

SAIS NEWSLETTER – APRIL 23th, 2021

Dear SAIS members

Please find this week's newsletter. **Thursday 29th April 2021 is International Day of Immunology.** We encourage all members to take group pictures and upload them on our social media platforms. Please tag SAIS using [@SAImmunology](#) or [#SAImmunology](#) on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Post group pictures on our social media platforms with [#WeAreSAIS](#)





VIITH CONFERENCE
OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN
IMMUNOLOGY SOCIETY

IMMUNOLOGY
ON THE FRONT LINE

2021 WEBINAR

30 AUGUST 2021 –
1 SEPTEMBER 2021

REGISTRATION AND
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
NOW OPEN!

Register 

Submit Abstract 

Abstract submission deadline: 14 May 2021

+27 21 486 9111 • conferencel@onscreenav.co.za • www.sais-bookings.co.za

Live Webinar: Claudia Mauri “Regulatory B cells and gut-microbiota: an intricate acting balance in autoimmunity” - Monday 10th May 2021

Regulatory B cells (Bregs) are immunosuppressive cells that contribute to the maintenance of immunological tolerance. Bregs suppress a variety of immune pathologies including autoimmune diseases through the production of interleukin (IL)-10, IL-35, and transforming growth factor-beta 1 (TGFβ1). Bregs inhibit the expansion of pathogenic T cells and other pro-inflammatory lymphocytes and promote regulatory T cell (Treg) differentiation. The question of whether inflammatory signals produced in response to the microbiota control Breg development alone or whether microbial factors also play a direct role remains unanswered. Prof Claudia Mauri will discuss how butyrate supplementation suppresses arthritis in a Breg-dependent manner by increasing the level of the serotonin-derived metabolite 5-Hydroxyindole-3-acetic acid (5-HIAA), which activates the aryl-hydrocarbon receptor (AhR), a newly discovered transcriptional marker for Breg function. For more information and registration please visit: <https://iuis.org/webinars/>

African Advanced Vaccinology Course – Will be held on 13 – 22th September 2021 @ Glenburn Lorge, Muldersdrift, Johannesburg.

The African Leadership in Vaccinology Expert (ALIVE) Consortium, under the guidance of Professor Helen Rees and Professor Shabir Madhi, invite you to apply to attend the African Vaccinology Course, Afro-Advac-2021. For more details and application on www.wits-alive.co.za. Applications close on 15th May 2021.

Cancer Neoantigens, Vaccines and Viruses - Keystone Symposia will be held on 27 June 2021, Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

<https://www.nature.com/naturecareers/events/event/keystone-symposia-94992>

PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:

When can kids get the COVID-19 vaccine? A paediatrician answers 5 questions parents are asking
<https://theconversation.com/when-can-kids-get-the-covid-19-vaccine-a-pediatrician-answers-5-questions-parents-are-asking-157512>

Africa’s vaccines revolution must have research at its core
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01038-3>

Thrombosis and Thrombocytopenia after ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 Vaccination
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2104882>

IVIg Safe and Effective to Treat Moderate Pneumonia in COVID-19 Patients
<https://www.practiceupdate.com/content/ivig-safe-and-effective-to-treat-moderate-pneumonia-in-covid-19-patients/116412>

Vaccines alone will not stop Covid spreading - here's why
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-40ac92b1-1750-4e86-9936-2cda6b0acb3f?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=a53a8f52c7-briefing-dy-20210414&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-a53a8f52c7-44620873

Chronic viral infections can have lasting effects on human immunity, similar to ageing
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/03/210329153322.htm>

HIV vaccine candidate's mysteries unlocked 20 years later

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/03/210325150105.htm>

FUNDING CALLS

NRF Postgraduate Student Funding for the 2022 Academic Year

Students must first identify the university where they will be registered for their postgraduate degree before applying to the NRF. Applications for funding in 2022 must be submitted to the university where students intend to register, through the NRF Online Submission System by accessing the link: <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>. **Universities will set their own internal cut-off dates for applications** and applicants must abide by those dates.

NHLS Research Trust – Pathology Research Award – April call

The call is now open for applications for the NHLSRT Pathology Research awards, with a **closing date of 30th April 2021**. This is an award open to more senior researchers in the departments of Pathology associated with South African Medical Schools. New guidelines and the proposal template are available on the website: <https://anatomicalpathology.health.wits.ac.za/Grant>.

JOBS and POSITIONS

Post-doc position - COVID-19 vaccine response in immunocompromised patients - Center for Vaccinology/ Department of Pathology and Immunology, University of Geneva.

To strengthen its team, the Center for Vaccinology/ Department of Pathology and Immunology is looking for a dynamic and full-time Post-doctoral fellow in the laboratory of Prof. A. Didierlaurent who has a solid track record in vaccine mechanism of action and clinical research (<https://bit.ly/3ehyUk3>). The lab is located at the University Medical Center in the Center for Vaccinology led by Pr. Claire-Anne Siegrist. For any further information, please contact Arnaud.Didierlaurent@unige.ch. Should you correspond to the above profile, we will be happy to receive your complete application file as soon as possible (motivation letter, CV with picture and list of publications, diplomas and references). **Application deadline: 30th May 2021.**

Post-doc position - T cell responses to infection and vaccination - Center for Vaccinology/ Department of Pathology and Immunology, University of Geneva.

To strengthen its team, the Center for Vaccinology/ Department of Pathology and Immunology is looking for a dynamic and full-time Post-doctoral fellow in the laboratory of Claire-Anne Siegrist, under the supervision of Dr Christiane Eberhardt, a physician-scientist with extensive experience in basic research on adaptive responses to vaccines and infectious agents. The laboratory has a solid world-renowned track record in basic vaccine immunology research and clinical studies. For any further information, please contact Arnaud.Didierlaurent@unige.ch. Should you correspond to the above profile, we will be happy to receive your complete application file as soon as possible (motivation letter, CV with picture and list of publications, diplomas and references). **Application deadline: 30th May 2021.**



Regional Medical Liaison

Hutchinson Centre Research Institute of South Africa - Cape Town, Western Cape

The Regional Medical Liaison plays a key role in providing clinical support for clinical research sites (CRSs) implementing vaccine & prevention trials of the HVTN/CoVPN in Southern Africa. The position is based in Southern Africa and is part of the Clinical Development Unit, Leadership Operations Center (LOC) of the HVTN/CoVPN and reports to the Programme Lead/Protocol Team Lead. **Qualifications and experience needed:** A medical doctor (MBChB, MBBS, MD or equivalent degree) with clinical experience in Southern Africa is strongly preferred. Postgraduate education in public health or clinical research or administration. For more information, please visit <https://southafrica-fhcrs.icims.com/jobs/search> Interested candidates should send their full Curriculum Vitae to Bongzi Vilakazi: svilakaz@hcrisa.org.za

Site Liaison Associate

Hutchinson Centre Research Institute of South Africa - Johannesburg, Soweto

The purpose of this 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 and/or COVID-19 vaccine trails at various Clinical Research Sites (CRSs) in Southern Africa. This position is a trial management resource for CRS staff and other HVTN/CoVPN Leadership Operations Centre (LOC) staff based in South Africa and is a liaison between Southern Africa-based clinical CRS staff and Seattle-based staff. Qualification and experience needed: Degree or equivalent qualification in public health, life sciences or medical field. A minimum of 6 - 8 years of clinical trial monitoring experience, Senior Clinical Research Associate/Lead Clinical Research Associate (SCRA/LCRA) experience in a trial set in Southern Africa and Africa. For more information, please visit <https://southafrica-fhcrs.icims.com/jobs/search> Interested candidates should send their full Curriculum Vitae to Bongzi Vilakazi: svilakaz@hcrisa.org.za

IMPORTANT LINKS

To renew your SAIS Membership please visit: <https://saimmunology.org.za/membership.htm>

Please don't forget to send me any information on funding opportunities, meetings, workshops and/or conferences, so I can publish it. Additionally, if you are recruiting/hiring, I am more than happy to advertise it on LinkedIn/twitter and in the newsletter.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Clement Adu-Gyamfi