



# AAI

The American Association of Immunologists

# NEWSLETTER

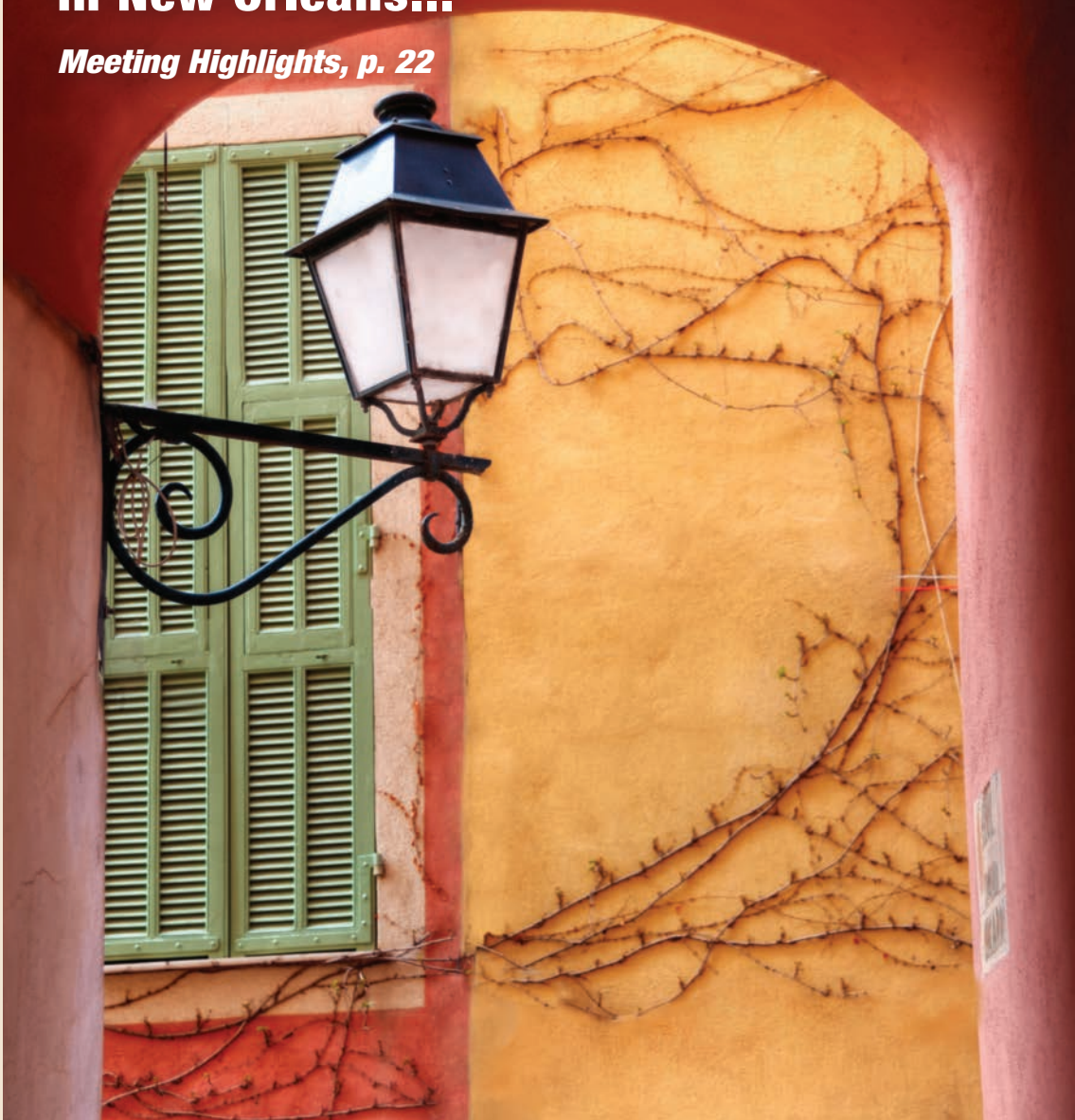
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NOVEMBER 2015

## Recalling the Excitement and Success of IMMUNOLOGY 2015™ in New Orleans...

*Meeting Highlights, p. 22*



...as Anticipation Builds for IMMUNOLOGY 2016™ in Seattle



**Dan R. Littman, M.D., Ph.D.**  
AAI '87

AAI President, July 2015–  
June 2016

*HHMI Investigator and Helen L. and Martin S. Kimmel Professor of Molecular Immunology, Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine, New York University School of Medicine*

I feel privileged and grateful to have the opportunity to serve as President of The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) during the 2015-2016 year. I am particularly fortunate to take on this position at a time when the study of immunology is more exciting than ever and provides ever-growing prospects for clinical benefit.

My first exposure to immunology was as an undergraduate, when I became fascinated by the big questions of how antibody diversity is generated, how T cells recognize antigen, and how immune tolerance is achieved. Even though we now have a deep understanding of these fundamental problems, many new questions continue to arise, particularly as it has become evident that functions of the immune system are critical in numerous chronic human diseases. The intersection of immunology with a growing number of disciplines guarantees that there will be many fascinating challenges for the next generation of talented young investigators to explore. The AAI will play an increasingly important role in helping to raise awareness of the importance of such research and ensure there is sustained funding for it. I hope you will join me in supporting the AAI in this important work.

When I was elected to the AAI Council five years ago, our community was already well into a process of self-examination. After the retrenchment in federal spending that followed the NIH budget doubling, our priorities needed to account for an influx of new postdoctoral fellows and a shift to emphasizing consortia and large center grants. There has been an erosion of roughly 22 percent in real dollars since the 2003 peak in the NIH budget, leading to a reduced emphasis on investigator-initiated grants and funding of basic science in general, as well as to a surfeit of talented and experienced young investigators competing for a limited number of research positions. Our junior faculty devote too much of their time to

writing grants rather than at the bench and directly imparting their knowledge to their trainees. Many of our colleagues are facing staff reductions or even the closing of their laboratories despite their active contributions to advancing our understanding of the immune system. Several prominent investigators have chosen to accept positions abroad, motivated by more predictable funding. Fortunately, these problems are receiving increased federal attention, and there are hopeful signs that our legislators are responding by considering bills such as the “21st Century Cures Act” (which would significantly increase the NIH budget and provide more funding for both high-risk, high-reward research and early stage investigators) and the “Accelerating Biomedical Research Act” (which would allow for significant annual increases in NIH funding).

Each of my predecessors has highlighted this deepening crisis in our research infrastructure, and, as a result, the AAI has responded in an exemplary way, providing fellowships, travel grants, and educational opportunities that have had a major impact on our research community. This response was made possible by the wise leadership of the AAI by Executive Director Michele Hogan and her associates, and by my predecessors on the AAI Council, who helped institute novel programs to support investigators and promote educational programs for students and postdocs. The AAI can further contribute by reaching out to our membership for creative approaches to ensure that funding is sustained and that scarce resources are leveraged to foster high quality research. We must recognize that there are changes in how science is being done and that there is an opportunity for the AAI to provide further leadership to help maximize the ability of our members to contribute in the years ahead. This is clearest in the area of “omics” technologies, where spectacular advances during the past decade have brought all biomedical scientists up against a big data wall that most of us are unequipped to scale. This is especially true in the field of immunology. We are particularly fortunate to be able to study disease-related problems at both the cellular and organismal level, and the pace of data accumulation is astonishing. The new generation of immunologists will need training in “big data” to enable them to ask the relevant questions and develop or adopt the tools most appropriate to answer them. The AAI can play a significant role in making recommendations on the training of students and postdoctoral fellows, exploring ways to foster literacy in computational biology and transformative technologies, and helping ensure broader access to these technologies for AAI members.

Our AAI Committee on Public Affairs, working with Lauren Gross, the director of public policy and government affairs, has done an outstanding job of reaching out to legislators to emphasize the importance of funding immunology research. We have made impressive and sometimes unexpected advances that we can present as evidence that our research makes a big difference. (Who would have predicted that immune system modulation would become the most attractive option for the treatment of cancers? Harnessing of host immunity to destroy cancer cells was viewed with almost universal skepticism.) We have the opportunity to contribute to a deeper understanding of many chronic human diseases now appreciated as being immune-mediated, and we must communicate this to the lay public, our representatives in government, and the administrative leaders of our institutions. We must, in particular, emphasize that the therapeutic breakthroughs that have made immune system modulation the hottest area in the pharmaceutical industry were brought about by advances in basic science laboratories. Although “personalized medicine” will clearly transform the

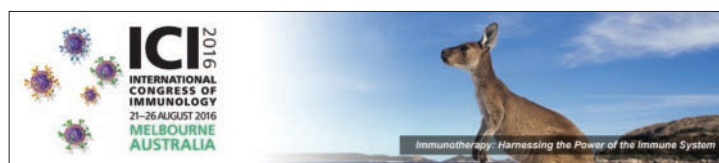
practice of medicine in the years ahead, the NIH’s increasing emphasis on translational research, which has heavily influenced the leadership at the research institutions that most of us inhabit, can result in distorted priorities. One of my goals during the coming year will be to further emphasize the importance of fundamental discovery research, while also highlighting the need to train the new generation of scientists in the tools that will allow them to apply new knowledge to human biology. We must also enlist the support of the biotech and pharmaceutical industry sectors in advocating for sustained biomedical research funding, as their success is dependent on our continued contributions.

I am enthusiastic and optimistic as I undertake this year of service to the AAI. I hope that you will join me in conveying this sense of possibility to those whom we encounter every day and help spread the message that immunological research is an endeavor that will increasingly touch more and more lives—and, hence, deserves universal support.

## AAI to Offer Members \$1 Million in Travel Grants for 16th International Congress of Immunology in Australia

AAI is pleased to announce that it will award up to \$1,000,000 in travel grants to AAI members for the 16th International Congress of Immunology (16th ICI), to be held August 21-26, 2016, in Melbourne, Australia.

Grant application will be open to investigators of all career stages. To be eligible, an applicant must be an AAI Trainee, Associate, or Regular member in



good standing for 2015 and 2016, and an author on an abstract submitted to the 16th ICI.

Preference will be

given to applicants with no more than \$250,000 in total research funding from all sources (excluding PI salary).

Complete eligibility and application instructions will be posted to the AAI website in January 2016.

Visit the 16th ICI website at <http://ici2016.org>.





## Congress, President Obama Agree on Two-Year Budget Deal, Continuing Resolution

In late October, House and Senate leaders reached a two-year budget agreement with the White House that suspends the federal debt ceiling through March 2017, allowing the government to borrow money to pay its debts, and raises existing caps on discretionary spending, providing Congress with flexibility to provide funding increases for some of its priorities. The House passed the bill by a vote of 266-177 on October 28, while the Senate passed the measure the following day by a vote of 64-35. President Obama signed the bill into law on November 2.

The budget deal, officially known as the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, lifts the current caps on both nondefense and defense discretionary spending for fiscal years (FY) 2016 and 2017. In FY 2016, the nondefense discretionary spending cap is raised by \$25 billion, providing appropriators with significantly more dollars to allocate to priority areas. AAI is hopeful that Congress will take this opportunity to restore funds lost to sequestration and provide a significant funding boost to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The budget agreement also suspends the federal debt ceiling through March 15, 2017, ensuring that the country will have the ability to meet its near-term fiscal obligations. It also eliminates a major procedural and budgetary impediment, allowing legislators to focus on a final appropriations agreement for FY 2016.

AAI President Dan Littman, M.D., Ph.D., joined with the president of FASEB and 20 other FASEB society presidents in co-signing a letter to leaders on Capitol Hill asking them “to expedite passage of the fiscal year (FY) 2016 spending bills that included proposed funding increases for these critically important research agencies” (NIH and the National Science Foundation).

Prior to the budget agreement, Congress had passed, and President Obama had signed, a resolution that funds the federal government through December 11, 2015. The resolution at least temporarily avoided a federal government shutdown which would have occurred if Congress and the President had not struck a deal by October 1.

The measure, also known as a Continuing Resolution (CR), funds the vast majority of federal agencies and programs at approximately FY 2015 levels. As a result, NIH is currently operating at roughly its FY 2015 funding level of \$30.3 billion through December 11, or until another appropriations bill becomes law.

While passage of a CR is a much better outcome than a government shutdown, it is not ideal. Under a CR, NIH 1) cannot initiate new programs, 2) sets more conservative paylines, and 3) generally funds non-competing research grant awards at 90 percent of the previously committed level. In addition, under a CR, NIH will not receive the much needed funding increase approved by the House Appropriations Committee (\$1.1 billion) or the Senate Appropriations Committee (\$2 billion). Although a full-year budget agreement would not guarantee this additional funding, these previously-passed appropriations bills reflect strong bipartisan support for increased NIH funding.

## Election of New House Speaker May Restore “Regular Order,” Prevent Future Government Shutdowns

On October 29, Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI, 1st) was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, replacing the outgoing Speaker, Rep. John Boehner (R-OH, 8th). In brief remarks after being sworn in, Ryan, the former chairman of both the House Budget Committee and House Ways and Means Committee, pledged to restore “regular order” to the House, letting committees “retake the lead in drafting all major legislation” and ensuring that all members, including those in the minority, are allowed to participate in the legislative process. He cautioned his colleagues that, “when we do not follow regular order—when we rush to pass bills a lot of us do not understand—we are not doing our job. Only a fully functioning House can truly represent the people.” In the view of AAI, a return to regular order would reduce acrimony, enhance transparency, and significantly reduce the likelihood of future government shutdowns.

## AAI Members Participate in National Rally for Medical Research Capitol Hill Day

### AAI Cosponsors Effort For Third Year

AAI Committee on Public Affairs members Beth Garvy and David Chaplin joined almost 300 advocates from 40 states in visiting Congressional offices as part of the third annual Rally for Medical Research Capitol Hill Day (Rally Hill Day). Garvy, professor and chair of the

Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics at the University of Kentucky, visited the offices of six members of the Kentucky congressional delegation, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY); Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), a member of the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee (which authorizes NIH programs); and Rep. Harold (Hal) Rogers (R-KY, 5th), chair of the House Appropriations Committee (which funds NIH). She was accompanied by AAI Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs Lauren Gross, J.D. Chaplin, professor in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, visited with staff from eight members of the Alabama delegation, including the offices of Sen. Richard Shelby, a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (“Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee”), and Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL, 2nd), a member of the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee.

Participants in the Rally Hill Day, which took place on September 17, urged members of Congress to provide



*(L-R) Beth Garvy, former AAI Public Policy Fellow Jennifer (Lori) Blanchfield, David Chaplin, and Lauren Gross*



*Beth Garvy and other Hill Day participants with staffer for Rep. Hal Rogers*

robust, sustained, and predictable funding increases for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Rally participants were able to visit 80 percent of all Senate offices and more than a third of House offices.

AAI served as a cosponsor of this year's effort, which was organized by the American Association for Cancer Research, for the third year. More than 300 other organizations, including professional societies, patient advocacy groups, and private industry, expressed their support for the rally by either sending representatives to the Hill Day or taking other actions in support of increased NIH funding.

In addition to visiting congressional offices, Garvy, Chaplin, and Gross attended a breakfast featuring keynote speaker Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), Chairman of the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee; and a reception, featuring remarks by Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), the Assistant Senate Minority Leader; Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Ranking Member on both the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate HELP Committee; Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS), a member of the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee; Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN); and NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.

## Proposed Updates to Federal Policy Protecting Human Subjects

The Department of Health and Human Services recently released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for revisions to the Common Rule, which governs the standards, treatment, and protections for human subjects involved in research. AAI is working with the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology to develop comments to be submitted in response to these revisions. However, all individuals are invited to submit comments. If you would like to submit comments please visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and enter Regulation Identifier Number 0937-AA02. The deadline for responses is December 7, 2015.

## AAI Responds to Request for Comments on NIH-wide Strategic Plan

AAI recently submitted comments to NIH in response to its “Request for Information (RFI): Inviting Comments and Suggestions on a Framework for the NIH-wide Strategic Plan.” The NIH RFI resulted from a provision in the fiscal year 2015 federal budget, in which Congress requires NIH to develop and submit a strategic plan by December 2015.

NIH's proposed framework would include a review of its past and current situation, including why budget constraints hurt progress; a section describing its main priorities, which include fundamental science, health promotion and disease prevention, and treatments and cures; and a description of its overall priorities and stewardship plans. The RFI requested input on the following topics:

- “potential benefits, drawbacks/challenges, and areas of consideration for the current framework,
- compatibility of the framework with the broad scope of the NIH mission,
- additional concepts in ICO [Institute and Center Operations] strategic plans that are cross-cutting and should be included in this trans-NIH strategic plan,
- comprehensive trans-NIH research themes that have not been captured in the Areas of Opportunity that Apply Across Biomedicine,
- components of the Areas of Opportunity that Apply Across Biomedicine that are not applicable to an NIH-wide Strategic Plan, and
- future opportunities or emerging research needs.”

The AAI comments (see [www.aai.org](http://www.aai.org) > Public Affairs > Letters and Comments) applaud NIH's focus on basic research, and encourage further emphasis on the unexpected outcomes of fundamental science. AAI suggests that NIH address areas where Congress can assist NIH in achieving its mission, including providing predictable funding, allowing funds to be carried over at the end of the fiscal year, and lifting travel restrictions for government employee travel to scientific conferences. In addition, AAI recommends that the immune system be considered a cross-cutting theme, with vaccines and immunotherapeutics included as cross-cutting concepts.

## Precision Medicine Initiative Recommendations Released

A detailed framework for building a one million person cohort for the Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI) was presented by the PMI Working Group at the NIH Advisory Committee to the Director meeting in late September (<http://www.nih.gov/precisionmedicine/working-group.htm>). The PMI, which was announced by President Obama in early 2015, aims to revolutionize medicine by accounting for individual variability in genes, environment, and lifestyle.

The working group recommended ways to guide the development of the cohort, including making inclusion in the cohort broadly accessible by enabling any American to

join and by partnering with healthcare providers to recruit participants, and emphasized the need to keep cohort participants engaged and informed over the course of what is expected to be a long-term study. The working group also offered recommendations regarding data collection, storage, and use, including the central storage of data which would later be moved to multiple coordinating centers that would serve as contact points for other institutions.

NIH Director Francis Collins immediately accepted the recommendations and appointed Josephine Briggs, current director of the National Center for Complementary Integrative Health, to be the acting director of the PMI.

## NIH Working Group Recommends Ways to Improve Grants Process

The NIH Grant Review, Award, and Management Process (GRAMP) Working Group recently released its recommendations on ways to optimize the grants process. The GRAMP working group, a subgroup of the NIH Scientific Management Review Board (SMRB), was tasked by the SMRB with “further optimizing the process of reviewing, awarding, and managing grants in a way that maximizes the time researchers can devote to research while still maintaining proper oversight.” The working group specifically focused on streamlining the application and awarding process so that grantees can receive their funds sooner, while also reducing the burden on administrative staff, reviewers, and council members.

In July, GRAMP released ten recommendations to improve the grant process, including: 1) fast-track awards for high priority, top scoring applications, 2) share best practices for speeding the award process between institutes and centers, 3) award partial funding early in the fiscal year, with the remaining paid after passage of a final appropriations bill, 4) pilot test a pre-application process, 5) deepen and diversify the peer review pool, 6) consider pilot testing a continuous submission policy, 7) provide review staff with needed resources to handle additional volume of applications, 8) enhance just-in-time procedures, 9) consult with outside experts on improving efficiency of administrative aspects of grants process, and 10) consider prize competitions to generate innovative ideas to improve the grant process.

The working group was created by the SMRB in response to a 2014 request by NIH Director Francis Collins for SMRB to advise NIH on ways to optimize the grants process. To date, however, Collins has not indicated whether any of the recommendations will be implemented.

## NIH Appoints New Deputy Director for Extramural Research



Michael Lauer

NIH Director Francis Collins has appointed Michael Lauer, M.D., to be the new NIH deputy director for Extramural Research. He replaces Sally Rockey, Ph.D., who had served in this position since 2008.

Lauer, who most recently was the director of the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences at the National Heart, Lung, and

Blood Institute (NHLBI), was previously the director of the Division of Prevention and Population Science and the director of the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences at NHLBI. He was recently appointed as the NIH co-chair for the President's Precision Medicine Initiative.

Prior to joining NIH in 2007, Lauer was a professor of Medicine, Epidemiology, and Biostatistics at the Cleveland Clinic's Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University.

A board-certified cardiologist, Lauer received his M.D. from Albany Medical College. After an internship and residency in medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, he served as a clinical fellow in medicine (cardiology) at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Hospital.

## NIH Appoints Inaugural Director of NIH Division of Biomedical Research Workforce Programs

NIH Director Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., appointed Kay Lund, Ph.D., to be the inaugural director of the NIH Division of Biomedical Research Workforce Programs ("Workforce Programs Division"). Lund, who was previously a professor of cell biology and physiology with joint appointments in pediatrics and nutrition at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will lead the implementation of programs that strengthen and sustain the nation's biomedical workforce.

The Workforce Programs Division was created as a result of recommendations made by the NIH Advisory Committee to the Director Working Group on the Biomedical Research Workforce. It is charged with providing "ongoing analysis of the biomedical research workforce and evaluation of NIH policies to enable NIH to

sustain and grow the biomedical research workforce at all levels to assure the most productive biomedical research endeavors and most effective use of taxpayer dollars."

## AAI Responds to USDA "Notice of Petition" to Modify Animal Welfare Act Regulations

The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently received a petition from the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) seeking to amend the Animal Welfare Act Regulations. NAVS called upon APHIS to require research facilities to include additional information in their annual reports about the animals being used in research, including the genetic background of the animals; what each animal is specifically being used for; the location of the facility housing the animals; and the origin of the animals (e.g. bred in-house or purchased).

On August 21, AAI submitted comments (see [www.aai.org](http://www.aai.org) > Public Affairs > Letters and Comments) in response to this petition. While affirming support for the humane care and use of animals in research, AAI expressed concern that the proposed changes would impose increased costs and administrative burden without tangibly improving the welfare of research animals. Specifically, research facilities and investigators would need to implement new tracking mechanisms and develop tools to properly report research protocols and techniques, which would require additional personnel and resources. In addition, AAI cautioned APHIS about the potential danger posed by animal rights organizations, which could "target" institutions and investigators if specific animal locations were required to be reported.

## New Federal "Dual Use Research of Concern" Policy in Effect

A new "United States Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC)" became effective on September 24, 2015. The DURC policy describes the practices and procedures that are required for the use of pathogens or toxins whose use could potentially be misapplied to pose a threat to public health or safety.

Research is considered DURC if it meets three conditions. First, one of the following agents or toxins must be used: highly pathogenic avian influenza, *Bacillus anthracis*, Botulinum neurotoxin, *Burkholderia*

*mallei*, *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, Ebola virus, foot-and-mouth disease virus, *Francisella tularensis*, Marburg virus, reconstructed 1918 influenza virus, rinderpest virus, toxin-producing strains of *Clostridium botulinum*, variola major virus, variola minor virus, and *Yersinia pestis*. Second, the experiments must fall into at least one of the following seven categories: “1) enhances the harmful consequences of the agent or toxin, 2) disrupts immunity or the effectiveness of an immunization against the agent or toxin, 3) confers to the agent or toxin resistance to clinically and/or agriculturally useful prophylactic or therapeutic interventions against that agent or toxin or facilitates their ability to evade detection methodologies, 4) increases the stability, transmissibility, or the ability to disseminate the agent or toxin, 5) alters the host range or tropism of the agent or toxin, 6) enhances the susceptibility of a host population to the agent or toxin, or 7) generates or reconstitutes an eradicated or extinct agent or toxin listed above.” If the first two conditions are met, then principal investigators (PIs) must have their research evaluated by their institution’s Institutional Review Entity (IRE), which will determine if the research qualifies as DURC. Regardless of the IRE decision, the institution must report this research to the funding agency within 30 days of the IRE decision. If the research is considered DURC, then the PI and IRE must develop a risk mitigation plan within 90 days, to be submitted for approval by the funding agency.

Questions about this policy can be answered by each institution’s designated “Institutional Contact for Dual Use Research (ICDUR).”

### **NSABB Discusses Recommendations on Gain-of-Function Research**

On September 28, the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) met to hear updates on the development of recommendations that would govern Gain-of-Function (GOF) research. The meeting followed the federal government’s October 2014 research funding pause on GOF research involving selected experiments on influenza, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) viruses, due to biosafety and biosecurity concerns. At the recent meeting, NSABB heard progress reports from the its Working Group on Evaluating Risks and Benefits of GOF Studies Involving Pathogens with Pandemic Potential, and from Gryphon Scientific, a consulting firm hired to conduct a risk-benefit analysis for GOF studies. NSABB expects to release draft recommendations at the end of the year, and final recommendations in the spring of 2016.

### **National Academies Release Report on Reducing Regulatory Burden**

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) recently released a report entitled “Optimizing the Nation’s Investment in Academic Research: A New Regulatory Framework for the 21st Century, Part I.” The report reviews the regulations that research universities must follow and considers undue burdens that some of these requirements impose. It also recommends ways to reduce such burdens, including the creation of a public-private board to streamline research policies and specific actions that can be taken by Congress, the White House Office of Management and Budget, research institutions, and federal agencies.

The report was written by the NAS Committee on Science, Technology, and Law and its Board of Higher Education and Workforce, which were tasked with identifying the federal regulations and reporting requirements that had the most significant negative impact on research universities. The report, which was congressionally mandated, was released early due to a request from Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, who hopes to incorporate some of its recommendations in legislation he is currently drafting. The second part of the report will be released in the spring of 2016.

### **AAAS Soliciting Stories on the Benefits of Scientific Conferences to Science, Technology, and Society**

Strict new federal regulations on government employee travel and conference spending were implemented in May 2012. As a result, it has been difficult for federal employees, including but not limited to those working at NIH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Science Foundation, to participate in – or attend – scientific meetings and conferences.

Many groups, including AAI, have been asking both the Obama Administration and Congress to exempt from these restrictions federal employees who want to attend scientific or technical conferences. To support this effort, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is collecting stories describing how professional interactions at conferences, particularly with government employees, have led to valuable and productive collaborations. To submit your story, visit [www.aaas.org/yourstory](http://www.aaas.org/yourstory).





# You have the power.

Your membership in the American Association of Immunologists helps advance the field—and your career.

Being a part of AAI enables you to take an active role in helping to shape the future of immunology and attain your professional goals. You'll stand with members representing immunological research concerns on Capitol Hill. Plus, you gain access to:

- The best and brightest minds today.
- The world's largest annual all-immunology meeting.
- *The Journal of Immunology*, the pre-eminent peer-reviewed journal in the field.
- Many occasions and opportunities to present your research.
- Awards/fellowships/grants to support talented scientists in every career stage.

To renew your AAI membership and its contributions to your professional life, call 301.634.7195 or visit [www.aai.org](http://www.aai.org) today.



# Jenny Ting, Edith Lord Begin AAI Council Service

The AAI Council welcomes two new Council members, Councillor Jenny Ting and Secretary-Treasurer Edith Lord, following their successful candidacies in the 2015 AAI Election. Dr. Ting will serve a four-year term, after which she will be eligible for three successive one-year terms as AAI Vice President, President, and Past President. Dr. Lord will serve a three-year term in office.



Jenny Ting

**Jenny P. Ting, Ph.D., AAI '97,** is the William Rand Kenan Professor of Genetics and Microbiology-Immunology at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, where she also serves as director of the Center for Translational Immunology and co-director of the Inflammatory Diseases Institute.

Dr. Ting's laboratory investigates a broad range of topics, and her research has contributed to the mechanistic understanding of many diseases, including multiple sclerosis, cancer, autoimmunity, infection, and inflammation. Ting's early work focused on the regulation of MHC class II by the master regulator, CIITA. Her laboratory's finding that Plexin A1 expression is regulated by CIITA led to further studies of the plexin and semaphorin families, resulting in the finding that communication between these sets of molecules regulates the activation of T and B cells. Much of Ting's recent work has grown out of her original studies of CIITA; in 2002, her laboratory discovered a family of genes that encoded structural motifs similar to CIITA, which they termed CATERPILLER, but was later named NLR. Since then, Ting has played a significant role in the characterization of the NLR family members and has found that NLR inflammasome formation affects the severity of neuronal inflammation, colitis-associated cancer, and viral and bacterial infections. The Ting laboratory has also been pioneering in the study of non-inflammasome-forming NLR molecules, many of which negatively regulate inflammatory pathways, including the regulation of the noncanonical NF- $\kappa$ B pathway by NLRP12 and the inhibition of MAVS by NLRX1. Ting's laboratory continues its use of cutting-edge ideas and technology to better understand disease and disease-relevant issues.

See **Jenny Ting**, next page



Edith Lord

**Edith M. Lord, Ph.D., AAI '78,** is a professor of microbiology and immunology and of oncology and the dean of graduate education at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Dr. Lord's research focuses on the generation of antitumor immunity, how immune cells function within the tumor microenvironment, and how treatment modalities, such as radiation therapy, affect the immune response. With the use of mouse model systems, her group has helped establish that the generation of immunity is an important component of the effectiveness of radiation in controlling tumors. Current work involves the investigation of the mechanisms by which local irradiation of tumors stimulates immunity, as well as the exploration of methods to optimize antitumor therapy by combining radiation treatment with immunotherapy. In addition, the laboratory is working to assess the risk factors associated with unintentional nanomaterials skin exposure and how nanomaterials may impact skin immune function. Finally, work is underway to use the knowledge gained about radiation to develop drugs to mitigate or treat the effects of unintentional radiation exposure.

Lord has served as a member of the AAI Finance Committee, an abstract programming chair for the AAI annual meeting, and associate editor and section editor for *The Journal of Immunology*. Lord and University of Rochester graduate student Aditi Murthy (AAI '15) were AAI Careers in Immunology Fellowship award recipients in 2015.

Lord has served on numerous NIH study sections and special emphasis panels, multiple NIH site review panels (including Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, University of Chicago; University of Kentucky; Hahnemann Medical College; Colorado State University; University of Minnesota; and Los Alamos National Laboratory), and

See **Edith Lord**, next page

## Jenny Ting (continued)

The 2013 recipient of the AAI-Life Technologies Meritorious Career Award, Ting was that same year also an AAI Distinguished Lecturer. She has served as a major symposium chair and speaker on multiple occasions at the AAI annual meeting. Ting has served as elected chair (twice) of the AAI Nominating Committee, a lecturer for the AAI Advanced Course, an associate editor and section editor for *The Journal of Immunology*, and a member of the AAI Publications Committee. Earlier this year, she co-chaired and spoke at the AAI-European Federation of Immunological Societies Joint Symposium at the 4th European Congress of Immunology.

A member of the NIAID Board of Scientific Councillors and recipient of an NIH MERIT Award, Ting is a past member of the NIAID Council and has served on numerous study sections and review panels, including for the NIH, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), Burroughs Wellcome Trust, and the *Molecular Cell Biology* editorial board. Her additional career honors and appointments include: elected member, Henry Kunkel Society; Academia Sinica (Taiwan); UNC Award for the Advancement of Women; Hall of Fame Alumna Inductee, College of Applied Science Technology, Illinois State University; Volunteer Hall of Fame for Scientific Researchers, NMSS; Sandler Program in Asthma Research Award; Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Immunology and Immunity to Infections, American Society for Microbiology; NMSS Outstanding Research into the Cause and Cure of Multiple Sclerosis; and American Cancer Society Faculty Award.

Ting received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1979 and completed postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Southern California and Duke University. Following appointment as a research assistant professor at Duke University, she joined the UNC faculty in 1984.

In her 2015 AAI election statement (re-printed on the following page), Ting outlined her perspective on the current challenges confronting her AAI colleagues and the broader biomedical research community.

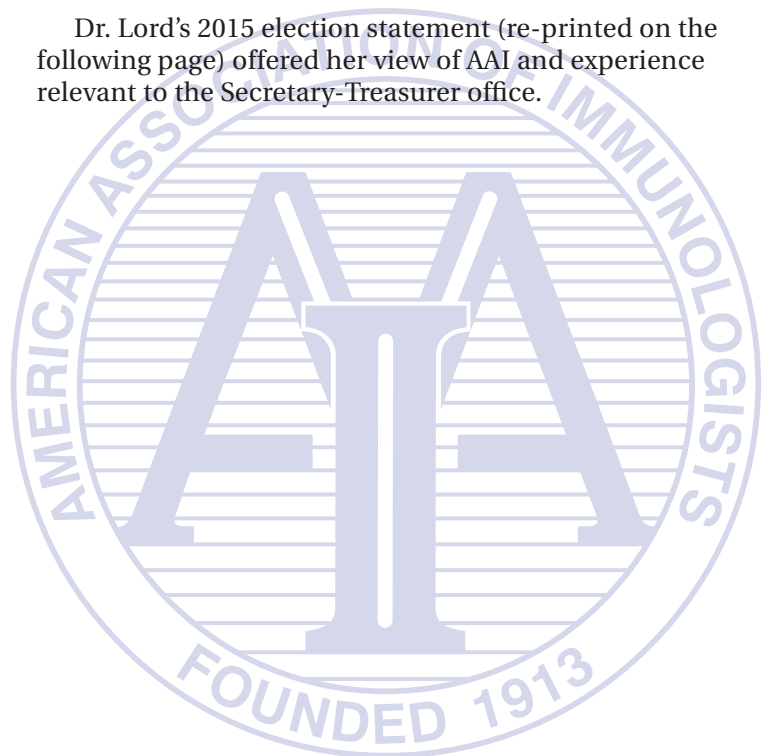
## Edith Lord (continued)

review/advisory panels for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America, California Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, and the American Cancer Society.

At the University of Rochester, she leads the School of Medicine and Dentistry's Ph.D., postdoctoral, and master's degree programs and previously led the Department of Microbiology and Immunology graduate program. She also directs the school's Post-baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP), which encourages under-represented minorities to pursue a research doctorate and prepares them for careers as scientists and leaders in the biomedical community.

A biology graduate of the University of Kansas, Lord received her Ph.D. in immunology from the University of California at San Diego (thesis advisor: Richard Dutton). She was an immunology postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Medicine at the University of California at San Francisco (mentor: Daniel Stites). In 1976, she was named a senior instructor of oncology in microbiology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, where she was subsequently appointed assistant professor (1978), associate professor (1984), and full professor (1994). She has served as co-director of the University of Rochester Hybridoma Facility; director of the University of Rochester Cancer Center Immunology Program; director of the Immunology, Microbiology & Virology Graduate Cluster; and visiting professor, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Dr. Lord's 2015 election statement (re-printed on the following page) offered her view of AAI and experience relevant to the Secretary-Treasurer office.



## **2015 AAI Council Candidate's Statement: Jenny P. Ting**

It is unquestionable that these are the most exciting times to be an immunologist. When I first entered the field, friends or relatives would ask me about my intended profession, and my reply “immunologist” would elicit puzzled stares and attempts to pronounce the word. Nowadays, lay people frequently comment, “hot field!” to my answer. Indeed, we belong to an exciting field built upon the dedication of generations of researchers who have devoted their lives to immunology as discoverers, researchers, clinicians, mentors, and teachers. On the other hand, these are also unquestionably the most challenging times to work in life sciences. Government funding or the lack thereof is discouraging many young people from even contemplating a career in scientific research. Reduced federal funding has adversely affected us regardless of seniority or accomplishment in science; but sadly, it has disproportionately impacted our junior colleagues most severely. As a consequence of this competition for limited resources, the peer-review process has veered out of control.

Despite these obstacles, I am consistently encouraged by the young people in my own group, at our university, and at other universities/institutes. They demonstrate keen intellect, creativity, dedication, and high enthusiasm for science and the discovery process. When I was at this early stage, AAI served as an important organization to guide me in all aspects of professional development, from learning how to write a grant to navigating the NIH system. As I matured in this chosen profession, I have been honored to serve in many capacities within AAI, which greatly enhanced my appreciation for the volunteers and AAI staff who have made our association successful and impactful. Influencing generations of scientists, many unselfish AAI members have generously volunteered their time to advocate for science as a whole and immunology in particular. They have visited Congress and NIH to promote immunology, taught introductory and advanced immunology classes, served as editors and reviewers, hosted high school teachers, organized and chaired symposia, and participated in numerous committees that are required to keep this society vibrant. It is unimaginable what AAI would be like without these volunteer scientists.

*See Jenny Ting Statement, next page*

## **2015 AAI Secretary-Treasurer Candidate's Statement: Edith M. Lord**

I am honored to stand for election to the position of AAI Secretary-Treasurer. AAI is the face of immunology in the United States and is a vital growing enterprise that serves its membership well. I have been impressed by how well run the organization is, which is due to the many contributions of fellow immunologists and an outstanding executive staff. As a member of the AAI Finance Committee for the past six years, I have had the privilege of working with the AAI leadership to help oversee the budget process. The sound financial basis of the society has allowed it to provide many services to the membership, including an exciting annual meeting, a vibrant journal that provides an important conduit for dissemination of research results and an important revenue source, travel awards to meetings, and the more recent fellowship awards that are providing support in these challenging times. All of these important services must be maintained and expanded but only if the financial status of the society remains strong.

Having been a member since 1978, I have supported the AAI for many years, including serving as an annual meeting Abstract Programming Chair for 3 years, as an associate editor for six years, and as a section editor for four years for *The Journal of Immunology*.

While maintaining an active research laboratory, I have been senior associate dean for graduate education at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry for the past six years. This has afforded me the opportunity to acquire additional administrative skills and to oversee a large budget that supports graduate education. I remain heavily involved in research, teaching, and mentoring of diverse populations.

If elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer, I would work closely with the executive staff to maintain and grow the strong financial footing of the society so that it can continue to contribute to the field of immunology by providing strong support for the membership.

## 2015–2016 AAI COUNCIL

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**Jenny P. Ting, Ph.D.**

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*AAI Executive Director*

#### **Jenny Ting Statement** *(continued)*

Thus, I am extremely honored to be asked to stand for election to the AAI Council. If elected to this role, I would be especially interested in promoting the careers of young scientists who are facing unprecedented obstacles to career advancement. I also wish to advocate for enhanced research funding, especially for immunology, through both public and private funding venues. Since a key problem with reduced support for research is the public's under-appreciation of the impact of science on our daily lives, it is critical that we, as a whole, learn how to communicate with lay persons in the public. Finally, I have little doubt that the toxic environment of unreasonable peer-review is stifling—if not destroying—science;

thus I would like to seek approaches to mitigate this. I also support the expansion of many existing programs within AAI that have been so valuable and successful. These include the Careers in Immunology Fellowship Program, Public Policy Fellowship Program, High School Teachers Summer Research Program in Immunology, and travel grants allowing mid and senior-career investigators to re-tool their investigative efforts. The last one is particularly important as many mid- and senior-career scientists are struggling and contending with the lack of venues to help them. A goal would be to expand this program by partnering with other private organizations to obtain more substantial awards.

# Members in the News

## Allison Named 2015 Lasker Awardee, Cancer Society Research Medal Recipient



James Allison

**James P. Allison, Ph.D., AAI '78**, was recently named the 2015 recipient of the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award for the discovery and development of a monoclonal antibody therapy that unleashes the immune system to combat cancer. He has also received the 2015 American Cancer Society Medal of Honor for Basic Research for his pioneering work on the regulation of immune cell activation and defining

immune checkpoint blockade, fueling major advances in immunotherapy for cancer and the first U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved drug for the treatment of metastatic melanoma.

Dr. Allison is a professor and chair of the Department of Immunology and director of the Immunotherapy Platform at the University of Texas (UT) MD Anderson Cancer Center. He has contributed seminal work elucidating mechanisms of T cell biology and regulation throughout his career, including the molecular immunology of the T cell antigen receptor complex, co-stimulatory receptors, and other molecules involved in T cell activation. In particular, his lab has focused on defining those signaling events that lead to differentiation of naive T cells and those that determine whether antigen receptor engagement will lead to functional activation or inactivation of T cells. An important part of this work, enhancing T cell responses by blocking the inhibitory receptor CTLA-4, has been applied to the development of new strategies for the treatment of autoimmune diseases and for immunotherapy of cancer. An antibody derived by Allison led to development of the drug known as ipilimumab, which blocks CTLA-4; in clinical trials against stage 4 melanoma, the drug extinguished the disease in 24 percent of patients for up to 12 years and counting, unprecedented results against metastatic melanoma. The drug was approved by the FDA in 2011 for the treatment of melanoma. Allison's work has stimulated discovery of additional immune checkpoints and development of experimental drugs to block them, and the resulting clinical trials are demonstrating effectiveness against a variety of other cancers.

Allison served as AAI president in 2001–2002 and was a member of the AAI Council from 1996 to 2003. He was the 2011 recipient of the AAI Lifetime Achievement Award and received the AAI-Dana Foundation Award in Human Immunology

Research in 2008. A past AAI Distinguished Lecturer, Allison has been a major symposium speaker and chair on multiple occasions at the AAI annual meeting, where he has also served as an abstract programming chair. He is a past associate and section editor for *The Journal of Immunology* and has served as an AAI Advanced Course in Immunology faculty member.

Earlier this year, Allison was awarded the 2015 Pezcoller Foundation-American Association for Cancer Research International Award for Cancer Research. A member of the Institute of Medicine and of the National Academy of Sciences, Allison has been accorded numerous additional career honors including: the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences; Canada Gairdner International Award; Novartis Prize for Clinical Immunology; *The Economist's* Innovations Award for Bioscience; William B. Coley Award for Distinguished Research in Basic and Tumor Biology; Roche Award for Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy; Outstanding Alumnus Award, UT Austin Graduate School; Centeon Award for Innovative Breakthroughs in Immunology; Roll of Honor, International Union Against Cancer; fellow, American Academy of Microbiology; fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science; and Merit Award, National Institutes of Health.

A native of Alice, Texas, Allison earned his bachelor's degree in microbiology and doctorate in biological sciences from UT Austin. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular immunology at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, Allison joined the faculty of the MD Anderson Science Park—Research Division in Smithville, Texas. In 1985, he was appointed a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, where he directed the Cancer Research Laboratory from 1985 to 2004 and served in a number of other senior posts. He subsequently served as chair of the Immunology Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and in senior scientific appointments at the Weill School of Medical Sciences of Cornell University before returning to MD Anderson in 2012. He was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator from 2004 to 2012.

### **AAI Newsletter: Members in the News— Submissions Invited**

AAI welcomes the opportunity to highlight the career achievements and professional honors attained by AAI member scientists. Such publicity not only serves to inspire colleagues but also informs the broader public of immunology's vital and widening role in scientific discovery and transformative medicine.

**Help AAI share news of your or another member's noteworthy scientific and/or service recognition or career appointments by contacting [mwcuddy@aai.org](mailto:mwcuddy@aai.org). Thank you!**

## Rosenberg Receives Cancer Society Research Medal, Foundation Honors for Lifetime Achievement, Federal Service Award



Steven Rosenberg

**Steven A. Rosenberg, M.D., Ph.D., AAI '72**, is the recipient of the 2015 American Cancer Society Medal of Honor for Basic Research, the 2015 Betty Ford Lifetime Achievement Award of Distinction from the Susan B. Komen Foundation, and the 2015 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal as Federal Employee of the Year. The first honor recognizes his elucidation of the immunology of cancer and pioneering work

in the development of adoptive immunotherapy, leading to the first effective immunotherapies for selected patients with advanced cancer. The second recognizes individuals who have committed their life to engaging the public in the fight against breast cancer, advocating for meaningful change, and activating communities to support those facing the disease. The third honor recognizes exceptional federal workers who break down barriers, overcome significant challenges, or otherwise achieve extraordinary results in areas including scientific and medical discovery.

Dr. Rosenberg is chief of surgery at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), where he serves as head of the Tumor Immunology Section at NCI's Center for Cancer Research (CCR). He is also professor of surgery at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS) and George Washington University (GWU) School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Rosenberg has pioneered the development of several types of immunotherapies for the treatment of patients with advanced cancers, including treatment with high-dose IL-2 and T cell transfer immunotherapy. His group showed that adoptive transfer of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes combined with administration of high-dose IL-2 and chemotherapy could effectively treat melanoma, and his further development of the field of cell transfer immunotherapy has led to durable, complete remissions in patients with metastatic melanoma. He has also pioneered the development of gene therapy and was the first to successfully insert foreign genes into humans. More recent work involving adoptive transfer of T cells that have been genetically modified to express tumor-specific T cell receptors (TCRs) has resulted in

the regression of metastatic cancer in patients with melanoma, sarcomas, and lymphomas. Research in Rosenberg's laboratory also seeks to better understand the unique cancer antigens that are targeted by patients' lymphocytes and to identify antitumor TCRs that can be exploited for cell transfer immunotherapy. Currently, his group has numerous clinical trials underway to expand the use and effectiveness of cancer immunotherapy.

A member of the Institute of Medicine, Rosenberg has served as an associate editor for *The Journal of Immunology*. His additional current and past editorial board appointments include service for the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, *Surgery*, *American Journal of Clinical Oncology*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, *Cytokine*, *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, *Gene Therapy*, *The Cancer Journal*, *Journal of Immunotherapy*, *Cancer Gene Therapy*, and *Clinical Proteomics*.

Rosenberg has served on the board and program committee of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO); he is also a member of the Society of University Surgeons, American Surgical Association (ASA), American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), and American College of Surgeons. He chairs the immunology faculty at CCR; his continuing and past advisory and review panel appointments include: NIH Advisory Board for Clinical Research; Interagency Oncology Task Force, CCR/U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee, CCR; Medical Executive Committee, Clinical Center, NIH; U.S. Information Agency; Weizmann Institute of Science Board of Governors; Committee on Human Rights, National Academy of Sciences; Gannett Center for Media Studies, Columbia University; Committee on Clinical Research, Society of Surgical Oncology; Committee on Surgical Education, The Society of University Surgeons; member, U.S.-U.S.S.R. Cooperative Cancer Immunotherapy Program; Immunotherapy Program Scientific Review Group, NCI; and International Registry of Tumor Immunotherapy, NCI.

Rosenberg's career research honors include: fellow, AACR Academy; Massry Prize, Meira and Shaul G. Massry Foundation; Federal Technology Transfer Award (multiple), CCR; Giants of Cancer Care, OncologyLive; Keio Medical Science Prize; William B. Coley Award for Distinguished Research in Basic and Tumor Immunology; John K. Lattimer Lecturer, American Urological Association; American Association of Blood Banks Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award and Lectureship; Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Distinguished Medical Alumnus Award; Abbott Laboratories Award in Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology, American Society of Microbiology; Sergio Lombroso Award in

# Members in the News (continued)

Cancer Research, Weizmann Institute of Science; Statesman Award, ASCO; Rabson Award for Excellence in Intramural Research, NCI; ASA Medallion for Scientific Achievement; Gruber Memorial Cancer Research Award, American Academy of Dermatology; Smalley Memorial Award, International Society for Biological Therapy of Cancer; Scientific Excellence in Medicine Award, American-Italian Cancer Foundation; Flance-Karl Award, ASA Foundation; Outstanding Mentor Award, NCI; John Wayne Award for Clinical Research, Society of Surgical Oncology; Claude Jacquillat Memorial Award; David C. Fainer Award, Medical Resource Foundation; International Chiron Award for Biomedical Research and Training, Genoa, Italy; Scientist of the Year, *Research and Development Magazine*; Lifetime Science Award, Institute for Advanced Studies in Immunology and Aging; Karnofsky Prize, ASCO; Sheen Award, American College of Surgeons; Meritorious Scientific Achievement Award, Cilag (French pharmaceutical); Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization of America Myrtle Wreath Award; Armand Hammer Cancer Prize (twice); Griffuel Prize for

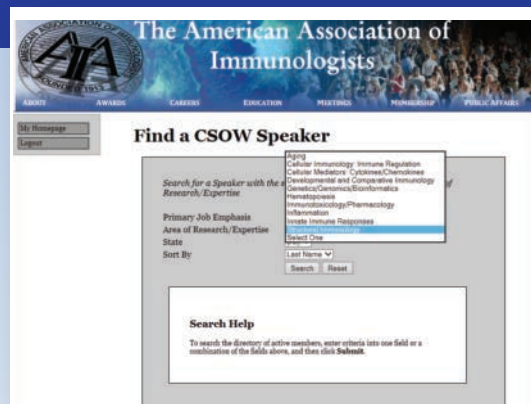
Research, French Association for Research on Cancer; Milken Family Foundation Cancer Award; Friedrich Sasse Prize; and Nils Alwell Prize. Rosenberg received the Distinguished Service Medal, Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal (twice) from the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS).

A native of New York City, Rosenberg received his B.A. degree and M.D. from the Johns Hopkins University and his Ph.D. in biophysics from Harvard University. He completed his surgical internship and residency at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, and research fellowship in immunology with John David at Harvard Medical School. As a member of the USPHS, he served as a clinical associate in the Immunology Branch of NCI before being named in 1974 as NCI chief of surgery, a post he has held since. In addition to his USUHS and GWU appointments, held since 1979 and 1988, respectively, he is a foreign adjunct professor in cell therapy in the Department of Laboratory Medicine at the Karolinska Institute.

## AAI Invites Additions to List of Women Speakers

The AAI Committee on the Status of Women (CSOW) has revamped the format of the *List of Potential Speakers and Chairs*. The committee also announced a new process for individuals to have their names added to the list. The changes are intended to broaden the range of areas of expertise of AAI members and to make the list more accessible and accurate as a resource for enhancing opportunities for women as speakers or chairs at professional meetings.

Listings were originally limited to women serving as heads of immunological research labs, but the CSOW Speaker List is now open to women AAI members fulfilling leadership roles in non-research careers as well.



In addition to representing a broader range of leadership roles occupied by women, the list will be more accessible and more easily maintained. Individuals listed will be able to maintain their own entries as each now links to the individual's Web page.

Viewers can determine how well the profile matches their need for a woman immunologist in a particular leadership role.

Women currently listed must supply their URLs to remain on the list. To be added to the list, contact Mary Bradshaw, AAI staff liaison for the CSOW (mbradshaw@aai.org).



# IMMUNOLOGY 2016™



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## Call for 2016 Award Applications Deadline: January 12, 2016

Applications are invited for the following AAI Travel Awards and Grants, which annually foster the promise and professional development of investigators of all career stages.

### Lefrançois-BioLegend Memorial Award

Established to honor the memory of AAI member Dr. Leo Lefrançois, this award is intended to advance the career of a trainee who attends the AAI annual meeting and presents an outstanding abstract specifically in the area of mucosal immunology. The award recipient will receive a \$1,000 cash award and a certificate during an awards presentation program at the AAI annual meeting. *This award is generously supported through a grant from BioLegend and donations from friends and colleagues of Dr. Lefrançois.*

### AAI Trainee Poster Awards

These awards provide up to \$300 travel reimbursement to AAI trainee members (students and postdoctoral fellows) whose first-author abstracts submitted to the AAI annual meeting are selected for poster sessions only and found to be exceptional by the AAI Abstract Programming Chairs. Selection is based on the originality and significance of the research being presented.

### Pfizer-Showell Travel Award

This award recognizes the professional promise of an early career investigator (assistant professor or equivalent) by assisting the award recipient with travel to the AAI annual meeting. Selection is based on career progress and submission of an outstanding abstract selected for oral presentation in a block symposium at the meeting. The award recipient will be recognized and presented with a certificate at an awards presentation program at the AAI annual meeting. Support of up to \$1,500 will be provided for meeting registration and travel. *This award is supported through an endowment from Henry J. Showell and Pfizer, Inc.*

### AAI-Thermo Fisher Trainee Achievement Awards

These awards recognize up to six promising trainees in the field of immunology. Selection is based on career promise and presentation of an outstanding first-author abstract selected for oral presentation in a block symposium. Awardees will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and reimbursement for meeting expenses. *These awards are generously supported by Thermo Fisher Scientific Corporation.*

### AAI Early Career Faculty Travel Grants

These grants assist young investigators (assistant professor or equivalent) in attending the AAI annual meeting. Recipients will be reimbursed up to \$1,250 for registration and travel expenses.

### Chambers-eBioscience Memorial Award

Established to honor the memory of AAI member Dr. Cynthia Chambers, this award is intended to advance the career of an early career scientist who attends the AAI annual meeting and presents an outstanding abstract specifically in the area of cancer biology. The award recipient will receive a \$1,000 cash award and a certificate during an awards presentation program at the AAI annual meeting. *This award is generously supported through a grant from eBioscience, an Affymetrix Company.*

### Lustgarten-eBioscience Memorial Award

Established to honor the memory of AAI member Dr. Joseph Lustgarten, this award is intended to advance the career of a mid-career scientist who attends the AAI annual meeting and presents an outstanding abstract specifically in the area of immune regulation. The award recipient will receive up to \$1,250 travel reimbursement and a certificate during an awards presentation program at the AAI annual meeting. *This award is generously supported through a grant from eBioscience, an Affymetrix Company.*

### AAI Trainee Abstract Awards

These awards provide up to \$500–750 travel reimbursement to AAI trainee members (students and postdoctoral fellows) whose first-author abstracts submitted to the AAI annual meeting are selected for presentation in block symposia.

### AAI Undergraduate Faculty Travel Grants

These grants assist undergraduate faculty in attending the AAI annual meeting. Each grant will also support travel costs for an undergraduate student of the recipient's selection. A grant of up to \$1,250 is awarded to the undergraduate faculty member, and a grant of up to \$1,000 is awarded to the selected undergraduate student (registration for an undergraduate student is complimentary).

### AAI Laboratory Travel Grants

These grants assist mid-career and senior investigators in attending the AAI annual meeting. Applicants must hold an appointment of associate professor, full professor, or equivalent; have limited research funding; and be a first or last author on one or more abstracts submitted to the annual meeting. Each grant will provide two travel awards of up to \$1,250 each: one to the PI or laboratory director and another to a member of his or her lab, chosen by the PI or laboratory director. Recipients will be reimbursed for registration and travel expenses.

The FASEB MARC Program is supporting Poster/Platform (Oral) Presenter Travel Awards for underrepresented minority scientists; for details, visit [www.faseb.org/MARC-and-Professional-Development](http://www.faseb.org/MARC-and-Professional-Development).

**For complete AAI Travel Award and Grant application details, visit [www.AAI.org/Awards](http://www.AAI.org/Awards).**

*The 2016 AAI Awards will be presented in conjunction with*

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## William E. Paul, M.D., AAI '67

June 12, 1936–September 18, 2015

President, The American Association of Immunologists, 1986–1987

*AAI extends condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of William E. ("Bill") Paul, M.D., AAI '67, who died on September 18. The following remembrance was authored by Paul protégé and colleague Fred D. Finkelman, M.D., AAI '76, with help from former Paul fellows Robert Seder, M.D., AAI '94, and Ulus Atasoy, M.D., AAI '07. AAI gratefully acknowledges the submission.*

With the death of Bill Paul on September 18 from acute myelogenous leukemia at age 79, we have lost a great immunologist and a great person.

Bill was a product of the Eastern European Jewish migration to New York City; he was educated in the city's public schools, including Erasmus High School and Brooklyn College, where reading a book of essays by Michael Heidelberger initiated his interest in immunology, and SUNY Downstate Medical School, where he had his first taste of biological research. A summer research opportunity in 1959, prior to his last year of medical school, introduced Bill to NIH, where he would spend the great majority of his career. Bill's genius as an investigator surfaced early. Work with Alan Cohen during Bill's residency in internal medicine led to Bill's first paper -- a study of amyloid particles that was published in *Nature*. Bill's two years as a clinical associate in NCI's Endocrinology Branch (1962-64), which satisfied his military obligation, led to an additional paper in *Nature*, as well as to the first radioimmunoassay for thyroid stimulating hormone.

Bill's research career accelerated and became focused on immunology in 1964, when he joined the lab of Baruj Benacerraf, then at NYU. Bill's work at this time established a technique for evaluating the ability of guinea pig T cells to respond to specific antigens and refined previous evidence that B and T cells "see" antigen differently. Both observations would be critical for his initial independent studies, which began four years later when Bill moved with Baruj to NIH. There, Baruj became head of the Laboratory of Immunology (LI) and Bill became a senior investigator in that laboratory. Two years after that, when Baruj moved to Harvard, Bill, at age 34, was appointed head of the LI, a position he retained until his death.



William Paul

Bill's focus as lab chief at LI continued to be on how T cells "see" antigen. Studies in guinea pigs and mice with Ira Green, Ethan Shevach, Alan Rosenthal, and Ron Schwartz demonstrated that the Ir gene products, which had been shown to control the ability of T cells to respond to certain defined antigens, were MHC class II molecules. This evidence was crucial for later discoveries by Emil Unanue that defined antigen processing and MHC-mediated presentation of antigen-derived peptides to T cells. Work by Bill and his team also contributed importantly to the conclusion that the T cell antigen receptor (TCR) differed from surface immunoglobulin, the

B cell receptor for antigen. This conclusion promoted the quest to identify the TCR, which was initiated by Mark Davis while a post-doc in Bill's lab, and culminated in independent work done by Mark and his team (Steve Hedrick, David Cohen, Ellen Nielsen) after Mark became an independent investigator at NIAID.

As the LI developed under Bill's leadership, additional areas of fruitful investigation developed. Studies with John van Boxel, Ira Green, Bill Terry, Donna Sieckmann, Dick Asofsky, and Don Mosier established the co-expression of membrane IgM and IgD as B cell antigen receptors, and clearly demonstrated that membrane Ig was an important signaling molecule for B cells in addition to being a means for focusing antigen onto these cells. Studies with Rafi Sharon, Phil McMaster, John Inman, Don Mosier, Jimmy Mond, and Irwin Scher established the classification of two types of T cell-independent antigens and the recognition that they activated B cells through distinct mechanisms.

Perhaps because of my own interests, I think that Bill's most important contribution to immunology began with his identification, working with his post-doc Maureen Howard, of IL-4 (then called BSF-1) as a soluble, T cell-produced factor that promoted membrane Ig crosslinking-induced B cell proliferation. After Junichi Ohara purified IL-4 and produced a neutralizing mAb against it, studies with Ellen Vitetta, Bob Coffman, Cliff Snapper, Graham LeGros, Zami Ben-Sasson, and my own group showed the importance of this cytokine as

an isotype switch factor for the induction of murine and human IgE and, to some extent, murine IgG1 responses; as a critical stimulus for the development of Th2 responses; and as an essential stimulus (with the related cytokine, IL-13) for host protection against many multicellular parasites. Some of the same investigators plus Alan Sher, working with Bill, helped establish the opposing roles of IL-4 vs. IL-12 and IFN- $\gamma$  in isotype switching and T cell differentiation, while studies with Bob Seder, Marshall Plaut, and Booki Min established the importance of basophils as IL-4-secreting cells. In addition, a review of IL-4 biology by Bill and Bob Seder first proposed the concept of the immunological synapse.

Studies later in Bill's career continued to define the importance of IL-4 and improved understanding of IL-4-related mechanisms: this has included work with Tomo Yoshimoto that demonstrated rapid IL-4 production by NKT cells; work with Achshah Keegan, Keats Nelms, and John Ryan that elucidated Stat6-independent IL-4 signaling mechanisms; studies with Hidehiro Yamane that established the positive feedback regulation of Th2 cell differentiation; work with Jeff Zhu and Ryoji Yagi that studied the transcriptional regulation of this process; and studies with Lilly Guo that demonstrated probabilistic control of T cell IL-4 expression. Other later studies included the demonstration, with Zami Ben-Sasson, of the critical role of IL-1 $\beta$  in the induction of T cell responses, work with Booki Min and Josh Milner on the regulation of autoimmunity, immune homeostasis, and inflammation, and work with Lilly Guo on interactions between innate and adaptive immunity.

Although Bill's scientific discoveries have had an enormous impact on our knowledge of the immune system, I believe that his contributions as an educator and leader have been even greater. Bill and his colleagues at the Laboratory of Immunology contributed to the training of an enormous number of immunologists who have done important independent work and gone on to major positions in academia and industry. I'm extraordinarily proud to be on a list that includes Joe Davie, Charlie Janeway, Jack Stobo, Ethan Shevach, Zami Ben-Sasson, Don Mosier, Ben Schwartz, Philip Cohen, Ron Schwartz, Kim Bottomly, Michael Harrison, Jimmy Mond, Michael Gelfand, Constantin Bona, David Thomas, Irwin Scher, Mark Davis, Laurie Glimcher, Maureen Howard, Tony DeFranco, Steve Hedrick, Wayne Yokoyama, John Kung, Kenji Nakanishi, Takashi Saito, Junichi Ohara, Melissa Brown, Reinhard Burger, Cliff Snapper, Bob Seder, Tomo Yoshimoto, Achshah Keegan, Keats Nelms, John Ryan, Josh Milner, Jeff Zhu, Hidehiro Yamane, Lilly Guo, Evelyn Rabin, and Booki Min. Bill's achievements in this area were honored by his receipt of the AAI Excellence in Mentoring Award in 2014. Although Bill would have attributed most of this success to the high intellectual quality and strong work ethic of his post-docs, he deserves tremendous credit himself. Bill

ran an informal lab where he was on a first name basis with everyone. He did not micromanage his students, but taught the imperative of choosing projects that address an important goal or question and to re-evaluate periodically to ensure that the potential benefit is worth the effort. His advice on experimental design, data interpretation, and discerning what to do next reflected his great intelligence, mental quickness, experience, and knowledge of the field and its practitioners; his articulateness and way of talking to people made fellows look forward to data sessions with Bill and feel better afterwards, even when the work was not going well. Relationships with Bill persisted after completion of fellowships, much to the advantage of former fellows. Bill's influence as a teacher spread well beyond his lab, with his introduction of *Fundamental Immunology*, still the premier comprehensive immunology text, in 1982 and the introduction of *Annual Reviews in Immunology*, now in its 31st year and perennially the immunology journal with the highest impact factor.

The same qualities that made Bill a great mentor, combined with his total and transparent honesty and moral integrity, made him a great leader of both the Laboratory of Immunology and outside organizations. Bill is one of the few who have served as president of both the American Society of Clinical Investigation (1980) and the American Association of Immunologists (1986-87). As AAI president, he strengthened the relationship between the AAI and *The Journal of Immunology (The JI)* and supported the establishment of the Clinical Immunology Society. Bill's work for foundations included service on behalf of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute as one of three advisors in immunology and as a member of its Scientific Review Board and Medical Advisory Board, as well as service to the Lupus Research Institute that included chairing its Scientific Advisory Board. Bill's most prominent and important service to the immunology community, his nation, and the world, however, was his service as the first "AIDS Czar"—Director of the Office of AIDS Research—from 1994 to 1998. This period was marked by the calming of contentious and conflicting goals, encouragement of the basic and translational research and collaborations between academia, the NIH, and the pharmaceutical industry that promoted the development of highly active antiretroviral therapy, and the founding of the NIH Vaccine Research Center. Bill's September 22 obituary by Sam Roberts in *The New York Times* quotes Mark Harrington, executive director of the Treatment Action Group, as saying that Bill was "responsible for saving millions of lives and preventing millions of infections" and characterizing Bill as "an unheralded hero of the AIDS epidemic."

Bill's great accomplishments attracted commensurate honors, some of which include the Founder's Prize of the

See *In Memoriam: William Paul*, next page

## William E. Paul, M.D., AAI '67 (Continued)

Texas Instruments Foundation (1980), the AAI Lifetime Achievement Award (2002), election to membership in the National Academy of Sciences (1982) and its Institute of Medicine (1990), and fellowship in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In addition to Bill's many commitments to science and humanity, he stood out as an exemplary husband, father, and grandfather. He met his wonderful wife, the former Marilyn Heller, in college. They married during his third year of medical school and their love for each other continued unabated until the end. Bill's two sons, Matthew and Jonathan, were a source of great pride. No loss affected Bill and Marilyn as deeply as the death of their young grandson, Julien, from a variant of acute myelogenous leukemia. Bill's love for his grandchildren was so great that it was noted at his funeral that he was able to watch the "Penguins of Madagascar" video five times with one of his granddaughters without falling asleep!

Many of us who regarded Bill as our immunologic father thought that he would continue his research forever. Certainly, we saw no decrease in the quality of his scientific publications and observations. He rejected his former fellows' plan to honor him with a research day at NIH on his 75th birthday because he was afraid that some might consider this a prelude to retirement. Similarly, Bill opened his prefatory article in this year's *Annual Review of Immunology* (from which much of the detail in this memorial was derived) with the comment that "It's too early [to write such an article]; I am busy thinking about new experiments, not about summing up a lifetime in science." Tragically, several years ago Bill developed a myeloid dysplastic syndrome, which mutated this year into acute myeloid leukemia that was complicated by an EBV-related B cell lymphoma. Bill elected to receive a stem cell transplant and commuted with Marilyn between the lymphoma service at NIH and the leukemia service at Memorial Sloan-Kettering for treatment. Many of us, following Bill's progress and disappointments on Marilyn Paul's blog on CaringBridge, were amazed at his continuing to direct research in his lab as well as his continuing enjoyment, with Marilyn, of plays, concerts, art museums, walking tours of NYC architecture, dining, and time with friends and family, while he received arduous chemotherapy. Unfortunately, relapses and complications of therapy kept postponing the planned



Photo: Ronald Germain

transplant, until Bill developed a final, rapidly lethal pulmonary complication. Bill's funeral service at Temple Micah in Washington, DC, included eulogies by Tony Fauci, who appropriately described Bill as "the immunologist to the world," Ron Germain, who elegantly summarized Bill's contributions and the joys of working with him, and Laurie Glimcher, who recalled how far ahead of his time Bill was in supporting a post-doc who came to his lab in her last month of pregnancy.

In the last paragraph of what turned out to be his valedictory article in the *Annual Review of Immunology*, Bill mentions the

ancient Jewish concept of *tikun olam*—the idea that God purposely left the world unfinished, to give humans the responsibility and opportunity to complete and perfect creation. Bill goes on to state "A career in immunology certainly qualifies!" In Bill's case, this was obviously true. One final coincidence: on the day Bill died, I received my copy of his most recent book, *Immunity*, a combined description of immunology for the educated layman and memoir of Bill's life as an immunologist. For me in my sadness, this carried the happy message that Bill lives on in his accomplishments, his thoughts, and his personal and scientific families.

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Bill Paul's leadership of AAI (President, 1986-1987) was the culmination of his tenure on the AAI Council commencing in 1981. An AAI member since 1967, he also served on many AAI committees including the Program Committee (1970-1972; 1977-1980; 1980-1981, as co-chair), Nominating Committee (1973-1974, as chair; 1999-2000), Committee for Travel Awards to the Third International Congress (1974-1977); Finance Committee (1982-1984; 1990-1992); and Awards Committee (1993-1996). He also served as an Associate Editor (1971-1975), Section Editor (1975-1978), and on the Editorial Board (now the Publications Committee) (1979-1984) for *The JI*. [Bill's CV included over 130 articles published in *The JI*; the most recent was published in the February 1, 2015, issue.] Bill represented AAI in national and international organizations, including the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology Board (1985-1988) and the International Union of Immunological Societies General Assembly (1986-1987).

To view Paul's 2012 interview for the AAI Oral History Project, visit his profile in the History section of the AAI site: [http://www.aai.org/About/History/Notable\\_Members/Presidents/Paul\\_William.html](http://www.aai.org/About/History/Notable_Members/Presidents/Paul_William.html).

## Michael J. Brunda, Ph.D., AAI '78

December 16, 1950–May 8, 2015

*AAI extends condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Michael Brunda, Ph.D., AAI '78, who died on May 8, 2015, at the age of 64. The following remembrance appears courtesy of his family.*

Michael Brunda of Upper Montclair, New Jersey, died suddenly while on a vacation with his family in Sedona, Arizona. Mike was born in Passaic, New Jersey, the son of Ukrainian immigrants Helena and John Brunda. Although he did not speak English until he enrolled in school at the age of five, Mike excelled at his studies. He graduated from Garfield High School, the University of Rochester, and the Microbiology/Immunology Ph.D. Program at Stanford University, where he met the love of his life and fellow scientist Patricia Mongini [*Patricia K. A. Mongini, Ph.D., AAI '79*]. He worked briefly at the National Jewish Hospital in Denver, Colorado, and at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, where he and Patricia were married in 1979.

Mike began a long and distinguished career at Roche Pharmaceuticals in Nutley, New Jersey, in 1982. During a 33-year affiliation that extended to the end of his life, Mike was an invaluable member of the Roche team, starting as a research scientist investigating anti-tumor treatments and improved therapeutics for hepatitis C virus and later transitioning into early- and late-stage therapeutics development, where he was one of the principal scientists responsible for the clinical development of the novel treatment Pegasys, a modified interferon that improved the lives of millions of patients with hepatitis C infection worldwide. At the time of his death, Mike was senior director/project leader at Roche Innovation Center in New York City, where he was actively involved in coordinating the development of novel antimicrobial agents against antibiotic-resistant organisms, an increasing menace in our hospitals. As a highly effective project team leader, he helped bring numerous therapeutics through the pharmaceutical pipeline.

In recognition of his contributions, Mike received the Olympiad award from Roche and was honored by the American Liver Foundation at its annual fundraising gala. He was a recipient of the Dolph Adams Award from the *Journal of Leukocyte Biology* for his highly cited review on IL-12. During his career, Mike published over



Michael Brunda

100 research papers, including multiple articles in *The Journal of Immunology*, and served on several journal editorial boards.

Mike was highly respected and loved, not only by his colleagues at Roche but also by his co-parishioners at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Wayne, New Jersey, where he was an active parishioner and parish council leader.

At the center of his life was his devotion to his family, most importantly, his wife Patricia, his son John of Atlanta, Georgia, and his daughter Nicole of Washington, DC. His love and selflessness inspired each of them, and he will continue to be in their

hearts always. Mike is also survived by his brothers-in-law Michael and David Mongini and Joe Settanni; sisters-in-law Liana Settanni and Michelle Mongini; aunt Valentina Brunda; cousins Maria Prokopowitz and Peter and Lilly Brunda; and nieces and nephews Monica, Stephen, Bianca, Christopher, Megan, Chelsey, Matt, Anthony, Francesca, John, and Katrina. He and Patricia purchased a home in Sedona in 2011, which they loved to visit, and had planned to retire in the Verde Valley next year. Mike was laid to rest in Cottonwood, Arizona, on May 14, 2015.

A memorial service for friends and family in the New Jersey area was held on Saturday, June 13, at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Wayne, New Jersey.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any desired memorial contributions be made in his honor to either Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH), providing homes for orphaned children in Central and South America (<https://www.nph.org/ws/help/donations.php?lang=en>), or Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church (285 French Hill Road, Wayne, NJ 07470). Both of these causes were dear to Mike's heart.

# IMMUNOLOGY 2015™

**D**rawing attendees from more than 40 countries, IMMUNOLOGY 2015™ attracted nearly 3,100 participants to New Orleans, May 8–12. Held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, the meeting featured leading-edge immunology presented in more than 220 sessions spotlighting more than 750 AAI and guest society members and over 1,700 poster presenters. In addition to the scientific program, attendees took advantage of numerous career sessions and networking opportunities including the high-energy social events. More than 750 attendees received AAI career or travel awards, and all enjoyed the legendary culture, cuisine, and hospitality of The Big Easy!



# 2015 AAI Annual Meeting Highlights | May 8–12, 2015 | New Orleans, LA

## Presidents Program

### AAI President's Address



*AAI President Linda Sherman presenting the meeting's opening address (above) and appearing with introducer Steven Burakoff (right)*



### AAI President's Symposium



*Linda Sherman (middle) with symposium speakers (L-R) Linda Wicker, William Heath, Matthew Mescher, Charles Surh*

## AAI Distinguished Lectures



*Lecturer Albert Bendelac (middle) with Linda Sherman, Program Chair Wendy Havran*



*Lecturer Christine Biron (middle) with Linda Sherman, Wendy Havran*



*Lecturer Dennis Burton with Linda Sherman*

# IMMUNOLOGY 2015™

## AAI Honors for Career Achievement

### AAI Lifetime Achievement Award



*Lifetime Achievement honoree Jonathan Sprent*

### AAI Excellence in Mentoring Award



*Awardee Rafi Ahmed (middle) with co-introducers John Wherry, Susan Kaech*

### AAI-BioLegend Herzenberg Award Presentation



*Awardee Matthew Scharff (2nd from left) with (L-R) BioLegend's Gene Lay, Leonore Herzenberg, BioLegend's Craig Monell*

### AAI-BD Biosciences Investigator Award Presentation & Lecture



*Awardee Thirumala-Devi Kanneganti (2nd from left) with (L-R) Linda Sherman, BD Biosciences executive Robert Balderas, AAI Executive Director Michele Hogan*

### FASEB Excellence in Science Award Presentation and Lecture



*Awardee Diane Griffin (middle) with Immediate Past FASEB President Margaret K. Offermann and Michele Hogan*

### AAI-Thermo Fisher Meritorious Career Award Presentation and Lecture



*Awardee Ronald Germain (center) with Thermo Fisher's Christoph Hergersberg and Linda Sherman*

### AAI-Steinman Award for Human Immunology Research Presentation and Lecture



*Awardee Mary Ellen Conley (right), Linda Sherman*



# 2015 AAI Annual Meeting Highlights | May 8–12, 2015 | New Orleans, LA

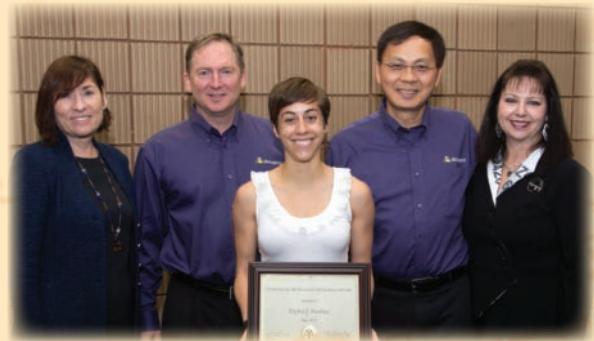
## AAI Professional Development Awards

### Chambers-eBioscience Memorial Award



*Awardee Andrew Zloza with Dara Grantham Wright and Theresa Schaub, eBioscience*

### Lefrançois-BioLegend Memorial Award



*Awardee Taylor Feehley with (L-R) Linda Sherman, Craig Monell, Gene Lay, Michele Hogan*

### AAI-Thermo Fisher Trainee Achievement Awards



*Michele Hogan (L) and Thermo Fisher's Jeffrey Croissant (R) with awardees (L-R) Amy Paschall, David DiLillo, Aimee Beaulieu, Michael Jeffrey Cho, and Lindsey Padgett (not in photo: Pablo Penaloza-MacMaster)*



*Awardee Pablo Penaloza-MacMaster*

### Lustgarten-eBioscience Memorial Award



*Awardee Xingxing Zang with Dara Grantham Wright and Theresa Schaub, eBioscience*

### Pfizer-Showell Travel Award



*Awardee Kenneth Oestreich with Linda Sherman, Michele Hogan*

# IMMUNOLOGY 2015™

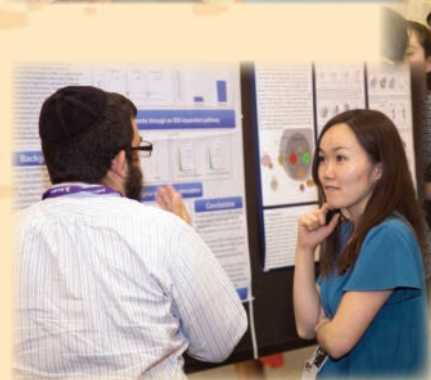
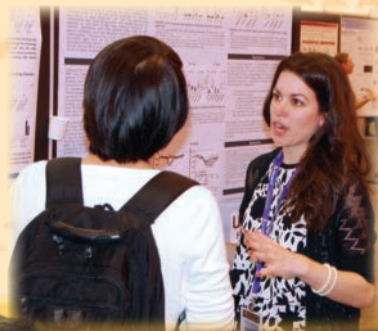
## AAI Major Symposia

In featured symposia addressing current topics in eight areas of immunology research, nearly 50 leading scientists engaged attendees on many of the latest discoveries and cutting-edge techniques advancing and redefining the field.



## AAI Poster Sessions

Scientific presentations featured immunologists at every career stage and included poster presentations by 1,725 scientists and trainees.



# 2015 AAI Annual Meeting Highlights | May 8–12, 2015 | New Orleans, LA

## AAI Committee-Sponsored and Career Sessions

**AAI Committee on Public Affairs—Funding for Immunology Research: Non-Federal Opportunities and NIAID Program Update**



*Funding in immunology panelists Bruce Walker, William Chambers, Gwen Nguyen, Daniel Rotrosen, session chair Clifford Harding*

**AAI Education Committee—Careers in Biotech Panel Discussion and Networking Reception**



*Careers in biotech panelists Nandita Bose (chair), Jason Fontennot, Andy Kokaji, Brian Johnson, Isharat Yusuf*

**AAI Education Committee & AAI Committee on the Status of Women (CSOW)—Careers in Science Roundtable**



*At the Careers in Science Roundtable, CSOW Chair Virginia Shapiro (above right) announcing the new AAI Career Advisory Board initiative*

**AAI Minority Affairs Committee—Careers Roundtable and Speed Networking Session**



**AAI Program Committee Workshop—Back to School: A Review of Four Fast-Moving Fields**



*AAI Program Committee Chair Wendy Havran (left) with panelists Jian Han, Kevin Tracey, Russell Jones, Melody Swartz, Maria-Luisa Alegre*

**AAI Publications Committee—Publishing Scientific Articles: Advice and Admonition**



*AAI Publications Committee Chair Gene Oltz*

**AAI Minority Affairs Committee—Vanguard Lecture**



*Vanguard Lecturer Gabriel Nuñez (right) with Linda Sherman and Michele Hogan*

# IMMUNOLOGY 2015™

## AAI Booth

Together with representatives of the AAI leadership, AAI staff informed visitors to the AAI booth about the many career-enhancing benefits and privileges enjoyed by AAI members. While learning about the wide array of AAI programs supporting the immunology field, daily booth visitors participated in multiple prize drawings in the AAI raffle and exhibit hall passport program.



## Exhibits

Exhibitors and attendees explored the latest in research tools and resources in the IMMUNOLOGY 2015™ exhibit hall. The exhibit floor included booths representing 140 companies and organizations.



# 2015 AAI Annual Meeting Highlights | May 8–12, 2015 | New Orleans, LA

## Opening Night Welcome Reception

New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center – Great Hall Lobby

Sponsored by eBioscience, an Affymetrix company



## AAI New Member Reception

At this annual event, members of AAI Council, AAI committee chairs and members, and staff welcome new members attending their first AAI meeting.



*Pictured at this year's gathering (in images left to right): AAI Membership Committee Chair Thomas Mitchell welcomes new members. AAI Publications Committee Chair Eugene Oltz (shown at left) and AAI Council member Jeremy Boss (shown at right) greet new members as two new members (at far right) enjoy time together.*

# IMMUNOLOGY 2015™

**AAI Service Appreciation Reception** The Court of Two Sisters, Sponsored by BioLegend



*Jonathan Sprent,  
Linda Sherman,  
Charles Surh*



*Three “generations” of The JI leadership: Editor-in-Chief  
Pamela Fink with predecessors Robert Rich, Jeremy Boss*



*At left: Max Cooper, Marta Catalfamo,  
Michael Betts, Jeffrey Frelinger*



*Above: Cheong-Hee Chang,  
Cathryn Nagler, Terri Laufer*



*At right: Kristin Hogquist,  
Stephen McSorley, Susan  
Kovats*



*Above: Virginia Shapiro, Carolina Lopez, Damian Turner,  
Donna Farber*



*Linda Sherman and guests  
showing off an example  
of the “Sherman bucks”  
shared with AAI volunteers,  
signifying the substantial  
increase earmarked by the  
AAI Council for AAI awards  
programs during Sherman’s  
presidential year*

# 2015 AAI Annual Meeting Highlights | May 8–12, 2015 | New Orleans, LA

## AAI Gala *The Sugar Mill, Sponsored by BioLegend*

This year's AAI Gala attendees enjoyed "Lagniappe on the Levee—The Tastes and Tunes of New Orleans," combining the ambience and cuisines of three distinctive New Orleans neighborhoods: the Vieux Carré, the Garden District, and Cajun Bayou Country. Revelers enjoyed an evening with friends and colleagues, the music of the 14-piece Swingaroux Band performing the many genres of Louisiana music, and novelty performers and entertainment evoking the city's festive spirit.



# IMMUNOLOGY 2015™

## AAI Business Meeting



*Left: Michele Hogan with ICI2016 President Jose Villadangos, who invited AAI members' participation at the 16th International Congress of Immunology, in Melbourne, Australia next August.*



*Above: The Journal of Immunology Editor-in-Chief Pamela Fink*

*Below: AAI Committee on Public Affairs Chair Clifford Harding*



**See you in Seattle! Visit [www.IMMUNOLOGY2016.org](http://www.IMMUNOLOGY2016.org)!**



# IMMUNOLOGY 2016™

MAY 13-17, 2016 WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION CENTER SEATTLE, WA

**SAVE THE DATE**



[www.IMMUNOLOGY2016.org](http://www.IMMUNOLOGY2016.org)

# 2015 AAI Introductory Course in Immunology

The 2015 AAI Introductory Course in Immunology drew 203 registrants from around the United States and 12 foreign countries in its second year at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, California, July 14–19. Juan Carlos Zuñiga-Pflücker, University of Toronto and Sunnybrook Research Institute, returned as course director.

Designed for students new to the discipline of immunology or those seeking more information to complement general biology or science training, the intensive, two-part course is taught by world-renowned immunologists, providing a comprehensive overview of the basics of immunology.

In evaluations submitted anonymously, course participants praised the lecturers for a job well done. One attendee said, “This has been one of the best lecture experiences. The course has been extremely helpful!” Another affirmed, “The course provided a very good review of the basics of immunology.” Participants remained enthusiastic and in good spirits despite power-outage issues affecting the surrounding Long Beach area during the course.

Overseas attendees at this year’s course included representatives of Colombia, Denmark, Gabon, Gambia, India, Kenya, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, and Switzerland. Among them were four International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) Scholars, recipients of support from AAI and the IUIS to attend the AAI course:

- Yabo Josiane Honkpehedji, Albert Schweitzer Hospital, Gabon

- Henry Karanja, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya
- Tanedjeu Sonfack Kemgang, National Dairy Research Institute, India
- Georgetta Mbayo, Medical Research Council Unit, Gambia

Course attendees included participants in the AAI Undergraduate Faculty Program and AAI High School Teachers Program, who are offered the opportunity to attend the course and take part in a research experience with the goal of enhancing their ability to convey the excitement of immunology to their students. One attendee represented the AAI Undergraduate Faculty Program: Nicholas A. Pullen, Ph.D., William Woods University, Fulton, Missouri.

Six AAI High School Teachers Program participants attended:

- Gina Castellanos Ellsworth, Haverhill High School, Haverhill, MA
- Antonio Gamboa, Garey High School, Pomona, CA
- Aaron Mathieu, Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, Acton, MA
- Jeremy M. Resmann, Soldan I. S. High School, St. Louis, MO



AAI High School Teacher Program participants: (back row, L-R) Gregory Shenk, Aaron Mathieu, Antonio Gamboa, Jeremy M. Resmann, and Course Director J. C. Zuñiga-Pflücker; (front row, L-R) Gina Castellanos Ellsworth and Michele Witkowski



AAI Undergraduate Faculty Program participant Nicholas A. Pullen (left) with Course Director J. C. Zuñiga-Pflücker



AAI-IUIS Scholars: (back row, L-R) Henry Karanja, Course Director J. C. Zuñiga-Pflücker, and Tanedjeu Sonfack Kemgang; (front row, L-R) Yabo Josiane Honkpehedji and Georgetta Mbayo

- Gregory Shenk, Academy of Aerospace and Engineering, Hartford, CT
- Michele Witkowski, Edison High School, Edison, NJ

The lineup of scientists participating as 2015 course faculty, along with the topics they covered, appears at [www.aai.org/Education/Courses/Intro/Schedule.html](http://www.aai.org/Education/Courses/Intro/Schedule.html).

The 2016 AAI Introductory Course will be held again in Long Beach July 9–14. Details will be published on the AAI website in February 2016 ([www.aai.org/Education/Courses](http://www.aai.org/Education/Courses)).



*Course lecturer Andrea Tenner further discussing immunological concepts with an attendee during the networking reception*



*Course attendees intently focused on Course Director J. C. Zuñiga-Pflücker's lecture on "MHC Restriction and Thymic Selection"*



*Course attendees mingling at the networking reception*

## 2015 AAI Advanced Course in Immunology

The 2015 AAI Advanced Course in Immunology drew 246 registrants from around the United States and 20 foreign countries in its fourth year at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston, August 2–7, under the direction of Leslie J. Berg, University of Massachusetts Medical School.

The AAI Advanced Course is an intensive course directed toward advanced trainees and scientists who wish to expand or update their understanding of the field. Leading experts present recent advances in the biology of the immune system and address its role in health and disease.

Students appreciated the outstanding roster of world-renowned immunologists comprising the 2015 faculty (see [www.AAI.org/Education/Courses/Advanced/Schedule.html](http://www.AAI.org/Education/Courses/Advanced/Schedule.html)). In an evaluation submitted anonymously at the end of the course, one attendee



*Presenter and attendees at one of 23 lectures offered at the 2015 Advanced Course*

## 2015 AAI Advanced Course in Immunology *(Continued)*

said, “It was an excellent course with very good lecturers. While the material was understandably dense, the high quality of the speakers was key to the course’s success.” Another congratulated AAI for incorporating new topics in recent years, including glycobiology and, new this year, computational modeling.

International attendees traveled from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.

Among the 42 attendees from abroad were three International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) Scholars, recipients of support from AAI and the IUIS to attend the AAI course:

- Florencia Celeste Mansilla, Ph.D., Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria, Argentina
- Iheanyi Omezuruike Okonko, M.Sc., University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria
- Luz-Stella Rodríguez, Ph.D., Universidad Javeriana, Colombia

The 2016 AAI Advanced Course will be held July 31–August 5, again at the Boston Seaport World Trade Center. Details will be published on the AAI website in February 2016 ([www.aai.org/Education/Courses](http://www.aai.org/Education/Courses)).



*AAI-IUIS Scholars Florencia Celeste Mansilla (left) and Luz-Stella Rodríguez (right) with AAI Manager of Educational and Career Development Programs Mary Litzinger (not shown: Iheanyi Omezuruike Okonko)*



*Course Director Leslie Berg answering questions from students following her lecture on “Signaling from Antigen Receptors”*



*Course lecturer Marc Jenkins chatting with students at the networking reception*



*David Hafler answering questions from students following his lecture on “T Cell Tolerance and Autoimmunity”*



*Course lecturer Jonathan Kagan speaking with attendees at the networking reception*



# AAI Courses in Immunology

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## *2016 Introductory Course in Immunology*

July 9–14, 2016

Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach, California

This comprehensive two-part course, taught by leading experts, provides an in-depth overview of the basics of immunology. This course is for students new to the discipline or those seeking more information to complement general biology or science training. **Part I (July 9–11)** is a detailed introduction to the basic principles of immunology and is suitable for students with a general biology background. **Part II (July 12–14)** is a clinically oriented lecture series focusing on specialty areas. Parts I and II may be taken independently at the discretion of the student.

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## *2016 Advanced Course in Immunology*

July 31–August 5, 2016

Seaport World Trade Center, Boston, Massachusetts

Established in 1966, this intensive course is directed toward advanced trainees and scientists who wish to expand or update their understanding of the field. World-renowned immunologists will present recent advances in the biology of the immune system and address its role in health and disease. This is not an introductory course; attendees will need to have a firm understanding of the basic principles of immunology and laboratory techniques.

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For more information visit

[www.aai.org/Education/Courses](http://www.aai.org/Education/Courses)

Please direct inquiries to [meetings@aai.org](mailto:meetings@aai.org) or 301-634-7178.

# AAI Outreach Program Update

The AAI Outreach Program provides career development opportunities for young investigators by supporting oral and poster presentation awards at member-organized immunology meetings throughout the United States. The program, now in its fifth year, provided sponsorship at two annual meetings this summer: immunologyLA and the Southeastern Immunology Symposium.

## immunologyLA

The 5th annual immunologyLA meeting took place May 22 at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, California. The meeting was organized by David Brooks (AAI '04), William DePaolo (AAI '12), Helen Goodridge (AAI '09), Gislaine Martins (AAI '06), and Jonathan Kaye (AAI '91) and featured sessions focused on immune evasion, regulation, and translation. More researchers shared their work this year than last, with the number of poster presentations increasing by 25 percent. Following the scientific sessions, AAI member Richard Locksley (AAI '88) delivered the keynote presentation.



*The AAI Young Investigator Awardees for outstanding oral presentation at immunologyLA: (L-R) Stacey Kolar and Autumn York*

For the second consecutive year, AAI provided Young Investigator Awards for the oral and poster presentations that meeting attendees designated as best. The two oral presentation awardees were Stacey Kolar (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center) and Autumn York (University of California, Los Angeles). Poster presentation awards were given to Francie Mercer (University of California, Los Angeles), Corey Seehus (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center), and Christopher Seet (University of California, Los Angeles).

## Southeastern Immunology Symposium

Over 300 scientists gathered at Emory University for the Southeastern Immunology Symposium on June 13–14. The event, organized in part by Jeremy Boss (AAI '94), included sessions spanning a variety of immunological topics, with talks titled, “Negative Regulation of IL-10 Expression in CD4 T Cells,” “DNA Sensing Regulates Immunity and Autoimmunity and Enhances Pain Perception,” and “Maturation of Protective Immunity Induced by Live Attenuated SIV.” Keynote lectures were provided by AAI members Wayne Yokoyama (AAI '84), Jeffrey Bluestone (AAI '82), and Olivera Finn (AAI '83).

AAI provided 10 Young Investigator Awards for outstanding oral and poster presentations. Awards for oral presentations were given to Ryan Martinez (Emory University), Preeyam Patel (University of Alabama, Birmingham), and Christopher Scharer (Emory University). Poster presentation awardees included Connie Arthur (Emory University), Alexander Bally (Emory

University), Caitlin Bohannon (Emory University), Kara Hardwick (University of Georgia), Scott Jenks (Emory University), Daniel Silberger (University of Alabama, Birmingham), and Aaron Silva-Sanchez (University of Alabama, Birmingham).



*The AAI Young Investigator Awardees at the SIS meeting (L-R): Caitlin Bohannon, Preeyam Patel, Connie Arthur, Kara Hardwick, Scott Jenks, Daniel Silberger, Ryan Martinez, Christopher Scharer, Aaron Silva -Sanchez, and Alexander Bally, with organizer Jeremy Boss*



## AAI Participates in 4th European Congress of Immunology

More than 3,600 scientists from 81 countries gathered at the 4th European Congress of Immunology (ECI), held September 6–9 in Vienna, Austria. AAI members and staff were among the many attendees enjoying the conference.

Winfried F. Pickl (AAI '08), associate professor at the Medical University of Vienna and president of the 4th ECI, welcomed attendees to Vienna in the opening ceremony, in which ECI organizers honored the rich musical heritage of the host city with performances by the Klangvereinigung Wien Orchestra of pieces by Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart, and Strauss. The opening ceremony also featured a keynote lecture by Klaus Rajewsky (AAI '83) on the B cell receptor in B cell development, memory, and malignancies. The ceremony was followed by the opening of



4th ECI Venue: Austria Center Vienna

an historic exhibition commemorating Vienna's contributions to immunology, including the contributions of pioneer Austrian immunologists Karl Landsteiner (AAI '22) and Clemens von Pirquet.

AAI co-sponsored a symposium at the ECI with the European

Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS). The session, "Molecular Mechanisms of the Immune Response to Infection," was chaired by AAI Councillor Jenny P. Ting (AAI '97), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and Georg Stingl (AAI '79), Medical University of Vienna. Ting opened the session with a talk about the NLR family of innate sensors. Past AAI president Leslie J. Berg (AAI '94), University of Massachusetts Medical School, then presented on the role of T cell receptor signal strength in regulating antiviral



4th ECI President Winfried Pickl with AAI Executive Director Michele Hogan

T cell responses. Shabaana A. Khader (AAI '08), Washington University in St. Louis, closed the session, speaking on immunity to tuberculosis. AAI Executive Director M. Michele Hogan said, "We were pleased to see the strong attendance at the AAI joint symposium with EFIS. The speakers presented outstanding work on this topic and contributed to the strong representation



by women scientists throughout the ECI."

AAI staff hosted a booth in the exhibit and poster hall. There, Membership Manager Jennifer Woods, Senior Science Coordinator Jennifer Meyers (AAI '07), and Manager of Educational and Career Development Programs Mary Litzinger (AAI '11) engaged ECI attendees in discussions about their careers as well as how international scientists benefit from AAI membership.



AAI Senior Science Coordinator Jennifer Meyers, Membership Manager Jennifer Woods, and Manager of Educational and Career Development Programs Mary Litzinger at the AAI booth



Joint AAI-EFIS symposium co-chair and speaker Jenny Ting (front row, middle) with (L-R) AAI Executive Director Michele Hogan, speaker Shabaana Khader, session co-chair Georg Stingl, and speaker Leslie Berg

AAI was pleased to sponsor awards and grants to support talented scientists in attending this year's ECI. AAI awarded 44 members with AAI Travel Grants for the 4th ECI. Many of the awardees are pictured on the facing page and all are listed on pages 42-43.

AAI also supported 40 scientists with ECI-AAI Travel Grants for Trainees from Developing Countries. Developing country awardees are listed in full, and pictured in part, below and on the facing page.

The 5th ECI is to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2018.

## ECI-AAI TRAVEL GRANTS FOR TRAINEES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

**Lucas Arruda**, Ribeirão Preto Medical School, Brazil

**Tarcio Braga**, University of São Paulo, Brazil

**Abigael Buigut**, Moi University, Kenya

**Saswati Das**, Maulana Azad Medical College, India

**Joao Paulo do Carmo**, Instituto Tocantinense Presidente Antônio Carlos, Brazil

**Yusuf Dolen**, Hacettepe University, Turkey

**Syed Faisal**, Aligarh Muslim University, India

**Wynand Goosen**, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

**Valeriia Guselnikova**, St. Petersburg State University, Russian Federation

**Zeb Hussain**, Dow University of Health Sciences, Pakistan

**Sevgi Irtegun**, Dicle University, Turkey

**Léanie Kleynhans**, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

**Manoj Kumar**, All India Institute of Medical Science, India

**Sushil Kumar**, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal, India

**Neha Lohia**, Thapar University, India

**Andres Machicote**, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

**José Maravillas-Montero**, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico

**Jelena Milovanovic**, University of Kragujevac, Serbia



*Recipients of ECI-AAI Travel Grants for Trainees from Developing Countries with Michele Hogan and Mary Litzinger*



*Additional recipients of ECI-AAI Travel Grants for Trainees from Developing Countries with Michele Hogan, Winfried Pickl, and Mary Litzinger*



## ECI-AAI TRAVEL GRANTS FOR TRAINEES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES *(CONTINUED)*

**Ricardo Mora**, Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica

**Roman Moriev**, Open International University of Human Development, Ukraine

**Shibabrata Mukherjee**, Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, India

**Anastasia Myrzakova**, N. F. Gamaleya Federal Research Centre for Epidemiology and Microbiology, Russian Federation

**Neema Negi**, All India Institute of Medical Science, India

**Tetiana Nikolaienko**, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine

**Viktoriia Nikulina**, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine

**Alejandra Ochoa Zarzosa**, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, Mexico

**Tashnica Olivier**, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

**Gustavo Olvera-García**, National Institute of Respiratory Diseases, Mexico

**Raphael Peres**, University of São Paulo, Brazil

**Ariel Podhorzer**, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Susmita Roy**, German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Relief Association, India

**Iti Saraav**, D.S. Kothari Centre for Research and Innovation Science Education, India

**Cristiane Secca da Silva**, Brazilian National Cancer Institute, Brazil

**Ahmed Seida**, Cairo University, Egypt

**Mahima Sharma**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

**Om Singh**, Banaras Hindu University, India

**Sukrat Sinha**, University of Allahabad, India

**Shivendra Tenguria**, University of Hyderabad, India

**Vipin Tyagi**, University of Delhi, India

**Galyna Yeryomenko**, Kharkiv National Medical University, Ukraine



*Recipients of AAI Travel Grants for the 4th ECI with Michele Hogan and Mary Litzinger (front row, middle)*

## AAI TRAVEL GRANTS FOR THE 4TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF IMMUNOLOGY

**AAI awarded travel grants to 44 trainees, early-career faculty, and mid-career faculty to attend the 4th European Congress of Immunology (ECI), September 6-9, 2015, in Vienna, Austria. Recipients, listed below, are AAI members in good standing, each an author on an abstract submitted to the ECI. By their selection, they became eligible to be reimbursed as much as \$2,000 US for expenses incurred in travel to the meeting.**

**Nicole V. Acuff**

Graduate Student  
University of Georgia

**Ali Ahmad, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
University of Montreal

**Alexey Y. Berezhnoy, D.V.M., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
University of Miami

**Lisa A. Borghesi, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

**Marlene Bouvier, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
University of Illinois at Chicago

**Beckley K. Davis, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Franklin and Marshall College

**Claudia U. Duerr, Dr. rer. Nat.**

Postdoctoral Researcher  
McGill University

**Timothy Erick**

Graduate Student  
Brown University

**Nadeem Fazal, M.D., Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Chicago State University

**Vitaly V. Ganusov, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
University of Tennessee

**Keith E. Garrison, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
St. Mary's College of California

**Mayya Geha, M.D.**

Instructor in Neonatology  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

**Nardhy Gomez-Lopez, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Wayne State University School of Medicine

**Mireia Guerau-De-Arellano,  
Pharm.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Ohio State University

**Boris Hartmann, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Icahn School of Medicine  
at Mount Sinai

**Ping-Chih Ho, Ph.D.**

Postdoctoral Fellow  
Yale University

**Sunil K. Joshi, D.V.M., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Old Dominion University

**Sung Kim, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
University of Western Ontario

**Kimberly D. Klonowski, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
University of Georgia

**Chantal Kuhn, Ph.D.**

Postdoctoral Fellow  
Brigham and Women's Hospital

**Girdhari Lal, Ph.D.**

Scientist 'D'  
National Centre for Cell Science

**Quanzhen Li, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
University of Texas Southwestern  
Medical Center

**Wanli Liu, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Tsinghua University

**Yuan Liu, M.D., Ph.D.**

Professor  
Georgia State University

**Marcela F. Lopes, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

**Manoj K. Mishra, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Alabama State University



## AAI TRAVEL GRANTS FOR THE 4TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF IMMUNOLOGY (CONTINUED)

### **Bolanle Musa, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Ahmadu Bello University

### **Mahyar A. Nouri-Shirazi, D.V.M., Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Florida Atlantic University

### **Roza I. Nurieva, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
MD Anderson Cancer Center

### **Natasa Obermajer, Ph.D.**

Research Instructor  
University of Pittsburgh

### **Rodrigo Pacheco, Ph.D.**

Associate Investigator  
Fundación Ciencia & Vida

### **Deborah Palliser, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

### **Joseph R. Podojil, Ph.D.**

Research Assistant Professor  
Northwestern University

### **Rachel Resop**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
UCLA

### **Buka Samten, M.D.**

Associate Professor  
University of Texas Health  
Science Center, Tyler

### **JianRong Sheng, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
University of Chicago

### **Mythily Srinivasan, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Indiana University School of Dentistry

### **John Stambas, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Deakin University

### **Mark A. Travis, Ph.D.**

Lecturer  
University of Manchester

### **Jieru Wang, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
University of Pittsburgh

### **Katelynn Wilton**

Graduate Student  
Mayo Clinic

### **Mei-Ling Yang, Ph.D.,**

Associate Research Scientist  
Yale University

### **Mingtao Zeng, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Texas Tech University Health  
Sciences Center

### **Jian Zhang, M.D.**

Associate Professor  
Ohio State University

# GRIP

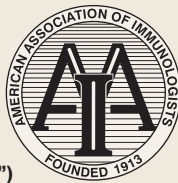
## Grant Review for Immunologists Program

### **Get a GRIP: An AAI program designed to help new investigators prepare their NIH grant proposals**

The AAI Grant Review for Immunologists Program (GRIP) offers new principal investigators (PIs) access to established PIs for guidance in preparing grant proposals as they embark on their independent careers. Early-career PIs (assistant professors or equivalents) are invited to submit their grants' "Specific Aims" pages to the GRIP coordinator who, with the assistance of a small volunteer subcommittee, will attempt to match each topic of the proposal with the research experience of an established PI. Matches will be made as quickly as possible to allow participants to meet upcoming NIH grant deadlines. Participation is open only to AAI regular members and is strictly voluntary. The program is not intended to supplant internal mentoring programs at applicants' institutions.

**To apply, please send your CV and the grant's "Specific Aims" page to [infoaai@aai.org](mailto:infoaai@aai.org). (please write "GRIP" in the subject line)**

**To volunteer as a mentor, please send your CV and a brief description of your grant-reviewing experience to [infoaai@aai.org](mailto:infoaai@aai.org). (subject line "GRIP")**



Program details at [aai.org/Education/GRIP](http://aai.org/Education/GRIP)

# MEET 2015–2016 AAI COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

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University of Alabama, Birmingham School  
of Medicine

**Juan Carlos Zuñiga-Pflücker, Ph.D. (16)**  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Immunology  
University of Toronto and Sunnybrook Research Institute

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Department of Veterinary Biosciences  
Ohio State University

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Professor  
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University of California, San Francisco

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Chief, Allergy/Immunology  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

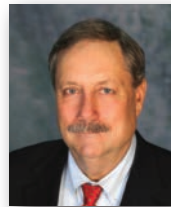
**Barbara L. Shacklett, Ph.D. (17)**  
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Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

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Professor of Pathology and Immunology  
Washington University School of Medicine

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Vanderbilt University Medical Center

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Albany Medical College

**Lisa A. Borghesi, Ph.D. (17)**

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**Beth A. Garvy, Ph.D. (17)**  
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Department of Immunology and Microbiology  
University of Colorado

**M. Michele Hogan, Ph.D. (Ex officio)**  
Executive Director  
The American Association of Immunologists

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Professor of Pathology and Immunology  
Washington University School of Medicine

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Professor  
Department of Immunology and Microbial Science  
Scripps Research Institute

**Randy R. Brutkiewicz, Ph.D. (17)**  
Associate Dean and Professor  
Department of Microbiology & Immunology  
Indiana University School of Medicine

**Bethany B. Moore, Ph.D. (17)**  
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University of Michigan

**Donna L. Farber, Ph.D. (18)**  
Professor of Surgical Sciences  
Columbia Center for Translational Immunology  
Columbia University Medical Center

**Allan J. Zajac, Ph.D. (18)**  
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University of Alabama, Birmingham

**Brian D. Evavold, Ph.D. (19)**  
Professor  
Department of Microbiology & Immunology  
Emory University School of Medicine

**Penelope A. Morel, Ph.D. (19)**  
Professor  
Department of Immunology  
University of Pittsburgh

**Pamela J. Fink, Ph.D. (18) (Ex officio)**  
Editor-in-Chief, *The Journal of Immunology*  
Professor  
Department of Immunology  
University of Washington School of Medicine

**M. Michele Hogan, Ph.D. (Ex officio)**  
Executive Director  
The American Association of Immunologists

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## Status of Women (Committee on the)



**Virginia Shapiro, Ph.D. (15), Chair**  
Professor  
Department of Immunology  
Mayo Clinic

**Susan Kovats, Ph.D. (16)**  
Associate Member  
Department of Arthritis and Clinical Immunology  
Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation

**Michelle A. Parent, Ph.D. (16)**  
Associate Professor and Interim Chair  
Department of Medical Science and Biological Science  
University of Delaware

**Robin Stephens, Ph.D. (16)**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Division of Infectious Diseases  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston

**Sarah L. Gaffen, Ph.D. (17)**  
Professor  
Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology  
Department of Medicine  
University of Pittsburgh

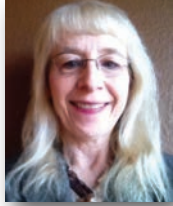
**Catherine C. "Lynn" Hedrick, Ph.D. (17)**  
Professor  
Division of Inflammation Biology  
La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology

**Pooja Jain, Ph.D. (17)**  
Professor  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
Drexel University College of Medicine

**Lisa K. Denzin, Ph.D. (18)**  
Associate Professor  
Child Health Institute of NJ/Rutgers  
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

**Malini Raghavan, Ph.D. (18)**  
Professor  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
University of Michigan Medical School

## Veterinary Immunology Committee



**Laurel J. Gershwin, D.V.M., Ph.D. (16), Chair**  
Professor  
Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of California, Davis

**Ilhem Messaoudi, Ph.D. (16)**  
Associate Professor  
Division of Biomedical Sciences  
University of California, Riverside

**Michael P. Murtaugh, Ph.D. (17)**  
Professor  
Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences  
University of Minnesota

**Waithaka Mwangi, Ph.D. (17)**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Veterinary Pathobiology  
Texas A&M University

**Azad K. Kaushik, D.Sc., D.V.M. (18)**  
Associate Professor of Immunology  
Department of Molecular and Cell Biology  
University of Guelph

**Crystal L. Loving, Ph.D. (18)**  
Research Immunologist  
National Animal Disease Center, ARS, USDA

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**Stephen P. Schoenberger, Ph.D.**  
Member  
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La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology

**Tonya J. Webb, Ph.D.**  
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Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
University of Maryland School of Medicine

**Martin Prlic, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Member  
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Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

## Thank you!

AAI gratefully acknowledges the service of the following Council and committee members whose terms expired this year.

### Council

**Marc K. Jenkins, Ph.D.**  
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**Mitchell Kronenberg, Ph.D.**  
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University of Alabama, Birmingham

**Matthew A. Williams, Ph.D.**  
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Division of Rheumatology  
University of Pennsylvania

**Andrea J. Tenner, Ph.D.**  
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University of California, Irvine

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**Chandrashekhar Pasare, Ph.D.**  
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**Santiago Partida-Sánchez, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Pediatrics  
Nationwide Children's Hospital

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William Kenan Professor of Microbiology and Immunology  
Microbiology/ Immunology  
Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

**Pamela L. Schwartzberg, M.D., Ph.D.**  
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NIH, NHGRI

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**Shane Crotty, Ph.D.**  
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La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology

**Erika L. Pearce, Ph.D.**  
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Max Planck Institute for Immunobiology and Epigenetics

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**Susanna F. Greer, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Director, Molecular Basis of Disease Area of Focus  
Department of Biology  
Georgia State University

**Christopher A. Hunter, Ph.D.**  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Pathobiology  
University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

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Professor of Medicine and Immunobiology  
Cardiology  
Yale University

**Cathryn Nagler, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
BSD/Department of Pathology  
Committee on Immunology  
The University of Chicago

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### **Status of Women (Committee on the Division of Developmental Immunology)**

**Shabaana A. Khader, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Molecular Microbiology  
Washington University in St. Louis

**Carolina B. Lopez, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Pathobiology  
University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

*See Thank you!, next page*

The following article, adapted from one published earlier this year on the web site of Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine, appears courtesy of that institution and author Susan Green.

## Geisel Researchers Among Inaugural AAI Fellows

William Green, PhD, professor and chair of microbiology and immunology at Geisel, and Dartmouth PhD candidate Megan O'Connor, are among the 37 principal investigators and their dedicated trainees to receive the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) inaugural Careers in Immunology Fellowship award. The fellowship provides a one-year stipend for trainees and is awarded based on a combination of the trainee's potential and merit of the research project.

"This AAI award is a very special one that acknowledges Megan's outstanding background in research, her cutting-edge studies to date and proposal here at Dartmouth, and by extension, my lab's work in this retroviral system over the last twenty years," Green says. "I couldn't be more pleased by the distinction it brings to Megan, and Geisel, including our NIH T32 Training Grant in Immunology, which previously supported her for two years as one of our best Ph.D. students."

Green's primary research focus is on viral pathogenesis and cell-mediated immunity to mouse retroviruses—persistent infections that evade a host's immune response—that cause either immunodeficiency or leukemia. O'Connor's interest lies in understanding the immune response during LP-BM5 (murine retrovirus) infection, which causes immunodeficiency in mice (mouse AIDS) to study HIV and other retroviral infections.

"My project is looking at what cell types may be contributing to the immunosuppressive environment as a way to better understand cellular targets for HIV immunotherapy," O'Connor explains. "There are two main inhibitory cell types, T-regulatory cells and myeloid derived suppressor cells, which are shown to be immunosuppressive during viral infections and in cancer—I'm focusing on how these two cell types may be communicating with each other during LP-BM5 infection."

O'Connor has identified that in the absence of regulatory T cells, the myeloid derived suppressor cells have an altered phenotype and have a greater capacity to suppress other immune cells. A second project is looking at different subsets of myeloid derived suppressor cells and how they are able to differentially suppress other immune cells.

"I'm very honored to have received this award," she says. "This fellowship will help propel my thesis work and allow me to fully pursue additional experiments and ideas associated with these projects."

*Susan Green is a writer in the Office of Communications and Marketing at the Geisel School of Medicine*

*Photo: Eli Burakian, College Photographer in Dartmouth's Office of Public Affairs*



*(L-R) William Green and Megan O'Connor*

For AAI Careers in Immunology Fellowship Program details and to view past recipients, visit [www.aai.org/Awards/CIIF.html](http://www.aai.org/Awards/CIIF.html).

### Thank you! *(continued from p. 49)*

#### **Veterinary Immunology Committee**

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University of Massachusetts

**Tracey L. Papenfuss, D.V.M., Ph.D.**  
Pathologist  
WIL Research

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Departments of Microbiology and Internal Medicine  
University of Iowa

**Matt Mescher, Ph.D.**  
Professor and Kimmelman Chair  
Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology  
University of Minnesota



# Important Dates for Two AAI Awards Programs

*AAI Programs to Benefit Your Lab's Current or Future Research*

## AAI Careers in Immunology Fellowship

KEY DATES	APPLICATIONS OPEN	APPLICATIONS CLOSE
	<b>JANUARY 15</b>	<b>MARCH 16</b>

These fellowships provide AAI member PIs with one year of salary support for a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow in their labs. Member PIs in good standing with less than \$250,000 (excluding PI's salary) in annual direct costs are eligible to apply.

Selection is based on the potential of the trainee, merit of the project, quality of the training environment, and financial need.

**Direct inquiries to [fellowships@aai.org](mailto:fellowships@aai.org).**

## AAI Travel for Techniques Award Program

AWARDS CYCLE	APPLICATIONS OPEN	APPLICATIONS CLOSE
<b>WINTER</b>	<b>DECEMBER 15</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 15</b>
<b>SPRING</b>	<b>APRIL 15</b>	<b>JUNE 15</b>
<b>FALL</b>	<b>AUGUST 15</b>	<b>OCTOBER 15</b>

The Travel for Techniques Award is given to member PIs, reimbursing up to \$1,500 in expenses for travel to learn a new technique. Member PIs in good standing with less than \$250,000 (excluding PI's salary) in annual direct costs are eligible to apply.

**Direct inquiries to [tft@aai.org](mailto:tft@aai.org).**

These two exciting awards programs were launched by the American Association of Immunologists in 2014, adding significantly to its already robust support for scientists through fellowships, career awards, and travel grants. For more information, visit [www.aai.org/awards](http://www.aai.org/awards).

# GRANT AND AWARD DEADLINES

## December 1

### American Asthma Foundation (AAF) Scholar Awards

- **Prize/Award:** Award funding of up to \$450,000 in support of innovative research by outstanding investigators from all fields seeking to impact the pace of basic asthma discovery relevant to the development of new targets for therapy; the program seeks to foster the pursuit of new ideas, and preliminary data are not required
- **Eligibility:** Early- to mid-career investigators in the United States who are within 10 years of their first independent faculty appointment
- **Details:** <http://www.americanasthmafoundation.org/>
- **Contact:** (415) 514-0730; [vdougherty@americanasthma.org](mailto:vdougherty@americanasthma.org)

## December 16

### American Lung Association/American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) Foundation Allergic Respiratory Diseases Research Award

- **Prize/Award:** Up to two-year funding of \$75,000 per year in support of research on advancing the understanding of allergic respiratory disease
- **Eligibility:** Doctoral scientists, with a primary faculty appointment in an allergy/immunology division/section of a U.S. academic institution, who are undertaking a project related to allergic respiratory disease; have completed a training fellowship; are independent, self-directed researchers with the institutional space/resources customary for independent investigators; and are U.S. citizens or holders of a qualifying visa designated under the program; although applicants may be at any level of research experience, priority is given to those at or below associate professor rank
- **Details:** [http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Education%20and%20Training/Awards/2016\\_AI\\_Allergic\\_Respiratory\\_Disease\\_Award.pdf](http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Education%20and%20Training/Awards/2016_AI_Allergic_Respiratory_Disease_Award.pdf)
- **Contact:** [Research@lung.org](mailto:Research@lung.org)

## Future AAI Annual Meetings



Mark Your Calendar for the Premier Annual Immunology Event!

# 2016



IMMUNOLOGY 2016™  
May 13–17  
Seattle, Washington

# 2017



IMMUNOLOGY 2017™  
May 12–16  
Washington, D.C.

# 2018



IMMUNOLOGY 2018™  
May 4–8  
Austin, Texas

# IMMUNOLOGY 2016™

Annual Meeting of The American Association of Immunologists



MAY 13–17, 2016

WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION CENTER  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

## Trainees—Build Your CV at IMMUNOLOGY 2016™

Submit an abstract to **IMMUNOLOGY 2016™** to become eligible for one of the many awards offered to trainee members. Over 400 travel awards are offered annually!

### TRAVEL AWARDS AND GRANTS (Available to AAI trainee members)

#### **AAI-Thermo Fisher Trainee Achievement Awards**

Recognizing as many as six promising AAI trainees for outstanding first-author abstracts selected for Block Symposia.

#### **AAI Trainee Abstract Awards**

Providing travel support to AAI trainees whose first-author abstracts are selected for presentation in Block Symposia.

#### **Lefrançois-BioLegend Memorial Award**

Advancing the career of an AAI trainee presenting an outstanding abstract specifically in the area of mucosal immunology.

#### **AAI Trainee Poster Awards**

Providing travel support to AAI trainees whose first author abstracts are selected for poster sessions only and found to be exceptional by the AAI Abstract Programming Chairs.

***Join AAI and submit an abstract by  
January 12, 2016, to be eligible.***

For complete AAI Travel Award and Grant application details, visit [www.AAI.org/Awards](http://www.AAI.org/Awards).

For membership info, visit [www.AAI.org/membership](http://www.AAI.org/membership)

Also take advantage of the numerous career development sessions and resources at IMMUNOLOGY 2016™.

[www.IMMUNOLOGY2016.org/scientific-program](http://www.IMMUNOLOGY2016.org/scientific-program)

# Meetings and Events Calendar

## 2015

### November 20–23, 2015

#### Autumn Immunology Conference (AIC) 2015

Chicago Marriott Downtown  
Chicago, IL

[www.autumnimmunology.org/](http://www.autumnimmunology.org/)

### November 24–25, 2015

#### Cancer Vaccine Conference

Concert Hall Felix Meritis  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[www.autumnimmunology.org/](http://www.autumnimmunology.org/)

### November 24–26, 2015

#### Immunotherapy@Brisbane 2015

Brisbane, Australia

<http://conference.qimrberghofer.edu.au/page/Immunotherapy/>

## 2016

### January 17–22, 2016

#### The 5th NIF Winter School on Advanced Immunology

Awaji, Japan

<http://ifrec-sign-winterschool.org/>

### January 23–26, 2016

#### The 55th Midwinter Conference of Immunologists at Asilomar

Pacific Grove (near Monterey), CA

[www.midwconfimmunol.org](http://www.midwconfimmunol.org)

### February 18–22, 2016

#### 2016 BMT Tandem Meeting

Honolulu, HI

[www.cibmtr.org/Meetings/Tandem/index.html](http://www.cibmtr.org/Meetings/Tandem/index.html)

### March 6–9, 2016

#### 5th Conference of the South African Immunology Society

Glenburn Country Hotel and Spa  
Muldersdrift, South Africa

[www.saimmunology.org.za/2016conference.htm](http://www.saimmunology.org.za/2016conference.htm)

### April 2–6, 2016

#### 29th Annual Canadian Society of Immunology Spring Meeting

The Westin Hotel

Ottawa, Ontario

Contact: [www.csi-sci.ca/scientificmeeting/meetingwelcome16.aspx](http://www.csi-sci.ca/scientificmeeting/meetingwelcome16.aspx)

### April 2–6, 2016

#### Experimental Biology (EB) 2016 (APS, ASPET, ASIP, ASN, AAA, ASBMB)

San Diego Convention Center  
San Diego, CA

Contact: [management@experimentalbiology.org](mailto:management@experimentalbiology.org)

### May 13–17, 2016

#### IMMUNOLOGY 2016™ AAI Annual Meeting

Seattle, WA

[www.immunology2016.org](http://www.immunology2016.org)

### June 2–5, 2016

#### Eastern Allergy Conference

The Breakers

Palm Beach, FL

[www.easternallergyconference.org](http://www.easternallergyconference.org)

### June 16–19, 2016

#### Regulatory Myeloid Suppressor Cells Conference

Wistar Institute

Philadelphia, PA

[www.myeloidsuppressors.com/](http://www.myeloidsuppressors.com/)

### July 1–4, 2016

#### 9th International Conference of the Frontiers in Immunology Research Network

Grand Hotel Union

Ljubljana, Slovenia

[www.firnweb.com/2016-conference/](http://www.firnweb.com/2016-conference/)

### July 9–14, 2016

#### AAI Introductory Course in Immunology

Long Beach Convention Center

Long Beach, CA

[www.aai.org/Education/Courses/Intro/index.html](http://www.aai.org/Education/Courses/Intro/index.html)

### July 24–29, 2016

#### IgE and Allergy, 50 Years and Onward

(FASEB Science Research Conference)

West Palm Beach, FL

[www.faseb.org/SRC](http://www.faseb.org/SRC)

### July 31–August 5, 2016

#### AAI Advanced Course in Immunology

Seaport World Trade Center

Boston, MA

[www.aai.org/Education/Courses/Advanced/index.html](http://www.aai.org/Education/Courses/Advanced/index.html)

### August 16–19, 2016

#### IVIS 2016: International Veterinary Immunology Symposium

Gold Coast Convention Centre

Gold Coast, Australia

[www.ivis2016.org/](http://www.ivis2016.org/)

### August 21–26, 2016

#### ICI 2016: International Congress of Immunology 2016

Melbourne, Australia

<http://ici2016.org>

### September 21–24, 2016

#### European Society for Immunodeficiencies (ESID) 2016

Centre Convencions Internacional de

Barcelona (CCIB)

Barcelona, Spain

[www.esid.org](http://www.esid.org)

Track updated meeting listings anytime via the online Meetings and Events Calendar – visit <http://www.aai.org/Careers/Calendar/index.html>.

## Mark Your Calendar for These Important Dates!

### 2016 *(Continued)*

#### September 27–30, 2016

46th Annual Meeting of the German Society for Immunology

Congress Center Hamburg (CCH)  
Hamburg, Germany  
[www.immunology-conference.de/](http://www.immunology-conference.de/)

#### November 18–21, 2016

Autumn Immunology Conference (AIC) 2016

Chicago Marriott Downtown  
Chicago, IL  
[www.autumnimmunology.org/](http://www.autumnimmunology.org/)

### 2017

#### April 7–10, 2017

30th Annual Canadian Society of Immunology Spring Meeting

The Banff Centre  
Banff, Alberta  
[www.csi-sci.ca/scientificmeeting.aspx#other](http://www.csi-sci.ca/scientificmeeting.aspx#other)

#### May 12–16, 2017

IMMUNOLOGY 2017™  
AAI Annual Meeting

Walter E. Washington Convention Center  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.aai.org/Meetings/Future\\_Meeting.html](http://www.aai.org/Meetings/Future_Meeting.html)

#### November 17–20, 2017

Autumn Immunology Conference (AIC) 2017

JW Marriott  
Chicago, IL  
[www.autumnimmunology.org/](http://www.autumnimmunology.org/)

### 2018

#### May 4–8, 2018

IMMUNOLOGY 2018™  
AAI Annual Meeting

Austin, TX  
[www.aai.org/Meetings/Future\\_Meeting.html](http://www.aai.org/Meetings/Future_Meeting.html)

#### November 16–19, 2018

Autumn Immunology Conference (AIC) 2018

Chicago Marriott Downtown  
Chicago, IL  
[www.autumnimmunology.org/](http://www.autumnimmunology.org/)

### 2019

#### May 9–13, 2019

IMMUNOLOGY 2019™  
AAI Annual Meeting

San Diego Convention Center  
San Diego, CA  
[www.aai.org/Meetings/Future\\_Meeting.html](http://www.aai.org/Meetings/Future_Meeting.html)

## The Journal of Immunology



**Cutting Edge**  
now allows  
**longer manuscripts!**

The length restriction on manuscripts submitted to the **Cutting Edge** section of *The Journal of Immunology* has been extended from **four pages** to **five pages**.

# AAI Career Advisory Board

Starting your first lab? Facing new and puzzling issues? If so, you probably wish to turn to a more senior scientist for guidance—but perhaps not one at your own institution. The AAI Career Advisory Board (CAB) is tailored specifically for you.

The CAB is a referral service to match early faculty who submit requests for guidance on specific career issues with more senior PIs having experience and insight in those areas, excluding members of your own faculty. You may also specify individuals not to be contacted on your behalf.

**Eligibility:** Although the CAB is sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Women, it is open to all early-faculty AAI members, both men and women.

**Advisors:** A pool of senior scientists—men and women—are volunteering to be “on call.” Topics include recruiting, handling personnel issues, timing for first grant submissions, building networks, teaching, balancing family and work, serving on NIH study sections, and more.



Visit [www.aai.org/About/Leadership/Committees/CSOW/Career-Advisory-Board.html](http://www.aai.org/About/Leadership/Committees/CSOW/Career-Advisory-Board.html) to submit a request.