



## SAIS NEWSLETTER – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear SAIS

Please find this week's newsletter. Please visit our social media platforms for more daily updates on SAIS activities. I warmly welcome all new publications from our SAIS network for inclusion in the next newsletter.

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### FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Upcoming Keystone meetings. 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*

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#### **WHO webinar: Strengthening TB surveillance**

On **30 September 2021**, the World Health Organization (WHO)' Global TB Program will host a special #EndTB webinar on strengthening TB surveillance, providing a global synthesis of findings and recommendations from national TB surveillance assessments and epidemiological reviews carried out between January 2013 and April 2020. For further details about the webinar and to register, click [here](#).

#### **Mucosal Responses to HIV and Prevention Strategies - October 17–20, 2021**

Carolina Herrera, PhD, Department of Infectious Disease, Imperial College, London, UK.

In this presentation, **Dr Herrera** will review her research on the correlation of innate responses during acute HIV infection with disease progression and pathogenesis using a tissue explant model. She will also discuss how antiretroviral candidates for HIV prevention demonstrated differential capacities to modulate the responses induced by a viral challenge. Dr Herrera will share how vaccine candidates designed to elicit antibodies affect the cytokine profile at the mucosal portals of viral entry. Please visit [Cytokines 2021](#) for registration.

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### PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS

#### **Resurgence of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in a Highly Vaccinated Health System Workforce**

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2112981>

#### **Potential biomarkers of infertility associated with microbiome imbalances**

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/aji.13438?campaign=woletoc>



**Identifying novel ovarian tumor biomarkers through mining of the transcriptome of circulating immune cells: A proof-of-concept study**

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/aji.13469?campaign=woletoc>

**Effect of Immunosuppression on the Immunogenicity of mRNA Vaccines to SARS-CoV-2**

[https://www.practiceupdate.com/journalscan/85338/75/24?elsca1=emc\\_eneews\\_weekinreview&elsca2=email&elsca3=practiceupdate\\_cv19&elsca4=cv19&elsca5=newsletter&rid=NDY1Mzc5NzcwNTYyS0&lid=31048597](https://www.practiceupdate.com/journalscan/85338/75/24?elsca1=emc_eneews_weekinreview&elsca2=email&elsca3=practiceupdate_cv19&elsca4=cv19&elsca5=newsletter&rid=NDY1Mzc5NzcwNTYyS0&lid=31048597)

**Reactogenicity and Immunogenicity After a Late Second Dose or a Third Dose of ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 in the UK**

[https://www.practiceupdate.com/c/123320/75/24/?elsca1=emc\\_eneews\\_weekinreview&elsca2=email&elsca3=practiceupdate\\_cv19&elsca4=cv19&elsca5=newsletter&rid=NDY1Mzc5NzcwNTYyS0&lid=31048597](https://www.practiceupdate.com/c/123320/75/24/?elsca1=emc_eneews_weekinreview&elsca2=email&elsca3=practiceupdate_cv19&elsca4=cv19&elsca5=newsletter&rid=NDY1Mzc5NzcwNTYyS0&lid=31048597)

**COVID-19's Impact on Contraception Experiences**

[https://www.practiceupdate.com/c/123331/75/24/?elsca1=emc\\_eneews\\_weekinreview&elsca2=email&elsca3=practiceupdate\\_cv19&elsca4=cv19&elsca5=newsletter&rid=NDY1Mzc5NzcwNTYyS0&lid=31048597](https://www.practiceupdate.com/c/123331/75/24/?elsca1=emc_eneews_weekinreview&elsca2=email&elsca3=practiceupdate_cv19&elsca4=cv19&elsca5=newsletter&rid=NDY1Mzc5NzcwNTYyS0&lid=31048597)

**Longer diabetes duration associated with higher risk of TB incidence**

<https://www.tbonline.info/posts/2021/9/22/longer-diabetes-duration-associated-higher-risk-tb/>

**HIV vaccine candidate's mysteries unlocked 20 years later**

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

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

[https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(21\)01130-1/fulltext](https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(21)01130-1/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>

**How our skin smells could be a sign of TB**

<https://www.tbonline.info/posts/2021/9/24/how-our-skin-smells-could-be-sign-tb/>

**Activating Mucosal-Associated Invariant T Cells Induces a Broad Antitumor Response**

<https://cancerimmunolres.aacrjournals.org/content/9/9/1024>

**Peptide Blocking of PD-1/PD-L1 Interaction for Cancer Immunotherapy**

[https://cancerimmunolres.aacrjournals.org/content/6/2/178.full?ijkey=719upXOu8JQJo&keytype=ref&siteid=acrjnl%3Futm\\_source%3Dfulltext&utm\\_medium=landing2&utm\\_campaign=170035](https://cancerimmunolres.aacrjournals.org/content/6/2/178.full?ijkey=719upXOu8JQJo&keytype=ref&siteid=acrjnl%3Futm_source%3Dfulltext&utm_medium=landing2&utm_campaign=170035)

**Maternal COVID-19, vaccination safety in pregnancy, and evidence of protective immunity**

[https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(21\)01133-7/fulltext](https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(21)01133-7/fulltext)

## **JOBS and POSITIONS**

### **AMPATH Principal Scientist position in Genetics (NGS) - Centurion**

AMPATH Genetics is looking for a Principal Scientist to head their state of the art Next Generation Sequencing Unit in Centurion. For more information please contact Dr Janin Alant at [alantj@ampath.co.za](mailto:alantj@ampath.co.za).

### **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.

### **Medical Director - International Aids Vaccine, Cape Town, Western Cape**

IAVI is seeking a highly qualified Medical Director, Clinical Development (CD) who will lead a cross-departmental team responsible for the design, implementation, analysis, and reporting of the Clinical Development program and clinical trials for specified candidate vaccines including HIV, TB and emerging infectious disease (EID) candidates. The successful candidate will be primarily responsible for communication with the Principal Investigators and with the medical representatives of vaccine developers for assigned projects. In addition, this position will ensure that all activities are integrated into an overall program for the preparation and execution of clinical research studies and clinical trials as well as preparation for eventual vaccine access and delivery. For more information please visit <https://za.indeed.com/jobs?q=Medical+Director&from=vj&l=Cape+Town%2C+Western+Cape>

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## **IMPORTANT LINKS**

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

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Any publications from the last 6 months that you would like to profile in SAIS Newsletter? We like to put member publications in our "SAIS Community Corner". Just a citation, copied and pasted from CV. Please send to Clement - [clementgascua@yahoo.com](mailto:clementgascua@yahoo.com) and [clementa@nicd.ac.za](mailto:clementa@nicd.ac.za) Also, if you are recruiting/hiring, we are more than happy to advertise it in the newsletters and on Social Media platforms.

*Kind regards*

*Clement Adu-Gyamfi  
Newsletter editor*