



# AAI NEWSLETTER

The American  
Association of  
Immunologists

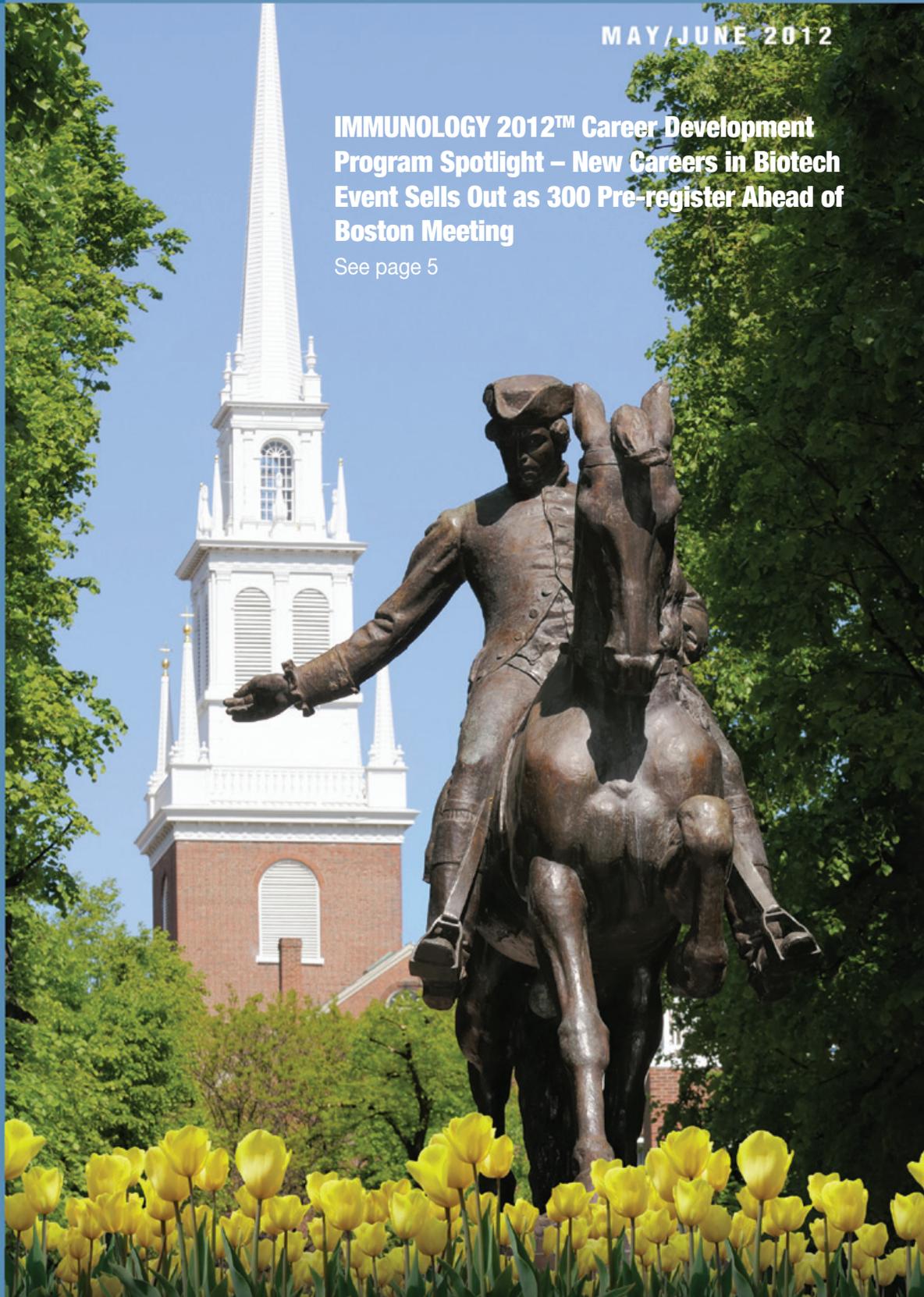
MAY/JUNE 2012

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**IMMUNOLOGY 2012™ Career Development Program Spotlight – New Careers in Biotech Event Sells Out as 300 Pre-register Ahead of Boston Meeting**

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# EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## *The Journal of Immunology*

The American Association of Immunologists, Inc. (AAI) seeks applicants for the position of Editor-in-Chief (EIC) for its official publication, *The Journal of Immunology* (*The JI*).

The primary responsibility of the EIC is to maintain the role of *The JI* as a definitive resource for immunology research. He or she will do so by ensuring the scientific excellence of the content and integrity of the peer-review process. To that end, the EIC will recommend an editorial board for appointment by the AAI Publications Committee and approval by the AAI Council; be responsible for the oversight of editorial conduct and the peer-review process; address concerns of authors; and make final decisions on manuscript publication. The EIC will address allegations of author misconduct and act in accordance with *The JI* Editorial Policies and Practices and AAI policy.

The EIC is responsible to the AAI Publications Committee and, ultimately, to the AAI Council, and is an *ex officio* member of both groups.

Applicants are expected to have an accomplished scientific career with a significant publication record in addition to appropriate editorial experience. Candidates should possess strong leadership qualities, intellectual vision and outstanding interpersonal skills. Applicants must be members of AAI in good standing and are required to reside within the continental U.S.

The term of service for this position is from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2018. The appointed EIC is expected to overlap with the incumbent EIC starting January 1, 2013, to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities. This position is considered to be part-time. A stipend and associated expenses are provided.

Interested individuals are invited to submit an application package that includes a *curriculum vitae*; a succinct letter of interest and qualifications; a statement on the possible conceptual direction of *The JI* in its pursuit of scientific excellence; and innovations that may be considered.

Applications will be accepted through May 31, 2012. Please mail or e-mail them to:

Chair  
AAI Publications Committee c/o AAI  
9650 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
EICsearch@aai.org

EOE



# AAI Public Policy Fellows Advocate for NIH Funding on Capitol Hill

**O**n March 7, 2012, the inaugural class of AAI Public Policy Fellows went to Capitol Hill to advocate for federal support for biomedical research, including at least \$32

billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013.

The ten young scientists who were selected to participate in this new AAI program ([http://aai.org/Public\\_Affairs/PPFP/Fellows\\_past.html](http://aai.org/Public_Affairs/PPFP/Fellows_past.html)) traveled from across the country to meet with their congressional delegations to express their passion for biomedical research and to ask for their representatives' support.



*Eric Weimer with Representative David Price (D-4th, NC)*

The AAI Fellows participated in a two-day program, which included a presentation by special guest speaker Hugh Auchincloss, M.D. (AAI '83), deputy director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Auchincloss briefed the fellows on NIH and NIAID

funding and addressed other issues of interest to young immunologists. The program also included remarks by AAI Committee on Public Affairs Chair Derry Roopenian, Ph.D.; AAI Advocacy Programs Subcommittee Chair Michael Princiotta, Ph.D.; and AAI Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs Lauren Gross, J.D.



*Judy Cannon with Senator Tom Udall (D-NM)*

The fellows' trip to Capitol Hill enabled each of the 10 fellows to visit the offices of their congressional delegation, as well as the offices of other fellows' representatives. AAI was fortunate to be able to capture some of the program through

a video made by The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), of which AAI is a charter member. That video can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/eTfCB0eMoAc>. The fellows' message urging a modest increase in the NIH budget was well-received, though any funding increases remain unlikely in this difficult fiscal environment.



*Devavani Chatterjea with Representative Betty McCollum (D-4th, MN)*



*Kamal Khanna with Kaylie Hanson from the Office of Senator Richard Blumenthal*



*Left to right: Eric Weimer, Anastazia Older Aguilar, Devavani Chatterjea, Amy Moran, Linda Lieberman, Lauren Gross, Caleph Wilson, Derry Roopenian*



*NIAID Deputy Director Hugh Auchincloss speaking to the AAI Fellows about key policy issues*

# PCAST Outlines Path to One Million More STEM Professionals



To retain its historical preeminence in science and technology, the United States will need “approximately one million more [STEM—science, technology, engineering and math] professionals than [it]...will produce at the current rate over the next decade...” according to a recent report by the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). In the report, *Engage to Excel: Producing One Million Additional College Graduates with Degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)*, PCAST outlines recommendations to reach this goal.

If it is to produce these additional STEM professionals within a decade, the U.S. must increase the number of students who receive STEM degrees by roughly 34 percent annually. The report points out that fewer than 40 percent of students who enter college with the intention of majoring in a STEM field graduate with a STEM degree. According to PCAST, “increasing the retention of STEM majors to just 50 percent would,

alone, generate three-quarters of the targeted one million additional STEM degrees.”

The PCAST strategy for increasing retention is outlined in five major recommendations: “1) catalyze widespread adoption of empirically validated teaching practices; 2) advocate and provide support for replacing standard laboratory courses with discovery-based research courses; 3) launch a national experiment in postsecondary mathematics education to address the math preparation gap; 4) encourage partnerships among stakeholders to diversify pathways to STEM careers; and 5) create a presidential council on STEM education with leadership from the academic and business communities to provide strategic leadership for transformative and sustainable change in STEM undergraduate education.”

These recommendations will help President Obama develop his five-year Federal STEM Education strategic plan, expected to be released this spring. In his recently released FY 2013 budget request, President Obama included \$3 billion for STEM education, a 2.6 percent increase over the previous year’s level.



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[www.aai.org/About/  
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# New Careers in Biotech Session Draws 300 at IMMUNOLOGY 2012™

AAI continues to evolve its career development programs at the AAI annual meeting to address the changing needs of trainees and early- and mid-career scientists.

The menu of career programs offered in 2012 was the most varied ever—and has been enthusiastically received. A new session, “Careers in Biotech Panel Discussion and Networking,” drew a room-capacity 300 pre-registrants.

“This response demonstrates the enormous interest of young scientists in careers in industry,” according to Mary Litzinger, Ph.D., AAI manager of educational and career development programs. This AAI Education Committee-sponsored session was chaired by Clinton Mathias, a member of the committee and assistant professor at Western New England University. Joining Mathias on the panel were Arthur Tzianabos, vice president and head, research and early development, Shire Human Genetic Therapies; Andy Kokaji, senior scientist, STEMCELL Technologies, Inc.; Chris Schwab, senior medical science liaison, Human Genome Sciences, Inc.; and Olivia Schneider, chief scientific officer, Shenandoah Biotechnology, Inc.

Representing a range of career pursuits in industry, the panelists were enlisted to discuss their respective career paths and identify the skills required to succeed in these careers.

“Many young scientists are interested in industry careers but have concerns about whether they will lose their academic freedom, the types of positions available, ways they can transition into industry from academia, additional skill sets that might give them an advantage in the job hunt, the day-to-day responsibilities and job culture within industry, among others. Following the panel discussion, session attendees had the opportunity to chat with the panelists and other industry contacts at a networking reception.

The careers in biotech session supplements the always popular AAI career roundtables offered at the AAI annual meeting by the AAI Minority Affairs Committee and jointly by the AAI Education Committee and AAI Committee on the Status of Women. “The roundtables that are devoted to careers in biotech and industry are always among the most fully subscribed,” said Litzinger. “We wanted to respond to the keen interest our attendees show in this area.”

- ▶ To view meeting abstracts and final program, visit [IMMUNOLOGY2012.org](http://IMMUNOLOGY2012.org).
- ▶ Look for more post-meeting news, photos, and highlights in the July-August Issue of the *AAI Newsletter*.



Clinton Mathias



Arthur Tzianabos



Andy Kokaji



Chris Schwab



Olivia Schneider

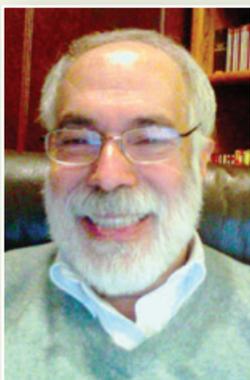
## Career Sessions and Services at IMMUNOLOGY 2012™

- ▶ Academics and SBIR/STTR Grants: Seeking Opportunities
- ▶ Careers in Biotech Panel Discussion and Networking Reception
- ▶ Careers in Science Lecture and Networking Roundtable – Sponsored by the AAI Committee on the Status of Women, AAI Education Committee
- ▶ Careers and Networking Roundtable – Sponsored by the AAI Minority Affairs Committee
- ▶ How to Convert Your CV into a Résumé (followed by one-on-one counseling)
- ▶ Interviewing for a Job
- ▶ Secrets for a Successful Postdoctoral Fellowship
- ▶ Writing and Reviewing Manuscripts: Two Sides of the Same Coin
- ▶ Online and Onsite Jobs Board, Free to Meeting Registrants, Exhibitors (<http://www.immunology2012.org/Attendees/jobsboard.html>)

# Members in the News

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## Fred Finkelman Is 2011 Middleton Awardee



**Fred D. Finkelman, M.D., AAI '76**, was recently named the recipient of the 2011 Middleton Award, the highest honor accorded U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) investigators in recognition of their outstanding scientific contributions and achievements in the areas of biomedical and bio-behavioral research relevant to the healthcare of veterans.

Conferred by the Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development division of the VA's Office of Research and Development, the award annually recognizes an investigator who has contributed significantly to improving veterans' health care, inspired new VA investigators through excellence in training and mentorship, and enhanced the national visibility and reputation of VA research.

The 2011 Middleton Award recognizes Finkelman's exemplary service to the VA and the biomedical profession and his seminal contributions to our understanding of innate immunology, including the role of cytokines in immune-mediated disease, host defense mechanisms in parasitic infection, the role of dendritic cells in antigen presentation, and the mechanism of allergy. His work has had a broad impact on clinical care of veterans and the population at large.

Finkelman is McDonald Professor of Medicine at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and professor in the Department of Pediatrics (Division of Immunobiology) at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Research Foundation. He also serves as director of the Division of Rheumatology at the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center and as interim director of the Division of Cellular and Molecular Immunology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Using mouse models to address a broad range of questions in immunology that mainly converge on issues involving cytokines, the Finkelman lab investigates the roles of cytokines in gastrointestinal nematode infections, asthma pathogenesis, and pregnancy regulation. Finkelman and colleagues also address the regulation of cytokine production, lymphopoiesis, and lymphocyte activation and tolerance, particularly in reference to the relationship between inflammation and

antigen presentation during the dendritic cell-mediated choice between tolerance and immunity. Finkelman's work has contributed to many innovations in vaccine development and therapeutic approaches to allergy.

As Middleton Award recipient, Finkelman will receive \$50,000 annually for three years in research support along with a cash award of \$5,000 and an inscribed plaque commemorating his scientific achievements. A corresponding plaque will be presented to the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Finkelman's honor.

"I am delighted to receive the 2011 William S. Middleton Award," said Finkelman. "Like my physician-scientist colleagues at the VA, universities, and research institutes, I engage in patient care and biomedical research for the rewards of improving the lives of my patients and the intellectual joy of discovery. However, it is very gratifying to learn through an award that my efforts have been valued by my colleagues. The award additionally gives me a public opportunity to thank my principal mentors, particularly Bill Paul, Irwin Scher, and Alan Sher, as well as my wonderful collaborators, including Jimmy Mond, Joe Urban, Suzanne Morris, Rick Strait, Marat Khodoun, Marsha Wills-Karp, and Marc Rothenberg, from whom I've learned so much and with whom I've had so much fun."

Finkelman is a past member of the AAI Committee on Public Affairs and AAI Nominating Committee and a past recipient of the AAI Minority Scientist Mentor/Trainee Travel Award. He has served as an abstract programming chair for the AAI annual meeting and deputy editor for *The Journal of Immunology (The JI)*. Since 2010, he has served as Secretary-Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), having served previously on the FASEB board and since 2005 on the FASEB Finance Committee.

A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Finkelman is an associate editor for the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* and has held editorial board appointments with *Infection and Immunity* and *International Immunology*. His additional career honors and appointments include: member, NIH Hypersensitivity, Autoimmune, and Immune-mediated Diseases study section; member, VA Research Advisory Committee; member, Arthritis Foundation Clinical Immunology study section; member, NIH Transgenic Mouse Committee; keynote speaker, Japanese Parasitological Society; Jerry Dolovich Memorial Lectureship, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI); keynote speaker, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute

symposium; chair, Keystone symposium; and invited speaker, meetings of the British Immunology Society, Japan Allergy Association, and International Union of Microbiological Societies.

A biology graduate of Queens College, Finkelman received his M.D. from Yale University and completed internships in internal medicine at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He later completed postdoctoral fellowships at NIAID/NIH (immunology) and the University of Texas Health Science Center, Dallas (rheumatology). He then held succeeding appointments as assistant, associate, and full professor in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) Department of Medicine, where he also served as director of the Division of Rheumatology. He joined the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and Cincinnati VA Medical Center in 1995 and has held his Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and Medical Research Foundation appointments since 2001.

The VA's Middleton Award was established in 1960 to honor William S. Middleton, M.D., a distinguished educator, physician-scientist, and chief medical director at the VA from 1955 to 1963.

## Eicke Latz Awarded Clinical Research Prize



**Eicke Latz, M.D., Ph.D., AAI '08**, was recently honored as the recipient of the 2011 GlaxoSmithKline Foundation (GSKF) Clinical Research Prize for outstanding scientific work in clinical research. Latz's selection was based on his 2010 *Nature* paper "NLRP3 inflammasomes are required for atherogenesis and activated by cholesterol crystals."

Eicke is a professor of medicine and director of the Institute of Innate Immunity at the University of Bonn and serves as an assistant professor

in medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Immunology at the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Medical School. He is a member of the Immunology and Virology Graduate Program in the UMass Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and is the founder and scientific co-director of the UMass NanoMedicine Institute.

Latz investigates the molecular mechanisms of innate immune receptor activation. After elucidating the mechanisms of Toll-like receptor 9 (TLR9) activation, Latz has gone on to focus on the NLRP3 and AIM2 inflammasomes. The NLRP3 inflammasome can respond to substances that include crystals of monosodium urate, which form in gout, and crystals of cholesterol that are found in atherosclerotic plaques. His research into the role of these crystals in atherosclerotic inflammation has provided new insights into the pathogenesis of and potential therapies for atherosclerosis. The laboratory seeks to translate their discoveries regarding the molecular basis of innate immune activation into molecular tools that could support diagnostics or treatment of inflammatory diseases such as Alzheimer's disease or atherosclerosis.

Latz is a past major symposium speaker at the AAI annual meeting and an ad hoc reviewer for *The Journal of Immunology*. He has served as an ad hoc reviewer for multiple additional journals, including *Nature*, *Science*, *Nature Immunology*, *Nature Reviews Immunology*, *Immunity*, *Blood*, *Journal of Leukocyte Biology*, *Immunobiology*, *Expert Opinion on Drug Delivery*, *Expert Opinion on Biological Therapy*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Human Immunology*, *Journal of Endotoxin Research*, *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, *Cytometry*, *Circulation Research*, and *Brain Blood Immunity*.

His career honors include the Award of the Japanese Society of Surgery, Tokyo National Cancer Center; Japanese Society for Endoscopy Scholarship; German Academic Exchange Program Postdoctoral Training Grant; and Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) Award.

Latz received his Ph.D. (summa cum laude) in molecular medicine from Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany, and M.D. (hematology) from the Free University of Berlin. He completed an internship, residency, and postdoctoral

### AAI Public Affairs ONLINE

#### Visit us to

- Learn about NIH funding
- Keep current on key policy issues
- Discover how you can help AAI in its advocacy initiatives

Go to [www.aai.org](http://www.aai.org) and click on Public Affairs.



## Members in the News

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fellowship at Charité University Hospital, Humboldt University, and served as a visiting scientist at Merck Research Laboratories. He later completed postdoctoral fellowships at Boston University School of Medicine and UMass Medical School before joining the UMass faculty as assistant professor in 2003. He has held his University of Bonn appointments since 2009.

Awarded annually since 1989, the GSKF Clinical Research award conveys a prize of €10,000. Candidates are nominated by a faculty member of the Max Planck Institute or equivalent professional society.

## Christopher Karp Joins Gates Foundation



**Christopher L. Karp, M.D., AAI '95**, has been appointed deputy director, global health discovery and translational science (vaccines and host pathogen biology), for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle.

Prior to joining the Gates Foundation on March 1, Karp was the Gunnar Esiason/Cincinnati Bell Chair of Life Sciences and

director of the Cystic Fibrosis Research Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati.

Karp's research has focused on elucidating the molecular mechanisms responsible for regulation and dysregulation of inflammatory responses in infectious, allergic, genetic, and metabolic disease, focusing on diseases of children. His body of work includes the discovery of a defect in lipoxin-mediated anti-inflammatory activity in the cystic fibrosis lung, the identification of IFRD1 as a novel modifier gene for cystic fibrosis lung disease, the identification of the TLR homolog RP105 as an endogenous negative regulator of TLR signaling, and the demonstration that allergenicity can result from functional mimicry of TLR complex proteins.

Karp's efforts at the Gates Foundation will focus primarily on vaccines, including in the areas of malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, neglected infectious diseases, polio, and diarrheal diseases. "The mission of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is incredible and the resources it brings to bear are formidable,"

said Karp of his appointment. "Coming as it did for me after more than two decades alongside colleagues and trainees in the academic research lab setting, the Gates Foundation appointment represents a very special opportunity to work with scientists from around the world endeavoring to have an impact on a global scale. It is an honor and a privilege, and quite humbling."

Karp is a section editor and past associate editor for *The Journal of Immunology (The JI)* and has served on multiple occasions as a major symposium speaker and block symposium chair at the AAI annual meeting. He has served on numerous NIH study sections and special emphasis panels as well as other national and international grant review panels, including at the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Science Foundation, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust, Wellington Medical Research Foundation, Italian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) Biomedical Research Council (Singapore), Cystic Fibrosis Trust (U.K.), Swiss National Science Foundation, Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Unity through Knowledge Fund (Republic of Croatia Ministry of Science, Education and Sport), Research Council K.U. Leuven (Belgium), and French National Research Agency.

Karp has held editorial board appointments with the *Journal of Leukocyte Biology and Inflammation* and served as a reviewer for over 60 other journals, including *Nature*, *Nature Immunology*, *Nature Medicine*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of Leukocyte Biology*, *Clinical Immunology and Immunopathology*, *Clinical Immunology*, *Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology*, *Infection and Immunity*, *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, *International Journal of Immunopharmacology*, *International Immunology*, *Viral Immunology*, *Immunology Today/Trends in Immunology*, *Vaccine*, *Lancet*, *Journal of Neuroimmunology*, *Inflammation*, *Current Immunology Reviews*, *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, *PLoS ONE*, *Immunity*, and *Mucosal Immunology*.

His additional career appointments and honors include: member, Faculty of 1000 (2002-2012); Councilor and president-elect (abdicated 2012), Society for Leukocyte Biology; fellow and Program Committee member and chair, Infectious Diseases Society of America; past program chair, International Endotoxin and Innate Immunity Society; Program and Credentialing Committee member, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH); senior fellow, American Asthma Foundation; and Sandoz Clinician Scientist Award, John Hopkins University.

.....

Karp is a member of the Association of American Physicians, Society for Pediatric Research, and American Society of Clinical Investigation; a fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America; a diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners and American Board of Internal Medicine; and holder of the ASTMH Certificate of Knowledge in Tropical Medicine and Travelers' Health.

A highest-honors and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brandeis University, Karp received his M.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University and Georgetown University Hospital/Georgetown University, respectively. He subsequently trained as a National Research Service Award fellow in the Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases, NIAID, NIH, and as a fellow in infectious diseases at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) School of Medicine. Karp joined the JHU faculty in 2003, rising to associate professor, before joining Cincinnati Children's Hospital and the University of Cincinnati as professor of pediatrics in 2000.

At the Gates Foundation, Karp will work with his predecessor, AAI member Christopher B. Wilson, M.D., AAI '84, who now serves the Gates Foundation as director of discovery and translational sciences in the global health program. To view the AAI profile of Wilson that marked his 2009 Gates Foundation appointment, visit [http://aai.org/About/Publications/AAI\\_Newsletter/PDFs/2010/AAI\\_NL\\_2010-02.pdf#page=12](http://aai.org/About/Publications/AAI_Newsletter/PDFs/2010/AAI_NL_2010-02.pdf#page=12).



## 2012 Life Sciences Salary Survey Underway; AAI Member Participation Encouraged

Wondering how your compensation compares with that of others in your field? Now you can find out! Participate in "The Scientist Survey of Salaries in the Life Sciences 2012," which will compile data for publication later this year on compensation for AAI members and those of other professional life sciences societies in the United States.

In coordination with *The Scientist, Magazine of the Life Sciences*, AAI encourages members again this year to take advantage of this annual opportunity to derive and report reliable compensation information about scientists in our field and compare with other related biomedical research disciplines.

This year's web-based survey, open to all life scientists employed in the United States, calls for responses by Friday, June 22, 2012. Articles describing the results of the survey will be published in the November 2012 issue of *The Scientist* and on The-Scientist.com.

Participation in the study is voluntary and will take approximately four minutes. To ensure that accurate and representative results are collected, please answer all questions carefully and completely. All responses are confidential, anonymous, and coded, and data from this research will be reported only in the aggregate.

As a "thank you" for participation, all respondents who fill out the survey by the June 22nd deadline may enter a drawing for one of three Amazon.com gift certificates worth \$100.

- ▶ To take this year's survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TSsalarysurvey2012>.
- ▶ To address any question or issue in participating, visit <http://www.the-scientist.com/salarysurvey>.

Thank you for your time and support of AAI in this important member service.

# AAI Summer Immunology Courses Set for July

## *Advanced Course Moves to Boston*

### 2012 AAI Introductory Course

The AAI Introductory Course in Immunology will be held July 14-19, 2012, on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The two-part course is targeted to students new to the discipline. Part I of the course (July 14-16) is a comprehensive introduction to the basic principles of immunology suitable for students with a general biology background; Part II (July 17-19) is a clinically-oriented lecture series. Parts I and II may be taken independently.

This always popular course has been held at the University of Pennsylvania since 2003 and will again convene in the auditorium of the Biomedical Research Building II/III (BRBII) on the University of Pennsylvania's Medical School



Campus. The returning course directors for 2012 are Christopher A. Hunter, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, and Terri M. Laufer, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Participants in the 2011 Introductory Course called it an

“excellent educational experience” and “a great and in-depth introduction to important aspects of immunology.” Another course attendee said that “the speakers are inspiring because they exhibit such a level of enthusiasm, passion, [and] love for teaching.”

### 2012 AAI Advanced Course

More advanced students should consider the AAI Advanced Course in Immunology, set for July 29-August 3, 2012, in Boston. This intensive course has a long history of serving advanced trainees and scientists who wish to expand or update their understanding of the field. The course director is Leslie J. Berg, University of Massachusetts Medical School.

The course will convene at the Seaport World Trade Center located on the historic Boston harbor in the bustling Seaport District. The course draws its faculty of leading experts from the local immunology community of Boston-area universities, as well as from farther afield.



Says Berg: “We are excited about this summer’s Advanced Course in Immunology and its relocation this year to Boston. Not only is the roster of lecturers outstanding, but the venue for the course is a beautiful spot on the Boston waterfront. In addition to the notables available to us as local talent, we succeeded in enticing other world-renowned immunologists from around the country to come and discuss the cutting-edge research in their field. We look forward to welcoming attendees in July!”

### Travel Support

Financial support for underrepresented minority scientists is available through the FASEB MARC program; details are available via the URL below. In 2011, the FASEB MARC program supported the attendance of seven minority scientists to the AAI courses.

Following on its 2011 support, the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) will again sponsor travel awards for international trainees to attend the 2012 courses. Last year, IUIS sponsored three international trainees to each of the AAI summer courses. The trainees hailed from India, The Gambia, Kenya, and France, and all found it to be an enriching experience. They pointed to enhanced immunology knowledge gained from the outstanding lectures and from stimulating discussions with other course participants during course breaks and social events.

### Course Details, Additional Information

- ▶ The 2012 Introductory Course outline detailing the faculty and topic lineup appears on p. 11 of this newsletter. The 2012 Advanced Course outline appears on p. 17.
- ▶ Complete details on both AAI courses, and on FASEB MARC travel support, are available via the AAI web site at <http://www.aai.org/Education/Courses>.



# 2012 Introductory Course in Immunology

July 14–19, 2012 • The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Director: Christopher A. Hunter, Ph.D., *University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine*

Co-Director: Terri M. Laufer, M.D., *University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine*

## Don't miss the most comprehensive introduction to immunology available!

This intensive two-part course, taught by world-renowned immunologists, provides a comprehensive 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 14–16)** is a detailed introduction to the basic principles of immunology and is suitable for students with a general biology background. **Part II (July 17–19)** is a clinically oriented lecture series focusing on specialty areas.

Parts I and II may be taken independently at the discretion of the student.

## Faculty

Christopher A. Hunter, *University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine*  
*Introduction to the Immune System*

Kathleen E. Sullivan, *Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*  
*Innate Immunity: Introduction to the Cells*

Igor E. Brodsky, *University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine*  
*Innate Immunity: Introduction to Pattern Recognition and Intracellular Signaling*

Jennifer A. Punt, *Haverford College*  
*Introduction to Adaptive Immunity*

Michael P. Cancro, *University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine*  
*Clonal Selection and V(D)J Recombination (B Cell Centric)*

Terri M. Laufer, *University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine*  
*MHC Restriction and Thymic Selection*

Laurence C. Eisenlohr, *Jefferson Medical College*  
*Antigen Processing and Presentation*

Edward M. Behrens, *Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*  
*Dendritic Cells: The Bridge Between Innate and Adaptive Immunity*

Gary A. Koretzky, *University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine*  
*Signaling in the Immune System*

Gudrun Philomena Fiona Debes, *University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine*  
*Trafficking of Immune Cells*

Michael P. Cancro, *University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine*  
*B Cell Homeostasis, Activation, and Memory Formation*

Ronald N. Germain, *NIAID, NIH*  
*Dynamic Intravital Imaging of the Immune System: Replacing Cartoons with Movies of the Real Thing*

Andrew J. Caton, *The Wistar Institute*  
*T and B Cell Tolerance*

Christopher A. Hunter, *University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine*  
*Cytokines*

Jonathan S. Maltzman, *University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine*  
*Solid Organ Transplantation*

Cathryn Nagler, *University of Chicago*  
*Mucosal Immunology*

David Artis, *University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine*  
*Type 2 Immunity and Parasite Infections*

Robert H. Vonderheide, *University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine*  
*Tumor Immunology*

Sunny Shin, *University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine*  
*Immunity to Bacterial Pathogens*

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*Immunity to Viruses*

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*Vaccination*

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## Elizabeth (Betty) Mary Smithwick, M.D., AAI '75 1923–2011



*Elizabeth Smithwick joined AAI in 1975 and was an emeritus AAI member at the time of her death last fall. The following obituary, published in The Sacramento Bee from October 26 to 27, 2011, appears here with the permission of that publication.*

**E**lizabeth Mary Smithwick, M.D., passed away at her home in Sacramento on Wednesday,

October 19, 2011, at the age of 88. Betty was born on January 20, 1923, in Casco, Wisconsin. She was the daughter of John and Ann Smithwick, and was the second youngest of seven children, five brothers and one sister, all of whom preceded her in death.

Betty graduated in 1943 from the University of Wisconsin with a B.S. degree in medical technology. For the next eight years, she worked in some of the best known laboratories in the country. Several of her mentors, including Lewis Thomas at the University of Minnesota, supported her decision to apply to medical school. Women were not common applicants in those days. Nevertheless, she was accepted to the University of Wisconsin in 1951. Her skills as a medical technologist allowed her to support herself during her medical education. She graduated in 1955, second in her class.

Smithwick completed her internship the following year at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. Her pediatric residency followed at Bellevue Hospital in New York City and Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1957–58, she worked at two hospitals in England, Queen Charlotte and Children's Hospital, both in London. She returned to Kings County Hospital in 1959 and spent the next thirteen years directing the medical student education program at that institution. She received numerous awards and recognition as an outstanding teacher throughout her career.

In 1964, she took a hiatus from teaching and received specialized training in rheumatology in Dallas, Texas. She then returned to Kings County Hospital and established a rheumatology clinic and an immunology laboratory. In 1972, she was recruited by Robert Good to work at the Sloan-Kettering Immunobiology Unit in New York City. She remained there for ten years doing research and staffing the immunodeficiency clinic and published many papers during this time.

*The following remembrance of Elizabeth Mary (Betty) Smithwick was authored by her University of California, Davis (UC Davis) colleague M. Eric Gershwin, M.D., AAI '76, for publication in the AAI Newsletter. AAI gratefully acknowledges the submission.*

Betty Smithwick was the epitome of a pediatrician, everyone's loving grandmother. She entered medicine during the days of a nearly man's-only world and excelled at every step along the way, all the while devoting herself to the children under her care.

Wanting to see what research was like after her graduation from college, Betty worked at the bench for nearly 8 years before entering the University of Wisconsin Medical School in 1951. Medical school was not financially easy for Betty; she came from a large family and supported herself as a medical technologist.

Following graduation in 1955, second in her class, and subsequent post-graduate medical education and pediatrics training, Betty joined the faculty at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn in 1959. There, one of her interns was Michael (Spike) Miller. Spike remembered Betty as the best teacher of his life, something that eventually brought her to UC Davis in 1982.

Smithwick was a well-published researcher who received numerous honors—but everything else paled in comparison to her role as a pediatric rheumatologist. I met Betty in 1982. Spike Miller had become our new chair of pediatrics at UC Davis. UC Davis was still a relatively young medical school and Spike had recruited a group of rigorous young bench scientists. Along with them, he recruited Betty to help with pediatric education and especially to mentor the numerous young faculty.

Betty proved to be far more than a fine mentor and educator, however. She was the

Betty was recruited by the University of California, Davis, in Sacramento to serve as professor of rheumatology and immunology in the Department of Pediatrics in 1982. Smithwick's expertise, together with her dedicated and compassionate personality, brought twelve years of caring and wonderful service to patients, students, and peers. She retired in 1993 to travel and enjoy family and friends all over the world. Betty enjoyed good food, theater, and the company of her friends.

Betty leaves behind a large and loving family throughout the country, friends, as well as former students and colleagues. She will always be remembered for her charm, wit, intelligence, and especially her dedication to children. Remembrances in her honor may be made to the UC Davis Children's Hospital, UC Davis Health System, Health System Advancement, 4900 Broadway, Suite 1150, Sacramento, CA 95820. Please make checks payable to UC Regents.

Read more online at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sacbee/obituary.aspx?n=elizabeth-mary-smithwick&pid=154269466#storylink=cpy>

consummate doctor. At the annual American College of Rheumatology meeting, Betty would walk around the hallways with a list of problem patients and seek the advice of anyone she could corner. Nothing was more important to her than her children (patients). With her silver hair, her commanding knowledge of medicine, and her incredible compassion, everyone, no matter how busy, would stop and let Betty bend their ear—all so that Betty could deliver better clinical care.

I have been chief of rheumatology at UC Davis for over 30 years and a faculty member for nearly 40. I have never met anyone else with the pathos, the patience, and the dedication of Betty Smithwick. She was truly one of a kind.

*Eric Gershwin is Distinguished Professor of Medicine, the Jack and Donald Chia Professor of Medicine, and Chief, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Clinical Immunology, at the University of California, Davis.*

AAI offers condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of the following members whose deaths were recorded after the January-February 2012 AAI Newsletter acknowledgement of past-year deceased members.

**Gernot Achatz, Ph.D.**

AAI '2010  
Salzburg, Austria

**Morris Goodman, Ph.D.**

AAI '53  
Detroit, Michigan

**Elizabeth M. Smithwick, M.D.**

AAI '75  
Sacramento, California

**Alain M. Bernard, M.D., Ph.D.**

AAI '76  
Nice, France

**John A. McIntyre, Ph.D.**

AAI '75  
Beech Grove, Indiana

**Galen B. Toews, M.D.**

AAI '83  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

**I. Leonard Bernstein, M.D.**

AAI '67  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**Katherine B. Pryzwansky, Ph.D.**

AAI '88  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

**Jo Rae Wright, Ph.D.**

AAI '99  
Durham, North Carolina

# IN MEMORIAM

## Galen B. Toews, M.D., AAI '83 1945-2011

*The following tribute to Galen Toews, a past member of the AAI Committee on Public Affairs, was authored by Toews's colleagues Theodore J. Standiford, M.D., AAI '92, and Richard H. Simon, M.D., both of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Medicine, University of Michigan Hospital and Health Systems. The tribute appears here with the permission of the authors.*

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Galen B. Toews, M.D., who passed away on October 12, 2011, after a prolonged illness. Galen was our division chief and an integral part of the Michigan community for nearly 25 years. Toews was a true visionary in the pulmonary community and in building the pulmonary division at the University of Michigan. Galen led with passion, professionalism, and dignity. He forever impacted the lives and careers of all of us. We have lost a friend, a colleague, and an inspirational leader. He will be greatly missed.

While Galen left his mark in many facets of pulmonary medicine, it is difficult to fully grasp the magnitude of his many contributions. We have highlighted but a few of his academic and personal achievements.

**G**alen was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on November 26, 1945. One month after Galen was born, the Toews returned to their family farm in Kremlin, Oklahoma, where they lived for the remainder of Galen's childhood. Galen referred frequently to the many life lessons he learned while raising a flock of sheep on the farm. He graduated from Kremlin High School, and then from Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas, with a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry in 1967. Toews graduated from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine in 1971 and then completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas. He completed a pulmonary fellowship at what is now the University of Texas Southwestern (UT Southwestern) Medical Center in Dallas in 1978 and continued his postdoctoral training by performing a fellowship in immunology at that same institution. Toews joined the faculty at UT Southwestern in 1979, rising to the rank of associate professor. In 1987, he moved to the University of Michigan where he was named chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (hereafter, "the PCCM



Division"), a position he held for nearly 25 years. He was promoted to full professor in 1991. Toews also held the appointment of staff physician at the Veterans Affairs hospital and served as associate dean for research for the University of Michigan Medical School from 2006 to 2008.

### Excellence in Research

Toews was a leader in the field of respiratory research for over 30 years. Toews was truly one of the pioneers of lung immunology, with his earliest research focused on phagocyte recruitment and pulmonary immune responses. Using models in the skin and lung, he was one of the first scientists to describe locations and functions of what we now know as dendritic cells. His work was seminal in describing the co-stimulatory properties of antigen presenting cells, particularly in the lung, and for understanding their role in graft rejection. He was one of the first to understand the unique immunological differences between alveolar macrophages and dendritic cells. He was well known for his work in the field of host defense against *Cryptococcus neoformans* which spanned over 20 years. Starting in 1995, Toews embarked on research to unravel basic pathogenic mechanisms in interstitial lung disease, particularly idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). He fostered collaborations between basic and clinical investigators at the University of Michigan to create a Specialized Center of Clinically Oriented Research (SCCOR) in IPF, a program which was funded for 10 years by the National Institutes of Health. As chief, he was also instrumental in the PCCM Division receiving SCCOR grants for specialized clinical research in the areas of acute lung injury and host defense and a grand opportunity RC2 grant in IPF. Indicative of his prominence in the field, Toews was selected to serve as the head of the IPFnet clinical trial consortium. His efforts made the University of Michigan one of the premier institutions for the diagnosis and treatment of IPF. This was accomplished while successfully funding his own research interests for over 30 years and contributing over 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts, 47 book chapters, and over 275 conference abstracts to our collective understanding of pulmonary disease. His investigative contributions were appropriately recognized by his election to the Association of American Physicians in 1997.

## **Excellence in Education**

As mentioned above, Toews was instrumental in guiding many of the collaborative investigative projects within the PCCM Division, but perhaps some of his greatest achievements came in his role as an educator and mentor. Soon after arriving at Michigan, Toews successfully acquired a T32 fellowship training grant, a program that has been continuously funded for almost 20 years and has supported the initial careers of nearly 100 scientists. Toews was instrumental in forging a path for basic science faculty within the clinical departments at the medical school. He recruited a number of talented Ph.D. investigators to the PCCM Division and their success and his lobbying helped change the rules within the Department of Medicine to allow the appointment of these scientists to the tenure track. Additionally, Toews had the foresight to understand the need for appropriately trained clinical investigators in respiratory research. To accomplish this, he developed a clinical research track that had at its foundation a Master's Program in Clinical Research Design and Statistical Analysis through the School of Public Health. This program has been so successful that pulmonary divisions throughout the country have used it as a template for patient-oriented research training in their own divisions. He served as a clinical mentor for numerous medical students, interns and fellows. Toews trained an outstanding cadre of academic researchers. He mentored over 30 postdoctoral fellows who remain in academic medicine. Included among these are a number of trainees who are themselves division chiefs or department chairs. Galen was a visiting professor, invited speaker or moderator at over 30 international locations, and delivered well over 100 invited talks within the United States. Clearly, Toews brought distinction to himself and the University of Michigan via his scholarship. He also served as the program committee chair for the Allergy, Immunology, and Inflammation (AII) assembly within the American Thoracic Society (ATS) both in 1983 and 1989. In that way, he influenced the educational offerings for the international conference over a four-year period.

## **Excellence in Clinical Care**

As Chief of the PCCM Division, Toews oversaw many changes in the practice of medicine, including composition of the clinical care teams, changes in duty hours for fellows and residents, and reorganization of clinical services. Throughout these changes, Toews was true to his overarching mandate

that patient care comes first. His creation of multidisciplinary translational research programs facilitated the development of disease-specific clinical care programs in IPF, sarcoidosis, COPD, and lung transplantation. Toews was a skilled clinician and exceptional role model as a physician-scientist. In recognition of his major contributions to the areas of research, education, clinical care, and service, Toews was awarded the Paul De Kruif Lifetime Achievement Award from the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan and the Michigan Thoracic Society's Bruce H. Douglas Award for contributions to pulmonary medicine.

## **Excellence in Advocacy**

Toews excelled in the area of advocacy. Most notably, many of these activities evolved from his vigorous participation in the ATS and as a member of its AII assembly. From 1997 to 2000 and again beginning in 2007, he served as a member and chairperson of the ATS committee for research advocacy. From 1991 to 1997, he served as a member of the American Association of Immunologists Committee on Public Affairs. He lobbied NIH to provide support for respiratory disease research and was involved in national organizations to promote lung research, including the American Lung Association and local thoracic society organizations. He also assumed a prominent role in advocating for research and patient care through the VA system. Examples of that role included Toews's selection as the spokesperson for the Friends of VA (FOVA) Medical Care and Health Research, a collation of 79 medical research, specialty, physician, academic, patient advocacy, and industry organizations committed to quality care for veterans, to present testimony to Congress in 2005 to support funding for the VA missions. He again lobbied Congress in 2007 to support the VA medical and prosthetic research program, and in 2009 he provided testimony before the House military construction and VA appropriations sub-committee in Congress to lobby against budget cuts. Because of his tireless efforts on behalf of the ATS and the pulmonary community in general, he was awarded the ATS Parker B. Francis Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of Respiratory Medicine and Science.

As a member of numerous NIH study sections, foundation and institutional scientific advisory panels, and NIH workshops, Toews had a major impact on the direction of respiratory research, education, and clinical care in this country and abroad. Galen led grass-roots fundraising efforts

to raise awareness and research dollars for lung disease, in particular for IPF research.

### **Galen Toews, the Person**

Galen Toews lived a very full life. In addition to his academic pursuits, he enjoyed traveling to all parts of the world, especially Ukraine, the birthplace of his grandparents. He cherished reading and collecting books particularly on Russian Mennonite history. He loved to read about history, science, the American west, and farming. Galen savored fine food and fine wine. He was passionate about all sports, especially football. With the notable exception of games matching his Oklahoma Sooners and the Wolverines, he was a true Michigan man. Galen enjoyed hiking the Colorado peaks near his Breckenridge home. He was happiest at high altitudes. Above all, he was a great storyteller.

Galen was a man of strong faith. He was a life-long member of the Mennonite Church and was actively involved at Shalom Community Church, a Mennonite and Church of the Brethren congregation in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He was also a founding member of the Dallas Peace Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to peace education, peace research, and action from a Christian perspective. This venture was one of his proudest accomplishments.

He is survived by his wife Anita, son Mark Galen Toews, daughter-in-law Regan Graves Toews, three grandchildren, Henry Galen Toews, Lucas Ames Toews, and Zadi Matilda Toews of Brooklyn, New York, and two brothers, Arrel (Kathy) Toews of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and Myron (Barbara) Toews of Omaha, Nebraska. They will all miss this man who was full of life and filled with humor.

### **The Galen B. Toews Professorship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine**

In honor of his innumerable contributions to pulmonary medicine at the University of Michigan, we are working with his family toward establishing The Galen B. Toews Professorship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. This will be the first endowed professorship established within the PCCM Division, and will be used to support an outstanding investigator who shares Galen's passion for research, advocacy, and clinical care. There is much work to do to reach our goal, but we can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Galen Toews.

Here is the link to the most recent news report:  
<http://www.uofmhealth.org/news/pulmonary-toews-1013>.  
The URL for online giving is <http://www.giving.umich.edu/give/intmed>. To select The Galen B. Toews Professorship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, click Search Funds and then enter key words Galen B. Toews in the "Search or filter by keyword" box.

The address for giving is: The Galen B. Toews Professorship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Development Office, 1000 Oakbrook Drive, Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6794.

Checks are to be made out to "University of Michigan" a Michigan 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

A service celebrating Galen's life was held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan, at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, October 17, 2011. A reception followed at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library on the North Campus of the University of Michigan at 12 noon.



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*Innate Immunity*

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School of Medicine*  
*NK Cells—Their Receptors and Function  
in Health and Disease*

Andrea M. Cooper, *Trudeau Institute*  
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of Inflammation*

Shannon J. Turley, *Dana Farber Cancer Institute,  
Harvard Medical School*  
*Dendritic Cells*

Eugene M. Oltz, *Washington University School  
of Medicine*  
*The Generation and Modification  
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*T Cell Development*

Ulrich H. von Andrian, *Harvard Medical School*  
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Arthur Weiss, *University of California,  
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Charlotte S. Kaetzel, *University of Kentucky  
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*Immune Response to Pathogens*

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*Tolerance*

Betty A. Diamond, *The Feinstein Institute  
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*Autoimmunity*

Robert Schreiber, *Washington University  
School of Medicine*  
*Tumor Immunology*

Jack A. Elias, *Yale School of Medicine*  
*New Concepts in the Pathogenesis of Asthma*

Raif Geha, *Children's Hospital Boston,  
Harvard Medical School*

*Immunodeficiencies: How to Find Them*

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**Rajesh K. Sharma, Ph.D.**

Instructor  
University of Louisville

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**Lihua Chen, Ph.D.**

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Fourth Military Medical University, China

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**Rebecca Mathew, Ph.D.**

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Associate Professor  
Univ. of Pittsburgh

**Qing-Sheng Mi, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Associate Scientist  
Henry Ford Hlth. Syst.

**Craig Morita, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Univ. of Iowa

**Mahyar A. Nouri-Shirazi, D.V.M., Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Florida Atlantic Univ. Col. of Med.

**Shailesh Singh, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Morehouse Sch. of Med.

**Tamar A. Smith-Norowitz, Ph.D.**  
Research Associate Professor  
SUNY Downstate Med. Ctr.

**Zuoming Sun, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Beckman Res. Inst. of the City of Hope

**Jianke Zhang, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Thomas Jefferson Univ.

**Song Guo Zheng, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Univ. of Southern California

AAI Minority Scientist Travel Awards

**Adriana D. Benavides**

Graduate Student  
University of Texas Health Science  
Center at San Antonio

**Juan Pablo de Rivero Vaccari,  
Ph.D.**

Research Assistant Professor  
University of Miami

**Dante B. Descalzi Montoya**

Graduate Student  
University of Medicine  
and Dentistry of New Jersey

**Jessica M. Falcon**

Graduate Student  
Drexel University

**Curtis J. Henry, Ph.D.**

Postdoctoral Fellow  
University of Colorado School of  
Medicine

**Mayra X. Hernandez Sanabria,  
D.V.M., Ph.D.**

Postdoctoral Fellow  
Baylor College of Medicine

**Derek D. Jones**

Graduate Student  
Wadsworth Center

**Vanessa Kurzweil**

Graduate Student  
University of Pennsylvania

**Marvin A. Lai**

Graduate Student  
University of Washington

**Maria Del Rosario Lopez Ocasio**

Graduate Student  
SUNY Downstate Medical Center

**Sharline Madera**

Graduate Student  
Weill Cornell/Rockefeller/Sloan-  
Kettering Tri-Institutional

**Jorge L. Medina**

Graduate Student  
University of Texas Health Science  
Center at San Antonio

**Susan Realegeno**

Graduate Student  
University of California, Los Angeles

**Claudia Rival, Ph.D.**

Postdoctoral Fellow  
University of Virginia

**Annalise R. Smith**

Graduate Student  
University of Miami

**Damian L. Turner, Ph.D.**

Postdoctoral Fellow  
Columbia University

**Frances D. Valencia**

Graduate Student  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
at Galveston

**Peter Velazquez, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
—South Bend

**Abebayehu N. Yilma**

Graduate Student  
Alabama State University

AAI Undergraduate Faculty Travel Grants

**Erin S. Bromage, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
University of Massachusetts,  
Dartmouth

**John M. González, M.D.**

Associate Professor  
Universidad de los Andes

**Melanie R. Gubbels Bupp, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Randolph-Macon College

**Vandana Kalia, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Pennsylvania State University

**David J. Klinke, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
West Virginia University

**Kara R. Lukin, Ph.D.**

Instructor  
National Jewish Health

**Meenakshi Malik, D.V.M., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Albany College of Pharmacy  
and Health Sciences

**Yuko J. Miyamoto, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Elon University

**Paula M. Pitha-Rowe, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Johns Hopkins University —  
Homewood Campus

**Sophia D. Sarafova, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Davidson College

**Luis I. Terrazas, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Facultad de Estudios Superiores-  
Iztacala



# The Founding of AAI

Medical College, University of Minnesota (c.1908)

Image: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Detroit Publishing Company Collection



Early moving assembly line at Ford (ca.1913)  
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division

As the centennial year of The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) approaches, we can look back and appreciate the incredible advances that were taking place in the United States and the world in 1913.

- ▶ The Ford Motor Company introduced the first moving assembly line.
- ▶ The United States dedicated its first transcontinental road – the Lincoln Highway – linking New York and California.
- ▶ Construction on the Panama Canal, one of the seven wonders of the modern world, was finally completed.
- ▶ Congress created the Federal Reserve System to establish stability in the banking system.
- ▶ Woodrow Wilson was sworn in, becoming the first and only U.S. president with a Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ The Progressive Era ideal that efficiency, expertise, and professionalism could overcome societal problems and, potentially, nature itself was beginning to infuse federal government programs and public discourse.
- ▶ New technology and enhanced training were dramatically increasing the rate of discovery and, with it, specialization in science and medicine—as evidenced by the many *New York Times* front-page stories about new treatments for and the causes of diphtheria, rabies, cancer, and tuberculosis.

1. Woodrow Wilson earned his doctorate in history and political science in 1886 from Johns Hopkins University.

**O**n the unusually warm evening of June 19, 1913, far from the national spotlight or any mention on the front pages of newspapers, a small group of physicians met on the campus of the University of Minnesota to form a society for a new medical specialty. This new society would help define immunology as a bona fide area of specialization and would eventually become the preeminent professional association for immunologists in the world.



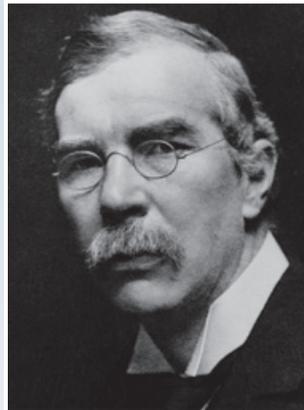
Martin J. Synnott

Image provided by The American Association of Immunologists Collection, Center for Biological Sciences Archives, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

These physicians had been attending the annual meeting of the American Medical Association<sup>2</sup> and were meeting at the invitation of Martin J. Synnott, a private practice physician from Montclair, New Jersey, who had made previous, failed attempts to organize a society of North American disciples of Sir Almroth Wright<sup>3</sup>.

On this day, however, he was finally successful, and The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) was founded. The new society quickly organized around a definitive name, a set of objectives, and leadership that would build the foundation for lasting success. In just a few years, the new society would lead in legitimizing a new scientific discipline as the group established its own annual meeting and created what was to become the most highly acclaimed peer-reviewed scientific journal in its field, *The Journal of Immunology (The JI)*.

The idea to form a new professional organization had first occurred to Synnott (AAI 1913, secretary 1913–1918) in early 1912. As a former student of Sir Almroth Wright (AAI Honorary 1914), Synnott wanted to bring together the men<sup>4</sup> in the United States and Canada who had trained with Wright and shared his vision of the emerging promise of vaccine therapy. In 1912, Synnott wrote to 49 former students of Wright's and received 40 favorable responses to his proposal for forming "The Society of Vaccine Therapists." These 40 physicians were in practices located across the continent, isolated from other colleagues schooled in Wright's premise that "the physician of the future would be a vaccine therapist."<sup>5</sup> Wright's "disciples" were not sufficiently organized in any fashion to promote awareness of the promise held by vaccine therapies.



Sir Almroth Wright

Image provided by The American Association of Immunologists Collection, Center for Biological Sciences Archives, UMBC

Wright was the founder and director of the Inoculation Department at St. Mary's Hospital in London and the Praed Street Laboratories. His laboratories were focused on the concept that "recovery from all infective diseases must be largely determined by the development of 'antibodies' in the patient's blood and that this process could be probably stimulated by inoculation of the appropriate vaccine." Wright advocated for more than mere vaccination, promoting a technique of vaccine therapy that he had developed. The therapy was based upon the premise that a sick patient could be injected with appropriate levels of a vaccine to "exploit the uninfected tissue in favor of the infected." His initial success in the early 1900s with an effective anti-typhoid inoculation technique had made the Praed Street Laboratories a magnet for new students. This inoculation technique was adopted by the British War Department in 1914 as standard procedure. Its success had earlier led to Wright's being inducted into knighthood.<sup>6</sup>

Despite the British military's adoption of his inoculation technique and his 1906 induction into knighthood, Wright's vaccine therapy research in 1912 was not appreciated or widely employed outside of England. Synnott's efforts to form the new Society of Vaccine Therapists were intended to promote awareness of the field's promise. Despite the 40 positive responses Synnott had received for the concept of the new society in 1912, too few of his colleagues were available for

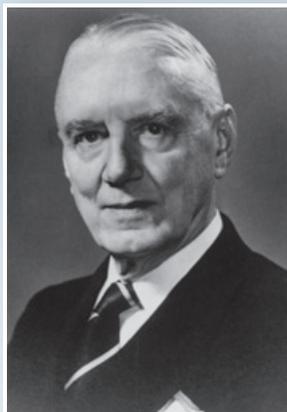
2. The exact number of attendees at the organizing meeting of AAI is unknown.
3. For more information on Almroth Wright see: Michael S. Dunnill, *The Plato of Praed Street: The Life And Times of Almroth Wright* (Royal Society of Medicine: London, 2001); Zachary Cope, *Almroth Wright: Founder of Modern Vaccine-therapy* (Nelson: London, 1966); Leonard Colebrook, *Almroth Wright: Provocative Doctor and Thinker* (William Heineman: London, 1954).
4. Almroth Wright was a publicly acclaimed anti-suffragist, and he never allowed women into his laboratory. There were no women scientists under his tutelage to invite to join.
5. Almroth E. Wright, *Studies on Immunisation and Their Application to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Bacterial Infections* (Archibald Constable & Co.: London, 1909).
6. Leonard Colebrook, "Almroth Edward Wright. 1861-1947," *Obituary Notices of Fellows of the Royal Society*, 6, no. 17 (1948): 299-300. The adoption of Wright's anti-typhoid inoculation technique made England the only country to have troops resistant to typhoid at the onset of the First World War. Wright was knighted in 1906 for recognition of his research and successes in preventive inoculation against the enteric group of infections, notably typhoid fever.

the proposed organizational meeting. He soon made another attempt, calling for a meeting on the evening of May 5, 1913, at the Hotel Raleigh, Washington, DC, during the annual meeting of the Association of American Physicians. Still, there were too few participants. Undeterred, Synnott scheduled the successful Minneapolis organizational meeting from which the new professional society emerged that summer.

In Synnott's view, it was a society of vaccine therapists. The scope and membership of the new society formed at the meeting, however, departed significantly from Synnott's initial concept, encompassing a broader view of the science and clinical practice. This difference was reflected in the name of the new society: The American Association of Immunologists.

The name is attributed to Gerald B. Webb, a nationally renowned tuberculosis physician and researcher who would become the first president of the society. Although he had trained with Wright and was a devoted disciple, he was concerned that Synnott's proposed Society of Vaccine Therapists would impose restrictions on future growth of the new organization.<sup>7</sup> For Webb, linking a society exclusively with vaccine therapy posed two major problems. First, he was aware that Wright's theories and methods were viewed with skepticism in England and Europe, and he sought to avoid this tarnish.<sup>8</sup> Second, restricting a society to a single process would limit its interest. If the new society was perceived as anchored only in vaccine therapy, Webb feared it would not attract clinicians and researchers in other related, growing fields, such as experimental pathology. To make the society more inclusive and flexible, the founders expanded the list of eligible members to include physicians and researchers who had trained with Élie Metchnikoff,<sup>9</sup> Paul Ehrlich, August von Wassermann, as well as in "other famous laboratories in Europe."<sup>10</sup> They also sought a name for the organization that would connote a broader mission and position the society for growth with scientific and medical advances. They settled upon using a new term, "immunology," in the name.

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the word "immunology" had entered the English language through its use by two future AAI members and presidents shortly before the founding of AAI. In 1909 Ludvig Hektoen (AAI president 1926) was the first to use the word. He did so in his article, "Opsonins and Other Antibodies," in *Science*.<sup>11</sup> Hektoen used the term only once – and only in passing – when referring to the law of opsonin production: "In the language of immunology any substance capable of giving rise to antibodies in suitable animals is called an antigen." Then, a mere three months before AAI was formed, Frederick P. Gay (AAI 1918, president 1921) defined immunology as a distinct scientific discipline in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. In his article, "Immunology: A Medical Science Developed



Gerald B. Webb

Image provided by The American Association of Immunologists Collection, Center for Biological Sciences Archives, UMBC

through Animal Experimentation," Gay asserted that "[t]he science of immunity, or immunology, would explain the mechanism by which the animal body is enabled to resist disease."<sup>12</sup>

In 1913, Webb was well aware of Wright's 1909 proclamation that "the physician of the future will be an immunisator," and, as his biographer makes clear, Webb preferred Gay's broad definition of "immunology" to the narrow denotation of Wright's "immunisator," referring very specifically to an immunizer, inoculator, or vaccine therapist.<sup>13</sup>

Nearly 65 years later, the wisdom of Webb's preference was praised for its importance to the recognition of immunology as a scientific discipline when David Talmage (AAI 1954, president 1978–1979) stated, "I believe we can properly attribute [immunology's] prominence in our vocabulary, if not its invention, to Dr. Webb."<sup>14</sup>

Beyond naming the new society at the founding meeting, the members also created a mission statement in the form of three objectives. The first two reflected the inclusiveness set forth with the use of "immunology" in the name. "To unite the physicians of the United States and Canada who are engaged in the scientific study of immunology and bacterial therapy. To study the problems of immunology, and to promote by its concerted efforts scientific research in this department." The third objective clearly stemmed from Synnott's intention to promote awareness of Wright's teachings: "To spread a correct knowledge of vaccine therapy and immunology among general practitioners." The dues of the association, to be fixed annually by the Council, were "not to exceed Five Dollars (\$5.00)."<sup>15</sup>

7. Helen Clapesattle, *Dr. Webb of Colorado Springs* (Colorado Associated University Press: Boulder, CO, 1984), 215.

8. Clapesattle, 215.

9. Born Ilya Ilyich Mechnikov, he was also known as Élie Metchnikoff.

10. Martin Synnott, "A Historical Sketch," (1914). AAI Archives. It is unknown which laboratories Synnott and Webb considered "famous."

11. "Immunology," *Oxford English Dictionary*, <http://www.oed.com> (accessed 19 March 2012); Ludvig Hektoen, "Opsonins and Other Antibodies," *Science*, 29, no. 737 (1909): 241–248. It is unclear when Dr. Hektoen was elected a member of AAI. It is possible it was 1919, as the election information from that year is missing in the AAI Archives.

12. *Oxford English Dictionary*; Frederick P. Gay, "Immunology: A Medical Science Developed through Animal Experimentation," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 56, no. 8 (1911): 578–583.

13. Clapesattle, 216.

14. David W. Talmage, "Presidential Address: Beyond Cellular Immunology," *The Journal of Immunology* 123, no. 1 (1979): 1.

15. Minutes of the First Annual Meeting of The American Association of Immunologists, 22 June 1914. AAI Archives.

Requirements for election to the membership were established. A candidate had to be nominated by one member, be endorsed by two additional members, have provided the AAI secretary with “papers” that indicated the character of his or her contributions to immunology, and have “at least one published contribution to the science of immunology.” The candidate had to be a “graduate of medicine,” although no specific degree requirements were mentioned.

The officers elected during the 1913 meeting were Webb (president), Synnott (secretary), George W. Ross (vice-president), Willard J. Stone (treasurer), and five councillors, including A. Parker Hitchens (chairman of the council), Oscar Berghausen, Campbell Laidlaw, Henry L. Ulrich, and J.E. Robinson. The officers set a date and location for their next meeting, the first AAI annual meeting: June 1, 1914, in Atlantic City, New Jersey.<sup>16</sup>

Although the date was eventually moved to later in the month, 18 of 52 initial AAI members did, in fact, convene for the first annual meeting of the society on June 22, 1914, at the Hotel Chelsea in Atlantic City. According to the minutes of the first annual meeting, “the work of developing the society had progressed slowly but effectively” since Minneapolis.<sup>17</sup> Membership in AAI had increased from its 52 initial members to 59 with the election of seven new scientists at the meeting. The leadership was kept in place as all of the officers were re-elected, and a draft of the constitution and by-laws was proposed to provide organizational stability. The impetus for future growth, however, was provided by the interesting science presented at this first annual meeting and the founders’ creativity in plans for membership development.

Attendees at this meeting discussed a range of diverse topics during the one-day conference. Presented at the meeting were a few papers on techniques or hypotheses that would not be borne out by later experimentation and that would not be considered “immunology” by today’s standards, but several of the speakers presented studies and technical innovations that did presage the ultimate focus of the field. (See *Science at the First AAI Annual Meeting*, p. 30 of this newsletter.)

The members at this first meeting may have had little experience in membership development, but they did not lack imagination for novel ways to enhance the prestige of membership in the society. They established two discretionary membership classes defined vaguely enough to convey member status on a group of prestigious British physicians focused on vaccine therapy at St. Mary’s Hospital.<sup>18</sup> The first of these special membership classes created was the Honorary Member category, to which they elected Almroth Wright and Captain S. R. Douglas.<sup>19</sup> The second category was that of Corresponding Member, to which they elected Alexander Fleming and John Freeman.<sup>20</sup>

Of the 59 Charter Members, the majority were clinicians or professors, and, in keeping with the trend prior to the Second World War, there were very few, if any, Ph.D.s;<sup>21</sup> most, if not all, of the Charter Members were M.D.s. The association had a broad geographical reach and included members from as far north as Toronto, Canada, and as far south as Temple, Texas; from as far east as Boston, Massachusetts, and as far west as Honolulu, Hawaii. The Philadelphia region boasted the most early members (12), followed by New York City region (11), and Ohio (7). The Charter Members also included a constituency that would have been anathema to the vehemently anti-suffrage Wright: two women.<sup>22</sup>

Growth of the new society was robust enough that, by the time of that first annual meeting in Atlantic City, even Synnott seems to have accepted the utility of Webb’s preferred term of “immunologist” over “immunisator.” When asked to offer attendees an account of the founding of the society, Synnott took liberties in paraphrasing Wright’s famous assertion, stating that “the physician of the future would be an *immunologist*,” and that the new society “would in a few years be one of the most important medical organizations on this continent.”<sup>23</sup> Though Webb is often cast as the most important founding member, two less heralded Charter Members were equally important to the continued success of the new society: A. Parker Hitchens (AAI 1913, Council president 1913–1917) and Richard Weil (AAI 1914, president 1916–1917). As the president of the Council, Hitchens drafted the first AAI Constitution and By-laws, which established how the organization was to be governed. He was also almost solely responsible for making sure that AAI was a co-founder of *The Journal of Immunology* with the New York Society for Serology and Hematology (see *AAI Newsletter*, Dec. 2011).

Weil had an equal, if less obvious, impact on the association during his abbreviated membership. He was a Charter Member

16. “Medical News,” *Journal of the American Medical Association* 61, no. 23 (1913): 2079.

17. Minutes of the First Annual Meeting of The American Association of Immunologists, 22 June 1914. AAI Archives.

18. When the AAI Constitution and By-Laws document was adopted in April 1917, the only membership category was “Active.” Honorary and Corresponding memberships were eliminated. The majority of the Honorary Members were transferred to Active membership and the Corresponding Members were all removed from the AAI membership rolls. The Honorary membership returned in 1935 but was then very similar to the current AAI Emeritus Member classification.

19. S. R. Douglas, F.R.S. (1871–1936) was a bacteriologist and captain in the R.A.M.C. In 1902, Douglas became an assistant to Wright, was the initial assistant director of the inoculation department at St. Mary’s Hospital, and in 1914, became the deputy director of the National Institute for Medical Research (UK). In 1903, Wright and Douglas published a paper on the role of the body fluids in phagocytosis, which helped stimulate work on vaccines and vaccine therapy.

20. Alexander Fleming (1881–1955), a student and protégé of Wright’s, is best known for his discovery of penicillin in 1928 for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1945. John Freeman, D.M. (1877–1962) was one of Wright’s first disciples, who spent his entire professional career at St. Mary’s Hospital. Primarily a bacteriologist, Freeman also carried out research in allergy and asthma.

21. The founders classified those who joined AAI before 1915 as Charter Members.

22. “Roll of Charter Members,” c. 1914. AAI Archives.

23. Martin Synnott, “A Historical Sketch,” c.1914. AAI Archives. [emphasis added]

and served as AAI president from 1916 to 1917, but his most enduring contributions to the society were in his recruitment of members and his early assistance to *The JI*. Shortly before his retirement, Arthur Coca (AAI 1916, secretary-treasurer 1918–1945, editor-in-chief 1920–1948) singled out Weil, praising him for having “used his considerable influence to induce outstanding immunologists to join [AAI].”<sup>24</sup> Coca also recalled Weil’s “more optimistic” view of the new journal, which led him to contribute four papers for the first issue. Weil’s papers, in Coca’s estimation, “helped materially” to start the journal.<sup>25</sup>



Richard Weil

Image provided by The American Association of Immunologists Collection, Center for Biological Sciences Archives, UMBC

Further, Coca credited Weil for his role in selecting the initial editorial board for *The JI*. The founders of AAI were enjoying great momentum, but all of their good efforts were soon to be abruptly interrupted.

On April 6, 1917, while AAI members were in New York City for their fourth annual meeting, they learned that the United States Congress had declared war on Germany. The “war to end all wars,” which had been raging in Europe for almost three years, had now become a reality for America, and her citizens quickly mobilized for war. As in all other areas of American life, the war had an immediate and lasting impact on the nascent society.

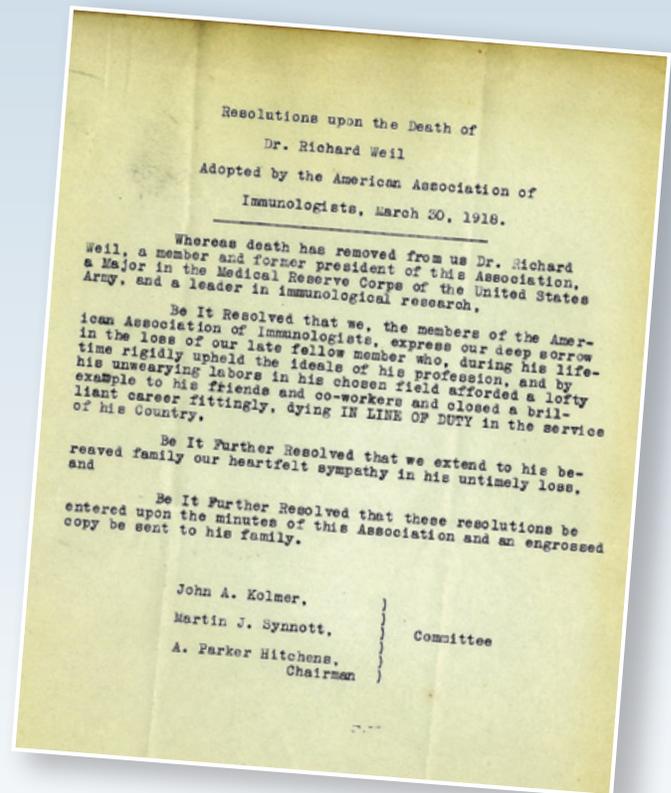
On the same day that they learned the United States had entered the First World War, members of the AAI Council passed the following resolution of shared sacrifice:

Whereas the Government of the United States may soon need the services of trained bacteriologists and immunologists and the facilities of their respective laboratories,

Be it Resolved, that the American Association of Immunologists in meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 1917, as a body and as individuals, offer their services and the facilities of their laboratories to the Federal and respective State governments; and,

Be it further Resolved, that the secretary of the American Association of Immunologists send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of War.

Many members of AAI and others in the medical and scientific community quickly joined the war effort. AAI President Weil



Weil Resolution

Image provided by AAI

was among them. A number of members stayed in their laboratories to carry out wartime research, while others enlisted in the U.S. Army Medical Reserve Corps and were sent to bases around the country.

The focus of the laboratories in wartime shifted to meet the needs of the military, conducting research into the pandemic influenza,<sup>26</sup> trench diseases, and wound-related infections. Wartime mobilization also directly affected the society’s leadership. Willard Stone had to relinquish his duties as AAI treasurer when he was stationed at the base hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas, in 1917.<sup>27</sup> And Weil was assigned first to Fort Benjamin Harrison near Lawrence, Indiana, and then to Camp Wheeler, outside of Macon, Georgia, as chief of medical service to help quell an outbreak of measles and pneumonia at the camp. Tragically, Weil died of complications from pneumonia on November 19, 1917, only a few months after arriving at the camp.<sup>28</sup> He was the only AAI member to die during the war, but

24. Letter from Arthur F. Coca to Geoffrey Edsall, 30 August 1915. AAI Archives.

25. Arthur F. Coca, “AFC History beginning of Journal of Immunology,” undated [c. 1951]. AAI Archives.

26. For more detail on the pandemic influenza research during the First World War, see John M. Barry, *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History* (Penguin Books: New York, 2005); Alfred W. Crosby, *America’s Forgotten Pandemic: The Influenza of 1918*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge University Press: New York, 2003); Dorothy A. Pettit and Janice Bailie, *A Cruel Wind: Pandemic Flu in America, 1918–1920* (Timberlane Books: Murfreesboro, TN, 2008).

27. Letter from Willard J. Stone to John A. Kolmer, 24 December 1917. AAI Archives. Fort Riley has been identified by some historians as Ground Zero for the pandemic influenza.

28. *The New York Times*, “Major R. Weil Dies at Camp Wheeler”, 20 November 1917. See also; “Major Richard Weil, M.O.R.C.,” *The Journal of Immunology* 3, no. 1 (1918): IN1–vii.

his death dealt AAI a profound loss. At its fifth annual meeting in 1918, AAI passed a resolution honoring his legacy.<sup>29</sup>

The year 1920 marked another important year in the history of AAI. It was in that year that the New York Society for Serology and Hematology (SSH) and AAI were merged. SSH had “omitted its monthly meeting for over a year and, since the function of the societies had been in a measure superseded by the American Association of Immunologists, it was deemed advisable to consolidate the societies.”<sup>30</sup> Its members were provided the option of AAI membership. This event added significantly to the size of the organization by adding a number of SSH members to the AAI rolls.<sup>31</sup> The absorption of SSH by AAI eliminated the only other organization in the United States “having interest in immunological matters.”<sup>32</sup> Additionally, *The JI* became the “property and official organ” of AAI.<sup>33</sup>

By the close of 1920, AAI boasted a membership of 152 physicians and scientists from 22 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada, including 16 women members.<sup>34</sup> The membership included the preeminent American scientists and physicians Simon Flexner, Theobald Smith, Oswald Avery, Hans Zinsser, Rufus Cole, Victor Vaughn, William H. Park, Anna Williams, Elise L’Esperance, and George McCoy (the first director of the National Institutes of Health<sup>35</sup>). Within the next ten years, the membership was to include Karl Landsteiner, Hideyo Noguchi, Karl F. Meyer, Paul DeKruif, and Bela Shick.

AAI was now fulfilling Webb’s and other founders’ earliest vision for the society. The membership was inclusive and flexible, with clinicians, researchers, and public health scientists. With the successful founding of AAI and the preeminence of *The JI*, the standing of immunology as a distinct discipline of science was broadly recognized by the 1920s.

Today, AAI is the largest, most prestigious professional association for immunologists worldwide, with approximately 7,500 members in 60 countries. The society fulfills its founders’ ideals in today’s mission to “promote by its concerted efforts scientific research” in immunology through a dedication to advancing the knowledge of immunology and its related disciplines, fostering the interchange of ideas and information among investigators, and addressing the potential integration of immunologic principles into clinical practice. Since the society’s founding 99 years ago, 19 AAI members have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 45 have received Lasker Awards, and two have been awarded the Kyoto Prize.

*The Journal of Immunology* has maintained a level of noted prominence in the field—if not all of bioscience—for almost one century. As the largest journal in the field, it has been dedicated to consistently featuring important and innovative research across a breadth of topics. With over 150 editors and 4,000 volunteer reviewers, *The JI* provides full peer review for the more than 3,500 manuscripts submitted annually.

The AAI annual meeting has evolved from 60 earnest scientists meeting for one day in Atlantic City to over 3,500 scientists meeting for 5 days in selected major cities around the United States. In 2011, 1,768 scientific abstracts were presented; 160 speakers were featured in symposia and other sessions; 130 scientific companies occupied the exhibit floor; and galas, receptions, and parties were held almost every evening.

Every year, hundreds of AAI members work on behalf of their colleagues as members of the *The JI* Editorial Board, session chairs at the annual meeting, speakers and course instructors, and members or chairs of committees.

The association is overseen by the AAI Council, eight of the most prestigious members, elected to their positions by the membership. The AAI is professionally managed by a hired staff with diverse expertise including scientists who are AAI members.

Each year, AAI gives approximately 500 grants and awards to talented early- and mid-career scientists to cultivate the next generation of leaders and investigators, and AAI recognizes the most senior and accomplished members with a variety of career awards. Through the annual meeting, *The Journal of Immunology*, courses, and the work of its many committees, AAI continues to push forward the boundaries of knowledge in the field and improve the quality of professional life for its members. AAI provides a strong central voice for immunologists, bringing members’ science and issues to the attention of policymakers, funding agencies, and the public.

Not even Synnott could possibly have imagined what that first meeting on a hot summer day in Minneapolis would bring.

29. John A. Kolmer, Martin H. Synnott, A. Parker Hitchens, “Resolutions upon the Death of Dr. Richard Weil,” 30 March 1918. AAI Archives.

30. Letter from David J. Kalinski to “Members of the Society for Serology and Hematology” c. 1920. AAI Archives.

31. The actual number of SSH members who joined AAI in 1920 is unclear. The official records state that 19 SSH members joined AAI that year. However, there were an additional 56 eligible SSH members who were provided the opportunity to join, and some of them did, including Elise L’Esperance and future AAI President Lemuel W. Famulener. No official documentation survives for the exact total or dates of election to AAI of the 56 eligible SSH members.

32. Coca, “AFC History beginning of Journal of Immunology.”

33. Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of The American Association of Immunologists, 31 March 1920. AAI Archives.

34. The total membership numbers are the most conservative based on the existing documents in the AAI Archive. Membership in AAI was counted only where election results are verifiable. The most problematic years in reconstructing total AAI membership are 1919 and 1920. The AAI council records, which include elections and resignations, from 1919 are completely missing and the records for SSH members joining AAI in 1920 are incomplete.

35. The Ransdell Act (1930) reorganized, expanded, and renamed the Hygienic Laboratory (created in 1887) as the National Institutes of Health. Joseph J. Kinyoun founded and was the first director of the Hygienic Laboratory, serving from 1887 to 1899.

# Science at the First AAI Annual Meeting

The 18 scientists who met in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on June 22, 1914, for the first AAI annual meeting were a mere handful compared with attendance today, yet the scientific basis of later AAI annual meetings was already evident at this first meeting.

The attendees discussed a diverse range of topics that would help define the new field of immunology. As most of the early AAI members were clinicians, and as communicable diseases, which today are easily curable, were still a public health menace, many of the presentations at the meeting focused on public health issues of the time—and, not surprisingly, the topics (and terminology) examined in these early years were rather different from those today. Presentations included examinations of “specific ferments” produced by cells against bacteria, a comparison of available diagnostic tests for syphilis, a study of complement fixation tests to determine the causative bacterium in infective arthritis deformans, and an examination of the intraspinal treatment of syphilis with salvarsan, an organoarsenic and anti-syphilitic compound then in use.

The early science was not without its missteps. The meeting began with several presentations on the Aberhalden Test, a test based on “defensive,” specific proteases formed by exposure of cells to a foreign protein and thought to be diagnostic of pregnancy, infection, and cancer. Although the theory of defensive proteases was not supported by later work, and the pregnancy test developed by Aberhalden was ultimately found to be unreliable, William Whitridge Williams and Clarence B. Ingraham, both of Denver, Colorado, concluded in their presentation on the Aberhalden Pregnancy Test that the test “might be considered a definite and reliable reaction.” However, there was some disagreement among the attending scientists about the nature of the “ferments” produced by cells upon contact with a foreign organism or protein and whether they were protease- or antibody-based.

Other science presented at the meeting perhaps provided a firmer foundation for future work and discoveries in the field. Several scientists, including F. M. Pottenger of Monrovia, California, and Jacob Bronfenbrenner of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, gave presentations on the merits of tuberculin therapy—the treatment of tuberculosis with extracts of its bacterial cultures. Although the therapy had not been curative, they debated whether the poor efficacy was a result of differences in animal models vs. human patients or the strain from which the tuberculin was isolated. Although this therapy never became the standard of care, due to inconsistent application and considerable side effects, its deficiencies did inform later immunotherapies for tuberculosis.

Of course, as remains true today, several talks at the meeting dealt with technical innovations, such as a technique for preparing bacterial vaccines pure of extraneous proteins from culture media or a method for culturing infected tissue from arthritis patients.

The scientists at the first AAI annual meeting presented their findings, secure in the knowledge that these studies were of critical import to the future of human health. Gerald B. Webb asserted the importance of the organization and the field in the first AAI Presidential Address when he “agreed with [Sir Almroth E.] Wright that the physician of the future would be an immunologist.”

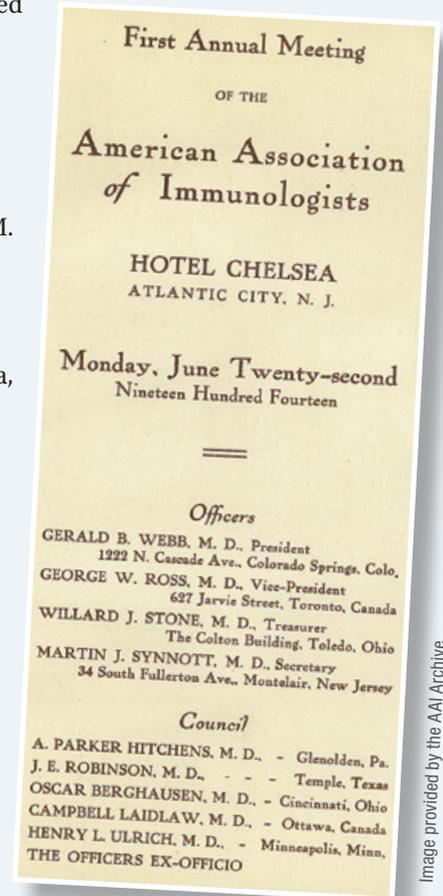
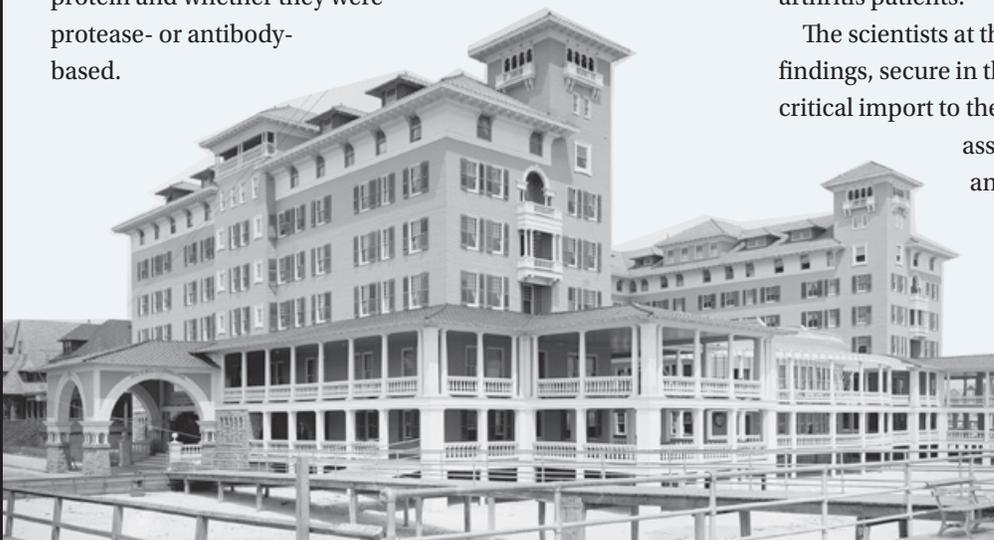


Image provided by the AAI Archive



*Hotel Chelsea, Atlantic City, N.J., location of the first AAI annual meeting*

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# Grant & Award Deadlines

## Novel Approaches to Lupus Grant Deadline is May 31

The Lupus Research Institute (LRI) invites applications for financial support for idea-driven, novel research projects relevant to basic, translational, or clinical investigation in lupus. Annual funding of up to \$100,000 per year, for a term of up to three years beginning December 2012, will be awarded for approved projects.

Grants are made to support novel research projects that evidence high promise for advancing the understanding of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. Research applications will be judged principally on novelty of hypothesis, scientific quality, strength of approach, relevance to lupus, and likelihood of success. Creativity will be valued. Rationale for the hypothesis to be tested rather than preliminary data will be emphasized. Therefore, continuations of long-term research projects are not appropriate for this submission.

Projects on aspects of the disease that have been less extensively studied and applications from investigators in diverse disciplines, including those who may not have previously worked in lupus, are encouraged. Investigations should be relevant to basic, translational, or clinical research on lupus.

While the Institute encourages projects based on novel explorations of human lupus biology—innovative studies that use human material to address the physiological, cellular, molecular, and/or genetic basis of human lupus—projects solely based on cellular, molecular, and/or animal models are also encouraged.

Established and new investigators alike may apply. Applicants should hold advanced degrees and be affiliated with institutions of higher learning in the United States. The grant recipient is required to attend the LRI's annual scientific conference each year, including the conference following the end of the grant period.

- ▶ Applications must be received by May 31, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.
- ▶ Applications must be submitted electronically to <http://proposalcentral.altum.com/>.
- ▶ In addition to the electronic submission, applicants are required to submit an original and one paper copy, which must **arrive** at the Institute office on or before May 31. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- ▶ For details on the required application components and rules governing LRI grants, visit <http://lupusresearchinstitute.org/files/images/Rules-Governing-Grants-2012.pdf>.
- ▶ To submit an application, visit Proposal Central at <http://proposalcentral.altum.com/>.
- ▶ For additional information, contact Laura Hack, Grants Administrator, at [lhack@lupusny.org](mailto:lhack@lupusny.org) or (212) 685-4118.

## Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology Award Nominations Due July 1

Nominations for the 2012 Abbott Award in Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology may be submitted until July 1.

Annually since 1992, the Abbott Award in Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology has honored a distinguished scientist for outstanding contributions to clinical or diagnostic immunology. Sponsored by the Abbott Diagnostic Division, the award is presented at the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) annual meeting.

The nominee must demonstrate significant contributions to the understanding of the functioning of the host immune system in human disease, clinical approaches to diseases involving the immune system, or development or clinical application of immunodiagnostic procedures.

The award comprises a cash prize of \$2,500, a commemorative piece, and travel to the ASM annual meeting, where the laureate will present the Abbott Award in Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology lecture.

Nominations will be considered without updating for three years. Self-nominations and more than one nomination per nominee will not be accepted. Only one nominating form and two supporting forms are accepted per nomination. The two supporters must be persons other than the nominator who are familiar with the nominee's qualifications and accomplishments. Only one of the three individuals involved in the nomination may be employed at the nominee's institution. The nominator and supporters must not share employers.

Nominations must consist of the following:

- ▶ Curriculum vitae, including a list of publications, emailed to [awards@asmusa.org](mailto:awards@asmusa.org)
- ▶ Nominating form
- ▶ Supporting form

For complete details and nomination forms, visit <http://www.asm.org/asm/index.php/awards-grants/abbott-laboratories-award-in-clinical-and-diagnostic-immunology-b.html>.

ASM awards are granted at the discretion of award selection committees and may not be awarded every year.

A global leader in in vitro diagnostics, Abbott Diagnostics offers innovative instrument systems and tests for hospitals, reference labs, blood banks, physician offices, and clinics in more than 100 countries.

# Meetings Calendar

Mark your calendar with these important dates!

## 2012

### MAY 21-23, 2012

**12th International Conference on Myasthenia Gravis and Related Disorders**  
New York, NY  
<http://www.nyas.org/MG12>

### MAY 23-25, 2012

**10th Annual Meeting of the Association for Cancer Immunotherapy (CIMT): Towards Next-Generation Immunotherapy**  
Mainz, Germany  
<http://meeting.cimt.eu/g>

### MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2012

**Fifth International Gamma-Delta T-Cell Conference**  
Freiburg, Germany  
<http://www.gammadelta-conference.de/>

### JUNE 2-5, 2012

**2012 American Transplant Congress (AST)**  
Boston, MA  
<http://www.atcmeeting.org/>

### JUNE 4-8, 2012

**Development, Function and Repair of the Muscle Cell**  
New York, NY  
[http://www.musclebiology.org/General\\_Information.html](http://www.musclebiology.org/General_Information.html)

### JUNE 7-8, 2012

**5th International Singapore Symposium of Immunology**  
University Town, Singapore  
<http://www.sgsi2012.org/>

### JUNE 7-10, 2012

**Trypsin-like Proteases: Structure, Function and Regulation**  
Tahoe City, CA  
<http://www.asbmb.org/ASBMBMeetings/SpecialSymposia/symposia.aspx?mid=21>

### JUNE 10-14, 2012

**Summer School in Computational Immunology**  
Rochester, NY  
<https://cbim.urmc.rochester.edu/education/2012-summer-school>

### JUNE 10-15, 2012

**Gordon Research Conference on Immunochemistry & Immunobiology**  
Les Diablerets, Switzerland  
<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2012&program=immunochem>

### JUNE 15-18, 2012

**Canadian Society for Immunology 25th Annual Spring Meeting**  
Sheraton St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada  
<http://www.csi-sci.ca/>

### JUNE 18-21, 2012

**3rd Midyear Conference, International Cytokine Society - IL-17 and Related Cytokines: Basic Biology and Clinical Application**  
Dublin, Ireland  
<http://www.dublincytokines2012.com/>

### JUNE 21-23, 2012

**International Clinical Research Conference on Ataxia-Telangiectasia 2012**  
Cambridge, UK  
<http://www.atsociety.org.uk/>

### JUNE 23-27, 2012

**CYTO 2012: XXVII Congress of the International Society for the Advancement of Cytometry**  
Leipzig, Germany  
<http://www.cytoconference.org/pages/upload/file/save%20the%20date%20flyer2012.pdf>

### JUNE 24-29, 2012

**FASEB Biology of the Immune System**  
Snowmass Village, CO  
<http://www.faseb.org/src/Home/Conferences/Future-Conferences.aspx>

### JUNE 27-29, 2012

**Mitochondria: Energy, Signals and Systems**  
Lansing, MI  
<http://www.asbmb.org/ASBMBMeetings/SpecialSymposia/symposia.aspx?mid=22>

### JUNE 28-29, 2012

**Summer Frontiers Symposium-Training the Innate Immunity: Immunological Memory in Innate Host Defense**  
Nijmegen, The Netherlands  
<http://www.innateimmunity.nl/>

### JULY 9-25, 2012

**4th Summer Institute in Statistics and Modeling in Infectious Diseases**  
Seattle, WA  
<http://depts.washington.edu/sismid/index.html>

### JULY 14-19, 2012

**AAI Introductory Course in Immunology**  
Philadelphia, PA  
<http://aai.org/Education/Courses/Intro/index.html>

**July 19-23, 2012****Society for Developmental Biology 71st Annual Meeting**

Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
<http://www.sdbonline.org/2012Mtg.htm>

**JULY 21-25, 2012****The American Society for Virology 31st Annual Scientific Meeting**

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI  
<http://www.asv.org/>

**July 22-28, 2012****20th Annual International Conference on Composites or Nano Engineering**

Beijing, China  
<http://www.icce-nano.org/>

**JULY 29-AUGUST 3, 2012****AAI Advanced Course in Immunology**

Boston, MA  
<http://aai.org/Education/Courses/Advanced/index.html>

**AUGUST 19-21, 2012****Cell Symposia on Human Immunity**

Sheraton Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal  
<http://www.cell-symposia-human-immunity.com/>

**SEPTEMBER 4-9, 2012****Frontiers in Lipid Biology**

Banff, Alberta, Canada  
<http://www.asbmb.org/ASBMBMeetings/SpecialSymposia/symposia.aspx?mid=23>

**SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2012****European Congress of Immunology 2012**

Glasgow, Scotland  
<http://eci-glasgow2012.com/>

**SEPTEMBER 11-15, 2012****10th Joint ICS/ISICR Meeting-Cytokines: From Basic Biology to Clinical Application**

Geneva, Switzerland  
<http://www.cytokines2012.com/>

**SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2012****Colorado Immunology Conference**

Vail, CO  
<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschoo/departments/immunology/events/Pages/2012ImmunologyConferenceSchedule.aspx>

**SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2012****Alternatives to Antibiotics (ATA) World Organization for Animal Health**

Paris, France  
<http://www.alternativestoantibiotics.org/>

**OCTOBER 4-8, 2012****Transcriptional Regulation: Chromatin and RNA Polymerase II**

Snowbird, UT  
<http://www.asbmb.org/ASBMBMeetings/SpecialSymposia/symposia.aspx?mid=24>

**OCTOBER 9-11, 2012****La Jolla Immunology Conference**

La Jolla, CA  
<http://liai.org>

**OCTOBER 11-14, 2012****Post Translational Modifications: Detection and Physiological Role**

Tahoe City, CA  
<http://www.asbmb.org/ASBMBMeetings/SpecialSymposia/symposia.aspx?mid=25>

**OCTOBER 12-16, 2012****ASBMR 34th Annual Meeting**

Minneapolis, MN  
<http://www.asbmr.org/>

**OCTOBER 21-24, 2012****14th Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference**

Bolton Landing, NY  
<http://www.amc.edu/NYIC/index.html>

**OCTOBER 27-28, 2012****New England Immunology Conference**

Woods Hole, MA  
<http://neic.uche.edu>

**OCTOBER 28-30, 2012****45th Annual Meeting of the Society for Leukocyte Biology, "Inflammation in Innate Immunity and Adaptive Immune Mechanisms"**

Grand Wailea, Maui, HI  
<http://www.leukocytebiology.org/>

**NOVEMBER 6-10, 2012****American Society of Human Genetics**

San Francisco, CA  
 Contact: [paulinem@ashg.org](mailto:paulinem@ashg.org)

**NOVEMBER 16-19, 2012****AIC 2012: 41st Annual Autumn Immunology Conference**

Chicago, IL  
<http://autumnimmunology.org/>

**NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 1, 2012****6th Asian Congress of Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ACPID 2012)**

Colombo, Sri Lanka  
<http://www.acpid2012.org/>

**DECEMBER 2-4, 2012****2012 CRWAD Meeting: Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases/ American Association of Veterinary Immunologists**

Chicago, IL  
<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/mip/crwad/>

**DECEMBER 15-19, 2012****2012 American Society for Cell Biology Annual Meeting**

San Francisco, CA  
<http://www.ascb.org/>

**2013****JANUARY 26-29, 2013****52nd Midwinter Conference of Immunologists**

Pacific Grove, CA  
<http://www.midwconimmunol.org/>

## **FEBRUARY 13-17, 2013**

### **2013 BMT Tandem Meeting**

Salt Lake City, UT

<http://www.cibmtr.org/Meetings/Tandem/index.html>

## **APRIL 5-8, 2013**

### **Canadian Society for Immunology**

#### **26th Annual Spring Meeting**

TELUS Whistler Conference Centre, Whistler, British Columbia, Canada

<http://www.csi-sci.ca/>

## **APRIL 20-24, 2013**

### **Experimental Biology (EB)**

Boston, MA

Contact: [eb@faseb.org](mailto:eb@faseb.org)

## **MAY 18-21, 2013**

### **2013 American Transplant Congress (AST)**

Seattle, WA

<http://www.atcmeeting.org/>

## **MAY 3-7, 2013**

### **IMMUNOLOGY 2013™**

#### **AAI Centennial & AAI Annual Meeting**

Honolulu, HI

<http://www.IMMUNOLOGY2013.org>

## **MAY 19-23, 2013**

### **CYTO 2013 (International Society for Advancement of Cytometry)**

San Diego, CA

Contact: [rjaseb@faseb.org](mailto:rjaseb@faseb.org)

## **JULY 7-10, 2013**

### **14th International TNF Conference**

Loews Le Concorde, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

<http://www.tnf2013.com/>

## **JULY 20-24, 2013**

### **The American Society for Virology 32nd Annual Scientific Meeting**

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

<http://www.asv.org/>

## **AUGUST 22-27, 2013**

### **15th International Congress of Immunology**

Milan, Italy

<http://www.ici2013.org/>

## **OCTOBER 4-8, 2013**

### **ASBMR 35th Annual Meeting**

Baltimore, MD

<http://www.asbmr.org/>

# 2014

## **FEBRUARY 19-23, 2014**

### **2014 BMT Tandem Meeting**

Orlando, FL

<http://www.cibmtr.org/Meetings/Tandem/index.html>

## **APRIL 26-30, 2014**

### **Experimental Biology (EB)**

San Diego, CA

Contact: [eb@faseb.org](mailto:eb@faseb.org)

## **MAY 2-6, 2014**

### **IMMUNOLOGY 2014™**

#### **AAI Annual Meeting**

Pittsburgh, PA

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

## **MAY 17-21, 2014**

### **CYTO 2014 (International Society for Advancement of Cytometry)**

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Contact: [rjaseb@faseb.org](mailto:rjaseb@faseb.org)

## **JUNE 21-25, 2014**

### **The American Society for Virology 33rd Annual Scientific Meeting**

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

<http://www.asv.org/>

## **SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2014**

### **ASBMR 36th Annual Meeting**

Houston, TX

<http://www.asbmr.org/>

# 2015

## **FEBRUARY 11-15, 2015**

### **2015 BMT Tandem Meeting**

San Diego, CA

<http://www.cibmtr.org/Meetings/Tandem/index.htm>

## **MARCH 28-APRIL 1, 2015**

### **Experimental Biology (EB)**

Boston, MA

Contact: [eb@faseb.org](mailto:eb@faseb.org)

## **MAY 8-12**

### **IMMUNOLOGY 2015™**

#### **AAI Annual Meeting**

New Orleans, LA

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

## **JULY 11-15, 2015**

### **The American Society for Virology 34th Annual Scientific Meeting**

The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

<http://www.asv.org/>

## **OCTOBER 9-13, 2015**

### **ASBMR 37th Annual Meeting**

Seattle, WA

<http://www.asbmr.org/>

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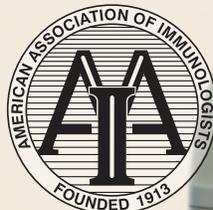
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**GRIP is now accepting both new PI and established PI participants. Please send your CV and a brief description of either your potential research project (new PIs) or grant reviewing experience (established PIs) to [infoaai@aai.org](mailto:infoaai@aai.org) (please write "GRIP" in the subject line).**



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