identification of the first case earlier this year. Clinicians, scientists and academics in disciplines including epidemiology, medicine, public health, diagnostic testing and R&D have been leading the charge in the fight against a virus that infects thousands on a daily basis. A robust response is required if we are to continue meeting the demands of an already-overburdened and constrained public health system. This includes rapidly clearing the backlog of COVID-19 diagnostic testing across South Africa in order to contain and prevent further spread.



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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