

SAIS NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 23RD, 2020

Dear SAIS members

Below, please find this week's newsletter. The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday, 6 November 2020.

FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAIS Immunopaedia COVID-19 Webinar series

For recordings from past webinars, please visit: <https://www.saimmunology.org.za/webinars.html>

The South African Immunology Society thanks you for your interest in our

COVID-19 Webinar Series

Proudly sponsored by Inqaba Biotec

CPD points will be available on request.

Please contact Ms Annie Klaas at conference2@onscreenav.co.za.

Please provide your name, HPCSA number and number of webinars attended.



Keystone eSymposia - Integrating Metabolism and Immunity, 25-28 January 2021 | 10:00AM EDT | 2:00PM UTC | 4:00PM CEST*

This conference will bring together basic scientists and clinicians from both disciplines in order to spark innovative ways of understanding the interactions between the immune system and metabolism. The conference organizers anticipate that the conference will lead to the development of novel therapeutic concepts based on the pathways underlying the pathogenesis of diseases rather than on the manifestation of symptoms belonging to a specific clinical discipline. Deadlines - Abstract Submission for Short Talk Consideration: 16 December 2020, ePoster Abstract Submission: 11 January 2021, Financial Aid Application: 11 January 2021. For more information, please visit:
<https://virtual.keystonesymposia.org/ks/live/628/page/5128>

Join Dr Anthony Fauci for a webinar: The Pandemic – North, South and forward, Monday 26 October 2020 at 7pm SAST and 1pm EST.

Dr Anthony Fauci is one of the world's leading infectious diseases experts, the face of science in America during COVID-19, and advisor to President Donald Trump. He and the University of Cape Town's Professor Linda-Gail Bekker will discuss topics such as the pandemic globally, vaccine development and access, and new treatments in a webinar with MedicalBrief and the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation, sponsored by PPS. For more information, please visit: <https://www.medicalbrief.co.za/archives/join-dr-anthony-fauci-for-a-webinar-the-pandemic-north-south-and-forward/>
To register, please visit: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvc-CgrTwjHNzrBY9tzmNwr_sdwXxmQCQf

PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:

Multidimensional analyses reveal modulation of adaptive and innate immune subsets by tuberculosis vaccines

https://www.nature.com/articles/s42003-020-01288-3?error=cookies_not_supported&code=b5ab2958-cdc-b45ff-9d30-12c600b1caf5

Wits and UCT clinical trial on efficacy of MMR vaccine against COVID-19

<https://www.medicalbrief.co.za/archives/wits-and-uct-clinical-trial-on-efficacy-of-mmr-vaccine-against-covid-19/>

Will SARS-CoV-2 become endemic?

https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/10/13/science.abe5960?utm_campaign=fr_sci_2020-10-14&et rid=643223756&et_cid=3519932

How anti-ageing drugs could boost COVID vaccines in older people

COVID-19 poses the greatest threat to older people, but vaccines often don't work well in this group. Scientists hope drugs that rejuvenate the immune system will help.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02856-7?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=ebf4f18bc8-briefing-dy-20201014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-ebf4f18bc8-44620873

Eli Lilly's Antibody Trial Is Paused Over Potential Safety Concern

The drugmaker's experimental antibody treatment is similar to the one President Trump received from Regeneron.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/13/health/eli-lilly-antibody.html>

Mechanisms of SARS-CoV-2 transmission and pathogenesis

[https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906\(20\)30233-7](https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906(20)30233-7)

The Immune Cells Giving Menopausal Women Higher BPs

<https://www.labroots.com/trending/immunology/18898/immune-cells-giving-menopausal-women-bps>

Link to research article: <https://journals.physiology.org/doi/full/10.1152/ajpheart.00792.2018>

Integrative genomic analysis reveals mechanisms of immune evasion in P. falciparum malaria

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-18915-6>

Getting Closer to a Vaccine for Flaviviruses

<https://www.labroots.com/trending/microbiology/18901/getting-closer-vaccine-flaviviruses>

Coronaviruses: Innate Immunity, Inflammasome Activation, Inflammatory Cell Death, and Cytokines

[https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906\(20\)30234-9?dgcid=raven_jbs_aip_email](https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906(20)30234-9?dgcid=raven_jbs_aip_email)

Remdesivir and interferon fall flat in WHO's megastudy of COVID-19 treatments

https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/10/remdesivir-and-interferon-fall-flat-who-s-megastudy-covid-19-treatments?utm_campaign=news_weekly_2020-10-16&et rid=643223756&et_cid=3522773

Persistence of serum and saliva antibody responses to SARS-CoV-2 spike antigens in COVID-19 patients

https://immunology.sciencemag.org/content/5/52/eabe5511?utm_campaign=toc_imm_2020-10-09&et rid=643223756&et_cid=3522695

Persistence and decay of human antibody responses to the receptor binding domain of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein in COVID-19 patients

<https://immunology.sciencemag.org/content/5/52/eabe0367>

Longitudinal antibody and T cell responses in Ebola virus disease survivors and contacts: an observational cohort study

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30736-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30736-2/fulltext)

The scientific and ethical feasibility of immunity passports

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30766-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30766-0/fulltext)

Independent side-by-side validation and comparison of four serological platforms for SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing

<https://academic.oup.com/jid/advance-article/doi/10.1093/infdis/jiaa656/5926414?searchresult=1>

Unbiased screens show CD8+ T cells of COVID-19 patients recognize shared epitopes in SARS-CoV-2, most of which are not located in the Spike protein

[https://www.cell.com/immunity/fulltext/S1074-7613\(20\)30447-7](https://www.cell.com/immunity/fulltext/S1074-7613(20)30447-7)

Plasma Proteomics Identify Biomarkers and Pathogenesis of COVID-19

[https://www.cell.com/immunity/fulltext/S1074-7613\(20\)30449-0](https://www.cell.com/immunity/fulltext/S1074-7613(20)30449-0)

Understanding COVID-19 vaccine efficacy

https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/10/21/science.abe5938?utm_campaign=fr_sci_2020-10-21&et rid=643223756&et_cid=3528169



JOBS AND POSITIONS:

HIV Epidemiology Activity Manager, Khayelitsha, Cape Town

SUMMARY OF POSITION: The HIV Epidemiology Activity Manager will be responsible for defining, coordinating and monitoring the epidemiological activities, ensuring the development of appropriate methodology and the quality of studies according to MSF protocols, standards and procedures in order to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the various HIV and associated projects, inform the continuation of ongoing programmes, and disseminate the findings to influence policy and practice. Starting date: 01 February 2021. For more information, please visit:

<https://vula.uct.ac.za/access/content/user/%2001435341/STAFF%20NOTICES%202020/HIV%20Epidemiology%20Activity%20Manager.pdf>



University of Pretoria

Tick and Tick-borne Disease Programme



The Tick and Tick-borne Disease Programme focuses on the control of ticks and tick - related pathogens of agricultural importance by understanding the underlying mechanisms that enable these tick vectors to adapt and feed on their host. Moreover, we aim to develop tools that will enable robust cost-effective surveillance to screen for resistant parasite populations in the field for timely intervention and rational selection of chemical control. In this regard, close collaboration with academic, commercial and governmental agencies is fostered to develop capacity and resources that will fast track these tools to the producer to combat ticks and their associated diseases in the field.

The Tick and Tick-borne Disease Programme is offering a Postdoctoral fellowship for a South African citizen in the following research focus area:

Research Focus: Evaluation of the immunological profile elicited by various tick vaccine formulations in a murine & cattle infection/infestation model.

Required Qualification(s): PhD in Bioinformatics, Biochemistry, Genetics or related fields. A good background in immunology is advantageous.

Preferred experience/proficiencies:
 Big data analysis for next-generation sequencing, de novo assembly, transcriptomics, gene polymorphisms, gene expression profiling.
 Good background in Statistical analysis
 A proven publication record.
 Good communication skills and a willingness to mentor postgraduate students and contribute to an active vaccine development program in animal health.

This positions is available immediately (January 2021-) for 18 months (renewed annually based on satisfactory progress), and will remain open until suitable candidates are found.
 The first closing date for applications: **1 November 2020**.

Please apply by forwarding proof of South African citizenship, a complete CV with contact details of three referees (including phone numbers and email addresses) to Prof. Christine Maritz-Olivier (christine.maritz@up.ac.za). Applicants should clearly describe the candidate's expertise and verifiable publication record relevant to this position. Please note that unsuccessful applicants will not be contacted.

For additional information please contact:
 Prof. Christine Maritz-Olivier at christine.maritz@up.ac.za or Tel: 012 420 3945.



Department of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology
 Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences



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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