



SAIS NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 4th 2022

Dear SAIS

Welcome to 2022. This year, we aim to bring you all the exciting news, webinars, conferences, game-changing publications and job vacancies. We entreat all SAIS members and networks to sign-up for our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn). We will post more daily content on SAIS social media pages. We also welcome all new publications from SAIS members for inclusion in our newsletter. Please send us your job vacancies or adverts for circulation in Newsletters.

Thank you, as always, for being with us!

Newsletter team

New Year Message from the President

To all our SAIS members

It is the start of a new year and I hope that everyone has been able to find some time for rest and reflection. Last year was another challenging year with the recent emergence of the Omicron variant being a stark reminder that much still needs to be done before we can put COVID-19 behind us. But we also look forward to a year full of possibilities. The past two years have emphasized the importance of Immunology and the incredible value of collaboration in scientific research. Diagnostics and vaccines have been made available in record time, not least because of a unified effort by scientists and industry to work for the common good. This year we need to renew our vaccination efforts, continue to build networks, and engender trust in science in the wider community. With this purpose in mind, SAIS members can look forward to exciting webinars and another SAIS conference in 2022, as well as the IUIS conference that will be coming to our shores for the first time in 2023. We have an energetic new executive committee, which is bubbling with new ideas about science education, collaboration, and communication, to name but a few. We are also very pleased to have the immediate past presidents, Melinda Suchard and Clive Gray, on the committee and the Society will greatly benefit from their expertise and guidance.

I wish everyone a physically and mentally healthy and happy year ahead.

Best wishes

Theresa Rossouw

FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

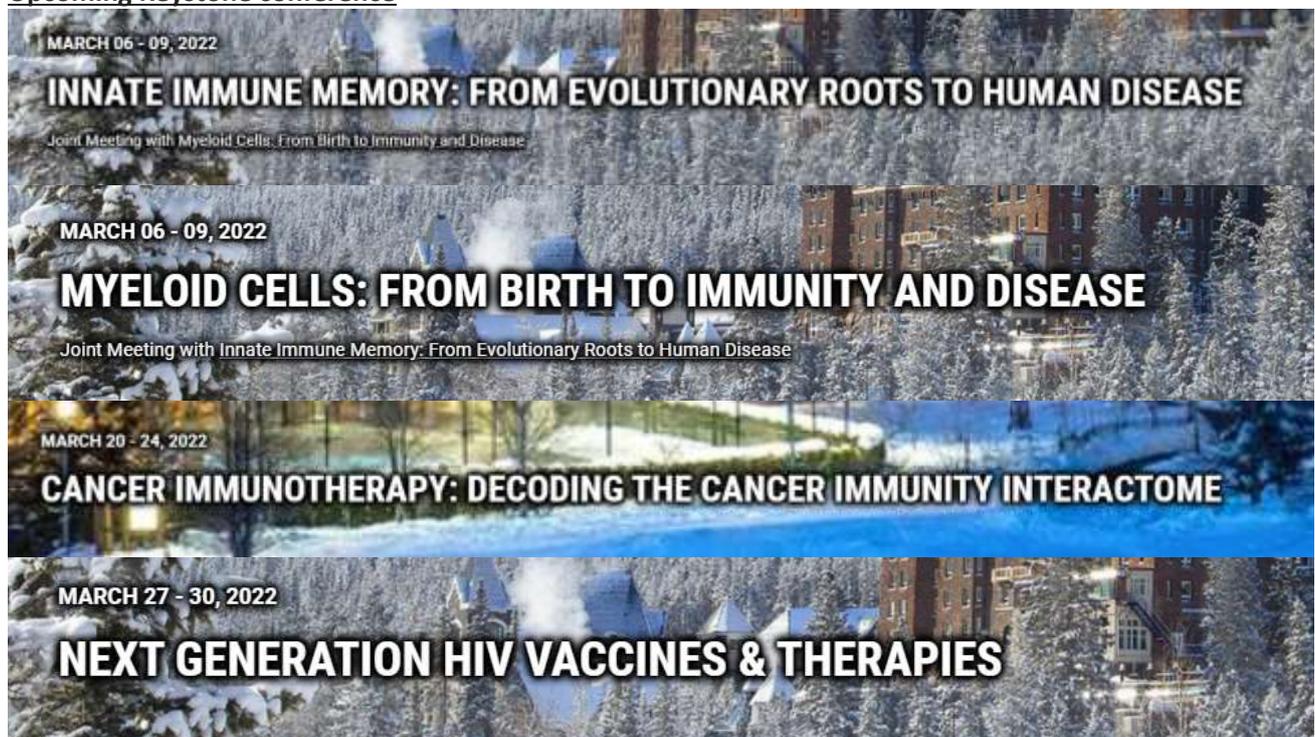
“ISABEL ZENDAL” FELLOWSHIP IN APPLIED VACCINOLOGY

Are you a physician passionate about vaccines and clinical research? Would you like to play a key role in the future of vaccine development? Apply for the Isabel Zendal Fellowship now! If you are interested in this opportunity, please send your CV, personal statement, and two references in English to Belen Mosquera bmosper@gmail.com (reference IZ-FELLOW22). The deadline for applications is **31st January 2022**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.

PEPFAR Watch webinar: Interventions for AIDS/advanced HIV disease including TB and cryptococcal meningitis - 9 February 2022

PEPFAR Watch will host a webinar to discuss interventions for AIDS/advanced HIV disease including TB and cryptococcal meningitis. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

Upcoming Keystone conference



For more information, please visit <https://www.keystonesymposia.org/conferences/conference-listing/meeting?eventid=6851&hsLang=en>

PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS

Winter is Coming: Cold Weather Infections Past and Present

https://asm.org/Articles/2022/January/Winter-is-Coming-Cold-Weather-Infections-Past-and?utm_source=Informz&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Campaign&utm_content=Message_Name&zs=6NErI&zl=7q272

The birth of Omicron - Where did Omicron come from? Three key theories

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00215-2?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=b124caafb6-briefing-dy-2022028&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-b124caafb6-46191682

Are Omicron vaccines needed?

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00199-z>
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/02/01/science/covid-deaths-united-states.html>

COVID-19: beyond boosters

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00200-9?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=b124caafb6-briefing-dy-2022028&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-b124caafb6-46191682

New vaccine may provide better treatment for TB

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-021-27029-6>

Detecting TB outside the lungs

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/adhm.202102640>

CAR-T cells hold cancer at bay

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00241-0?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=00eba5fa44-briefing-dy-20220203&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-00eba5fa44-46191682

Mix-and-match COVID vaccines ace the effectiveness test

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02853-4?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=a9bf871905-briefing-dy-20211022&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-a9bf871905-46191682

Recent advances in the immunopathogenesis of severe asthma

[https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(21\)02679-8/fulltext](https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(21)02679-8/fulltext)

TH17 cells and corticosteroid insensitivity in severe asthma

[https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(21\)02672-5/fulltext](https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(21)02672-5/fulltext)

Interactions between COVID-19 and Malaria

<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/31408/interactions-between-covid-19-and-malaria>

JOBS and POSITIONS

Regional Medical Liaison - HVTN, Cape Town

The HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) is the world's largest publicly funded multi-disciplinary international collaboration facilitating the development of vaccines to prevent HIV/AIDS. Most recently, the COVID-19 Prevention Network (CoVPN) was formed by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

at the US National Institutes of Health to respond to the global pandemic. Using the infectious disease expertise of their existing research networks and global partners, NIAID has directed the HVTN to utilize their experience and expertise to address the pressing need for vaccines and antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The mission of CoVPN is to conduct Phase 3 Efficacy Trials to prevent infection and COVID19 disease. CoVPN will work to develop and conduct studies to ensure rapid and thorough evaluation of United States government-sponsored COVID-19 vaccines and antibodies for the prevention of COVID-19 disease.

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. The Regional Medical Liaison is a resource for CRS staff and other LOC staff based in Southern Africa and is a liaison between Southern Africa-based clinical CRS staff, Seattle-based Clinical Safety Specialists and Clinical Trials Physicians, and Network Leadership. The main responsibilities of the position are to be involved in the safety monitoring of trials being conducted in the region. Qualification: A medical doctor (MChB, MBBS, MD or equivalent degree) with clinical experience in Southern Africa is strongly preferred. Interested applicants should send a direct email to Bongil Vilakazi (svilakaz@hcrisa.org.za) or submit an online application via <https://southafrica-fhcrs.icims.com/jobs/search>

CHIL Research Operations Manager – HVTN, Cape Town

This position manages operational aspects of laboratory and clinical research studies, liaising with external collaborators, stakeholders and key personnel in the lab and clinic. Acts as a bridge to Seattle-based HVTN staff on collaborative projects, procedures and processes, study budgets, regulatory issues and management of study data. **Qualification:** PhD and at least 5 years of postdoctoral experience in a related field required. Minimum of 8 years of experience in research and laboratory operations; management experience beneficial. Understanding of and experience working with research ethics and research management in South Africa and the US. Interested applicants should send a direct email to Bongil Vilakazi (svilakaz@hcrisa.org.za) or submit an online application via <https://southafrica-fhcrs.icims.com/jobs/search>

Research Technologist I – HVTN, Cape Town

The purpose of this position is to perform laboratory technical work to assess immune responses. Qualification: BSc, BHSc, BTech or MedTech, MSc or MTech with at least 2 years of wet lab experience in immunology, molecular biology, virology, or related field. Should you be interested in applying for this vacancy, submit a detailed CV to: svilakaz@hcrisa.org.za or submit your application online <https://southafrica-fhcrs.icims.com/jobs/search> Closing date 30 November 2021.

IMPORTANT LINKS

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

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 and 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.

Clement Adu-Gyamfi
Newsletter editor