



## SAIS NEWSLETTER – September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear SAIS

Please find this week's newsletter. Congratulations to all SAIS members and networks for a successful 2021 Virtual Conference. Special congratulations to *Fungai, Nelia, Sikozile and Tendeka* for winning various prizes at the conference. We wish you the very best in your endeavours. Please visit our social media platforms for more daily updates. I warmly welcome all new publications from our SAIS network for inclusion in the next newsletter.

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### **Message from the 2021 Conference chair**

*As I reflect on the 8th SAIS conference, I am immensely grateful to everyone who helped to make it a success. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was hosted on a virtual platform for the first time. While we were uncertain at times about how to navigate this uncharted territory, we also realised that it offered a great opportunity to invite top-class international and national speakers. We were blown away by the willingness of speakers to share their time and expertise with the SAIS community and the positive feedback after the workshop and invited talks attest to the high quality of these presentations. We were also thrilled with the high standard of the oral and poster presentations given by the talented young and upcoming researchers working in the field of Immunology. We once again congratulate the winners and runners-up and hope that the other presenters are inspired to continue to work hard. We had hoped that the virtual platform would give everyone the opportunity to interact with speakers from their front-row seats and ask questions they may not ordinarily have had the opportunity to do. In this regard, I am happy to report that the conference was well attended and that there was indeed significant interaction, not only with the speakers but also with the poster presentations and sponsor sites. We also thank our generous sponsors once again and we look forward to continue building these collaborative partnerships.*

*I hope that attendees feel updated about the major developments in the field, especially with regards to the large pandemics and epidemics, such as COVID-19, HIV, TB, cancer, and allergy, as well as the often-neglected topics, such as auto-immunity, primary immunodeficiency and the emerging field of immunometabolism. Never before has Immunology been recognised as being so instrumental in promoting health and preventing disease. I would like to encourage everyone to continue exploring the challenging, yet fascinating, discipline of Immunology so that we can improve our understanding of the pivotal immunopathological mechanisms underpinning disease and develop treatment strategies that are scientifically sound and effective.*

*Finally, I look forward to the next SAIS conference in 2022 and wish the conference chairperson and organising committee the very best. May you work well as a team and inspire one another with your ideas. Remember, "No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it." – H.E. Luccock*

Kind regards

**Professor Theresa Rossouw**

**Chairman – SAIS Conference 2021**

# Congratulations!



## FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Keystone meetings. For registration, please visit: <https://virtual.keystonesymposia.org/ks/>

### Vitamin D Workshop

October 13-14, 2021 | 9:00AM EDT | 1:00PM UTC\*

*\*Program is in development and subject to change*

### Maternal-Fetal Newborn Immunity

October 28-29, 2021 | 10:00AM EDT | 2:00PM UTC\*

*\*Program is in development and subject to change*

### Higher-Order Chromatin Architecture in Time and Space

November 15-17, 2021 | Start Time TBD\*

*\*Program is in development and subject to change*

### IUIS Webinar: HIV prevention- antibodies and vaccine development (part 1)

There have been many advances in HIV care and treatment over the past 40 years. Despite these advances, there is no cure for HIV nor a preventive HIV vaccine. This article summarises the recent IUIS-Immunopaedia-Frontiers in Immunology webinar featuring Professor Lynn Morris biomedical scientist\* at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) South Africa who focused on *HIV prevention: antibodies and vaccine development*. Please visit <https://www.immunopaedia.org.za/breaking-news/iuis-webinar-hiv-prevention-antibodies-and-vaccine-development/> for the full recorded video.

### **IUIS Webinar: HIV prevention- antibodies and vaccine development (part 2)**

In the previous summary (IUIS Webinar: HIV prevention- antibodies and vaccine development part 1) we highlighted research presented by Professor Lynn Morris on the current state of HIV vaccines. In this summary, we highlight findings from the Antibody-Mediated Prevention (AMP) trial, a proof-of-concept trial to determine if passive immunisation could prevent HIV. Please watch the continuation at <https://www.immunopaedia.org.za/breaking-news/iuis-webinar-hiv-prevention-antibodies-and-vaccine-development-part-2/>

### **ESiD – Multidisciplinary Symposium on Immunological Consequences of target Immune therapy will be held online from 27-29 September 2021.**



For more information and registration, please visit <https://2021.esidmeeting.org/>

### **PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS**

#### **Covid-19: How Many Variants Are There, and What Do We Know About Them?**

[https://www.practiceupdate.com/c/122574/75/24/?elsca1=emc\\_ewnews\\_weekinreview&elsca2=email&elsca3=practiceupdate\\_cv19&elsca4=cv19&elsca5=newsletter&rid=NDY1Mzc5NzcwNTYyS0&lid=31048597](https://www.practiceupdate.com/c/122574/75/24/?elsca1=emc_ewnews_weekinreview&elsca2=email&elsca3=practiceupdate_cv19&elsca4=cv19&elsca5=newsletter&rid=NDY1Mzc5NzcwNTYyS0&lid=31048597)

#### **Does B.1.351 SARS-CoV-2 variant escape T cell immune responses?**

<https://www.immunopaedia.org.za/breaking-news/does-b-1-351-sars-cov-2-variant-also-escape-t-cell-immune-responses/>

#### **Loss of recognition of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.351 variant spike epitopes but overall preservation of T cell immunity**

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.06.03.21258307v1>

#### **A novel pathway of immune and host cell evasion by Mycobacterium tuberculosis**

<https://www.immunopaedia.org.za/breaking-news/a-novel-pathway-of-immune-and-host-cell-evasion-by-mycobacterium-tuberculosis-mtb/>

#### **Kids and COVID: why young immune systems are still on top**

[https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02423-8?utm\\_source=Nature+Briefing&utm\\_campaign=7ecc911680-briefing-dy-20210907&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c9dfd39373-7ecc911680-46191682](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02423-8?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=7ecc911680-briefing-dy-20210907&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-7ecc911680-46191682)

#### **Can neutrophils adopt antigen-presenting cell functions, and if so how?**

<https://www.immunopaedia.org.za/breaking-news/can-neutrophils-adopt-antigen-presenting-cell-functions-and-if-so-how/>

#### **FcyR engagement reprograms neutrophils into antigen cross-presenting cells that elicit acquired anti-tumor immunity**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-021-24591-x.pdf>

**Role of IL-17 and IL-23 in the Pathogenesis of Neutrophilic Asthma**

<https://clinmedjournals.org/articles/ijii/international-journal-of-immunology-and-immunotherapy-ijii-7-049.php?jid=ijii>

**Potent neutralising antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern.**

<https://www.immunopaedia.org.za/breaking-news/potent-neutralising-antibodies-against-sars-cov-2-variants-of-concern/>

**IL-25 (IL-17E) in epithelial immunology and pathophysiology**

[https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(20\)32417-9/abstract](https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(20)32417-9/abstract)

**Multimodal Molecular Imaging Detects Early Responses to Immune Checkpoint Blockade**

<https://cancerres.aacrjournals.org/content/81/13/3693>

**Shorter treatment regimen found to be effective for treating TB**

<https://www.news-medical.net/news/20210605/Shorter-treatment-regimen-found-to-be-effective-for-treating-TB.aspx>

**TB-diagnosing sticker patch?**

<https://www.tbonline.info/posts/2021/6/24/scientists-develop-tb-diagnosing-sticker-patch/>

**The maternal gut microbiome during pregnancy and offspring allergy and asthma**

[https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(21\)01131-3/fulltext](https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(21)01131-3/fulltext)

**The airway as a route of sensitization to peanut: An update to the dual allergen exposure hypothesis**

[https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(21\)00896-4/fulltext](https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(21)00896-4/fulltext)

**Diet and asthma: Is the sum more important than the parts?**

[https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(21\)00727-2/fulltext](https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(21)00727-2/fulltext)

**“Vaccine Passport” Certification — Policy and Ethical Considerations**

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2104289>

**Seasonal Malaria Vaccination with or without Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention**

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2026330>

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**JOBS and POSITIONS**

**Postdoctoral Position - Tick and Tick-borne Disease Programme, University of Pretoria**

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.

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](mailto:christine.maritz@up.ac.za)). Applicants should clearly describe their 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](mailto:christine.maritz@up.ac.za) or Tel: 012 420 3945.

**Postdoctoral Associate-Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), Houston, TX, United States**

We are dedicated to scientific research focusing on cancer Biology and Metabolism. Specific area of research for this postdoctoral associate/ fellow post-doctoral trainee to study the molecular alterations associated with prostate cancer health disparities. For more information and application procedure, please visit <https://www.nature.com/naturecareers/job/postdoctoral-associate-baylor-college-of-medicine-bcm-746055>

**Assistant Professor of Pathology - Massachusetts General Hospital - Boston, MA, United States**

Harvard Medical School (HMS) and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Center for Systems Biology (CSB) and the Department of Pathology seeks applications for a tenure-track faculty position at the Assistant Professor level. Interested candidates are invited to submit application materials electronically via [https://csb.mgh.harvard.edu/information/careers#post\\_122](https://csb.mgh.harvard.edu/information/careers#post_122).

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**IMPORTANT LINKS**

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

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Please don't forget to send me your recent publications for inclusion in our community corner. 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