

**sais**

SOUTH AFRICAN IMMUNOLOGY SOCIETY



## SAIS NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

Dear SAIS members

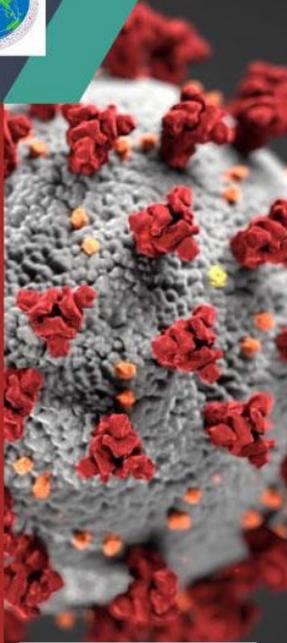
Below, please find this week's newsletter. The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday, 9 October 2020.

### FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **SAIS Immunopaedia COVID-19 Webinar – 29 September 2020**

For updates on webinars, please visit: <https://www.saimmunology.org.za/webinars.html>

# COVID-19 Webinar Series 29 September 2020



Session 1 (15:00–15:30)  
Dr Susan Louw

Immunothrombosis: lessons  
from other conditions



Session 2 (15:30–16:00)  
Associate Prof Jessica Opie

Immunothrombosis in COVID-19

Please click on this link to register (pdf).  
Or follow the link in the email.

Proudly sponsored by Inqaba Biotec



**PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:**

**Macrophage activation syndrome and COVID-19**

<https://inflammregen.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s41232-020-00131-w>

**The global response to the COVID-19 pandemic: how have immunology societies contributed?**

[https://www.nature.com/articles/s41577-020-00428-4?error=cookies\\_not\\_supported&code=a4e7baea-54fe-41bc-a307-443c56c901ac](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41577-020-00428-4?error=cookies_not_supported&code=a4e7baea-54fe-41bc-a307-443c56c901ac)

**Don't ignore genetic data from minority populations**

Efforts to build representative studies are defeated when scientists discard data from certain groups. Instead, researchers should work to balance statistical needs with fairness.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02547-3>

**COVID-19 herd immunity: where are we?**

[https://www.nature.com/articles/s41577-020-00451-5?utm\\_source=Nature+Briefing&utm\\_campaign=3b984005fc-briefing-dy-20200911\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c9dfd39373-3b984005fc-44620873](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41577-020-00451-5?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=3b984005fc-briefing-dy-20200911_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-3b984005fc-44620873)

**The lasting misery of coronavirus long-haulers**

Months after infection with SARS-CoV-2, some people are still battling crushing fatigue, lung damage and other symptoms of 'long COVID'.

[https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02598-6?utm\\_source=Nature+Briefing&utm\\_campaign=3b984005fc-briefing-dy-20200911\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c9dfd39373-3b984005fc-44620873](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02598-6?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=3b984005fc-briefing-dy-20200911_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-3b984005fc-44620873)

**Suboptimal SARS-CoV-2-specific CD8+ T cell response associated with the prominent HLA-A\*02:01 phenotype**

<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/09/09/2015486117>

**Neutrophil extracellular traps infiltrate the lung airway, interstitial, and vascular compartments in severe COVID-19**

<https://rupress.org/jem/article/217/12/e20201012/152084/Neutrophil-extracellular-traps-infiltrate-the-lung>

**New research connects the hormones we're born with to lifetime risk for immunological diseases**

<https://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2020/New-research-connects-the-hormones-were-born-with-to-lifetime-risk-for-immunological-diseases>

**As evidence builds that COVID-19 can damage the heart, doctors are racing to understand it**

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/09/evidence-builds-covid-19-can-damage-heart-doctors-are-racing-understand-it>

**A new malaria vector in Africa: Predicting the expansion range of Anopheles stephensi and identifying the urban populations at risk**

<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/09/08/2003976117>

**Obesity and diabetes as comorbidities for COVID-19: Underlying mechanisms and the role of viral-bacterial interactions**

<https://elifesciences.org/articles/61330>

**Structural basis of SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV-antibody interactions**

[https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906\(20\)30211-8](https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906(20)30211-8)

**Longitudinal immune profiling reveals key myeloid signatures associated with COVID-19**

[https://immunology.sciencemag.org/content/5/51/eabd6197?utm\\_campaign=toc\\_imm\\_2020-09-18&et rid=643223756&et\\_cid=3486526](https://immunology.sciencemag.org/content/5/51/eabd6197?utm_campaign=toc_imm_2020-09-18&et rid=643223756&et_cid=3486526)

**The Immune Hallmarks of Severe COVID-19**

Researchers are trying to make sense of immune systems gone haywire and develop biomarkers to predict who will become the sickest from a coronavirus infection.

[https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/the-immune-hallmarks-of-severe-covid-19-67937?utm\\_campaign=TS\\_COVID\\_2020&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmi=95496231&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-CS44dVbqYxxsAtlxt4dQIKx-EVvKtL1VVGtjDpJcvKzMSlITfwUNHexQ5gJVBhkUh9xipJjsXICprX7jk-893fls9RQ&utm\\_content=95496231&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/the-immune-hallmarks-of-severe-covid-19-67937?utm_campaign=TS_COVID_2020&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=95496231&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-CS44dVbqYxxsAtlxt4dQIKx-EVvKtL1VVGtjDpJcvKzMSlITfwUNHexQ5gJVBhkUh9xipJjsXICprX7jk-893fls9RQ&utm_content=95496231&utm_source=hs_email)

**Who gets a COVID vaccine first? Access plans are taking shape**

Advisory groups around the world release guidance to prioritize health-care workers and those in front-line jobs.

[https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02684-9?utm\\_source=Nature+Briefing&utm\\_campaign=01ae4fb885-briefing-dy-20200918&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c9dfd39373-01ae4fb885-44620873](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02684-9?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=01ae4fb885-briefing-dy-20200918&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-01ae4fb885-44620873)

**A Potent Anti-Malarial Human Monoclonal Antibody Targets Circumsporozoite Protein Minor Repeats and Neutralizes Sporozoites in the Liver**

[https://www.cell.com/immunity/fulltext/S1074-7613\(20\)30371-X?dgcid=raven\\_jbs\\_aip\\_email](https://www.cell.com/immunity/fulltext/S1074-7613(20)30371-X?dgcid=raven_jbs_aip_email)

**Indian Study Shows No Survival Benefit of Plasma in COVID-19**

A randomized controlled trial on the use of convalescent plasma therapy to treat coronavirus infections—the first in the world to be completed—yields disappointing results, but some doctors are not discouraged.

[https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/indian-study-shows-no-survival-benefit-of-plasma-in-covid-19-67931?utm\\_campaign=TS\\_COVID\\_2020&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmi=95496231&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-835RPuKgqnUhKNKgalXun-oW-s36cncrUcJiCduLgoYNXlf5QJYzfY8naayNcM7ME6KSN\\_dUZs6aiGr6fGPygBtN3iYgg&utm\\_content=95496231&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/indian-study-shows-no-survival-benefit-of-plasma-in-covid-19-67931?utm_campaign=TS_COVID_2020&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=95496231&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-835RPuKgqnUhKNKgalXun-oW-s36cncrUcJiCduLgoYNXlf5QJYzfY8naayNcM7ME6KSN_dUZs6aiGr6fGPygBtN3iYgg&utm_content=95496231&utm_source=hs_email)

**IL-21 from high-affinity CD4 T cells drives differentiation of brain-resident CD8 T cells during persistent viral infection**

<https://immunology.sciencemag.org/content/5/51/eabb5590>

**Systemic complement activation is associated with respiratory failure in COVID-19 hospitalized patients**

<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/09/15/2010540117>

**COVID-19 in children and young people**

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/09/18/science.abd6165>

**Free fatty acid binding pocket in the locked structure of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein**

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/09/18/science.abd3255>

**WHO unveils global plan to fairly distribute COVID-19 vaccine, but challenges await**

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/09/who-unveils-global-plan-fairly-distribute-covid-19-vaccine-challenges-await>

**Immune life history, vaccination, and the dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 over the next 5 years**

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/09/18/science.abd7343>

**Immunopathogenesis of COVID-19: Summary and Possible Interventions**

[https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2020.564925/full?utm\\_source=F-AAE&utm\\_medium=EMLF&utm\\_campaign=MRK\\_1437459\\_35\\_Immuno\\_20200922\\_arts\\_A](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2020.564925/full?utm_source=F-AAE&utm_medium=EMLF&utm_campaign=MRK_1437459_35_Immuno_20200922_arts_A)

**The Hormones We Have at Birth Are Linked to Disease Throughout Life**

<https://www.labroots.com/trending/cell-and-molecular-biology/18738/hormones-birth-linked-disease-throughout-life>

Link to research article: <https://www.pnas.org/content/117/38/23751>

**Antibody-Based Drug May Reduce COVID-19 Hospitalizations: Study**

Eli Lilly reports a 72 percent reduction in hospitalization risk among patients who received its monoclonal antibody compared to those who received a placebo.

<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/antibody-based-drug-may-reduce-covid-19-hospitalizations-study-67942>

**Immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection in hospitalized pediatric and adult patients**

<https://stm.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/09/21/scitranslmed.abd5487>

---

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

**Heena Ranchod (PhD)**

Tel: +27 11 386 6461

Email: [HeenaR@nicd.ac.za](mailto:HeenaR@nicd.ac.za)

Linked In: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/heena-ranchod-44b96379/>