

## SAIS NEWSLETTER JULY 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear SAIS members,

Below, please find this week's newsletter.

### FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Royal Society Africa Prize winner 2019** - The Royal Society Africa Prize 2019 is awarded to Dr Henry Mwandumba for his novel work in description of the TB phagosome in HIV infected alveolar macrophages and his leadership in the College of Medicine in Malawi. <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/awards/africa-prize/>.

**Medical Laboratory Professional Congress 2019 - 25-27 October - Bloemfontein, SA - Call for Abstracts**  
 Abstracts submission deadline - **31 July**. Please see details below.



**How to isolate EVs from serum/plasma at high-throughput (96-well format) - SBI Webinar - Jul 31 - 7:00 PM CAT**

In this webinar, an exciting new method for high-throughput extracellular vesicles (EVs) isolation from serum and plasma will be presented, one that combines the convenience of a 96-well plate format with the power of enhanced size exclusion chromatography (SEC). To register, please follow <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6982189507787234572>.

**Reminder of upcoming Keystone Symposia virtual event: Helminths: New Insights from Immunity to Global Health - July 30 - 2:00-3:30 PM US Eastern Time**

Speakers: Justin Komguez Nono, PhD, University of Cape Town; De'Broski Herbert, PhD, University of Pennsylvania; Frank Brombacher, PhD, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. To register: <https://virtual.keystonesymposia.org/ks/live/241/page/1315>.

**17th International Congress of Immunology (IUIS 2019) - Beijing - Oct 19-23. Save up to 15% by registering by July 31 at the early-bird rate!**

40% of Congress speakers are currently female and IUIS is prioritizing filling all new vacancies with female speakers. Please find out more details in the scientific programme: <https://iuis2019.org/programme-at-a-glance-2/>.

**Call for application for the 21st advanced course of vaccinology (ADVAC) - Veyrier du Lac, France - 11-22 May 2020**

Closing date for receipt of applications: 15 November 2019. Organized by the Fondation Mérieux and the University of Geneva, is a two-week training programme targeting decision-makers, including academia, industry, governmental and non-governmental agencies, in all fields related to vaccines and vaccination, vaccine trials, new vaccines, vaccination strategies and policies, vaccine-specific issues (including polio, measles, meningococcal and pneumococcal diseases, influenza, malaria, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, HPV, rotavirus, dengue and JE, CMV, rabies), ethical issues related to vaccine trials, financing of immunization, communication. For more information, please visit <https://www.advac.org/>.

**2019 SAMRC Scientific Merit Awards**

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) is seeking nominations for the 2019 SAMRC Scientific Merit Awards, which are held in recognition of impactful science and health research aimed at advancing the lives of South Africans. Please visit <http://www.mrc.ac.za/content/samrc-scientific-merit-awards> for more details. Nominations are currently open and will close on **31 July 2019**.

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**PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:**

**HIV in Kenya: high risk groups aren't getting the attention they need (interesting read)**

<https://theconversation.com/hiv-in-kenya-high-risk-groups-arent-getting-the-attention-they-need-120464>.

**The female reproductive tract contains multiple innate sialic acid-binding immunoglobulin-like lectins (Siglecs) that facilitate sperm survival (open access)**

<http://www.jbc.org/content/early/2019/06/14/jbc.RA119.008729>.

**Waking up sleeping bacteria to fight infections**

Researchers in the group of Jan Michiels (VIB-KU Leuven Center for Microbiology) identified a mechanism of how sleepy bacteria wake up. This finding is important, as sleepy cells are often responsible for the stubbornness of chronic infections. Findings published in Molecular Cell reveal new perspectives on how to treat chronic infections, for example by forcing bacteria to wake up. <http://www.vib.be/en/news/Pages/Waking-up-sleeping-bacteria-to-fight-infections.aspx>.

**Vaccination hesitancy: fear, trust, and exposure expectancy of an Ebola outbreak**

<https://www.heliyon.com/article/e02016>.

**Human CD4+CD103+ cutaneous resident memory T cells are found in the circulation of healthy individuals (open access)**

<https://immunology.sciencemag.org/content/4/37/eaav8995>.

**Empty peptide-receptive MHC class I molecules for efficient detection of antigen-specific T cells (open access)**

<https://immunology.sciencemag.org/content/4/37/eaau9039>.

**High-throughput peptide-MHC complex generation and kinetic screenings of TCRs with peptide-receptive HLA-A\*02:01 molecules (open access)**

<https://immunology.sciencemag.org/content/4/37/eaav0860>.

**Ebola outbreak in five graphics**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-48621085>.

**HIV in SA: Seven graphs that tell the story**

<https://www.spotlightnsp.co.za/2019/07/18/hiv-in-sa-seven-graphs-that-tell-the-story/>.

**Microbiome and Allergic Diseases - mini-review article (open access)**

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2018.01584/full>.

**Antimalarial activity of primaquine operates via a two-step biochemical relay (open access)**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-11239-0>.

**Mapping exclusive breastfeeding in Africa between 2000 and 2017 (open access)**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-019-0525-0>.

**In vitro infection of primary human monocytes with HIV-1**

New technique described in Bio-protocol: <https://bio-protocol.org/e3289>.

**Will T cells cure cancer soon?**

As an important part of the adaptive immune system, T cells play an essential role in the natural surveillance of and the fight against cancer. Over the last decades, the scientific community has started using T cells as a versatile tool for the development of cancer therapies. One example is the use of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs), which are extracted from the tumor, selected and amplified and finally reintroduced into the patient to fight the cancer. <https://labiotech.eu/sponsored/t-cell-engineering-cure-for-cancer/>.

**Immunotherapy with iPSC-derived dendritic cells brings a new perspective to an old debate: autologous versus allogeneic?**

<https://insights.bio/cell-and-gene-therapy-insights/journal/articles/immunotherapy-with-ipsc-derived-dendritic-cells-brings-a-new-perspective-to-an-old-debate-autologous-versus-allogeneic/>.

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**JOBS and POSITIONS**

**Postdoctoral Research Scientist Position - Immunology and Host-pathogen interaction - Nuffield Department of Medicine (NDM), Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, University of Oxford, UK**

The Infection and Immunity Dynamics group, led by Dr Pedro Moura Alves, is seeking an exceptional and motivated postdoctoral scientist with experience in host-pathogen interaction to undertake a project focused on the role of the Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor (AhR) as an Innate Immune Sensor of the cellular microenvironment during the course of infection. Applications to be received by 12 pm on Wednesday **7th of August 2019**. For more information, please visit <https://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/current-job-vacancies/vacancy/141753-Postdoctoral-Research-Scientist---Immunology-and-Host-pathogen-interaction>.

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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.

Kind regards

Dana Savulescu (PhD), Pr.Sci.Nat.

Mobile: +27 74 6800082

Email: [danams79@gmail.com](mailto:danams79@gmail.com)