

## SAIS NEWSLETTER – JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

Dear SAIS members

Below, please find this week's newsletter. Please note that the frequency of the newsletter will change from July 2020, where members will receive the new version every second week. The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday, 3 July 2020.

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### SAIS LINKEDIN PAGE

We are proud to announce that our LinkedIn group has reached 100 followers! Thank you for your support. Please don't forget to invite your colleagues who may be interested in following daily updates on all the new studies/events/announcements related to immunology in general, and more recently - to COVID-19. We highly appreciate your support. The SAIS LinkedIn page can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13607802/>

Kind regards,  
Dana Savulescu and Heena Ranchod

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### FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Webinar: COVID-19 in South Africa, 29 June 2020, 16:00 (CEST)**

How can South Africa control the spread of COVID-19 as it eases its unsustainable lockdown measures? Prof Salim Abdool Karim, Director of the Centre for the AIDS Program of Research in South Africa, outlines the challenge facing the country.

For information, and to register, please visit: <https://iuis.clickmeeting.com/covid-19-in-south-africa/register>

#### **Keystone eSymposia: Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy, 17-19 August 2020, 10:00AM EDT**

Abstracts open for ePoster presentation opportunities.

For more information, please visit:

[https://virtual.keystonesymposia.org/ks/live/476/page/2836?\\_ga=2.183275750.113893395.1593068931-220957198.1573809503](https://virtual.keystonesymposia.org/ks/live/476/page/2836?_ga=2.183275750.113893395.1593068931-220957198.1573809503)

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### PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:

#### **Studies Report Rapid Loss of COVID-19 Antibodies**

The results, while preliminary, suggest that survivors of SARS-CoV-2 infection may be susceptible to reinfection within weeks or months.

<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/studies-report-rapid-loss-of-covid-19-antibodies-67650>

#### **A two-step human culture system replicates intestinal monocyte maturation cascade: conversion of tissue-like inflammatory monocytes into macrophages**

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/eji.202048555>

**Coronapod: Dexamethasone, the cheap steroid that could cut coronavirus deaths**

Hope rises as the first potentially life-saving treatment emerges from drug trials.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01872-x>

**The first Covid-19 vaccine trial in South Africa begins**

The first participants in South Africa's first clinical trial for a vaccine against Covid-19 will be vaccinated this week.

<https://www.wits.ac.za/covid19/covid19-news/latest/the-first-covid-19-vaccine-trial-in-south-africa-begins.html>

**Nanosponges Mop up Viruses to Treat COVID Infections**

<https://www.labroots.com/trending/immunology/17931/nanosponges-mop-viruses-treat-covid-infections>

Link to research article: <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.nanolett.0c02278>

**Mounting clues suggest the coronavirus might trigger diabetes**

Evidence from tissue studies and some people with COVID-19 shows that the virus damages insulin-producing cells.

[https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01891-8?utm\\_source=Nature+Briefing&utm\\_campaign=a7809b0221-briefing-dy-20200624&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c9dfd39373-a7809b0221-44620873](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01891-8?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=a7809b0221-briefing-dy-20200624&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-a7809b0221-44620873)

**Clinical and immunological assessment of asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infections**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0965-6>

**Profiling immunoglobulin repertoires across multiple human tissues using RNA sequencing**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-16857-7>

**Metabolic constraints on the B cell response to malaria**

Early plasmablasts responding to Plasmodium infection may outcompete germinal center B cells for L-glutamine and delay pathogen control.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41590-020-0718-1>

**Formin-like 1 mediates effector T cell trafficking to inflammatory sites to enable T cell-mediated autoimmunity**

<https://elifesciences.org/articles/58046>

**The Protein That Orchestrates Cells' Dance of Death**

<https://www.labroots.com/trending/immunology/17955/protein-orchestrating-cells-dance-death>

Link to research article: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-16819-z#article-info>

**Instructing Memory in CD8+ Thymocytes**

[https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906\(20\)30121-6](https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906(20)30121-6)

**Immune and Metabolic Signatures of COVID-19 Revealed by Transcriptomics Data Reuse**

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2020.01636/full>

**Current Challenges in Vaccinology**

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2020.01181/full>

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## **JOBS and POSITIONS**

### **JOB OPPORTUNITY: Research Officer, Department of Pathology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town**

The University of Cape Town HIV Diversity and Pathogenesis Group is looking for a motivated, suitably qualified person, with a strong background in molecular biology, for the position of RESEARCH OFFICER, for a 3- year academic contract position. This is an opportunity to be part of an exciting HIV research team evaluating hostvirus interaction, HIV pathogenesis and HIV vaccine breakthrough infections to aid in the development of HIV vaccines, as well as in vaccine development and viral evolution studies for emerging viruses such as SARS-CoV-2. Application deadline: 31 July 2020

For more information, please visit:

[http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/FHS\\_E200215\\_RO%20Virology\\_Pathology\\_1.pdf](http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/FHS_E200215_RO%20Virology_Pathology_1.pdf)

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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

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