

# Immunology Program Newsletter

The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

August 2007

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Dear Immunology Program Members,

This has been an exciting and productive year for the GSBS Immunology Program. Our students have published an impressive number of research papers and they have traveled nationally and internationally to present their work. Immunology students have also captured a number of competitive awards, within and outside the institution. We have welcomed five new faculty members to the Immunology Program. In addition, several talented new students joined our Program this year, continuing the upward growth in Program membership in recent years. The Immunology Program was pleased to provide three travel awards this year to support and encourage student meeting presentations. I hope you will enjoy the Program updates found herein, and I wish you all the best of luck in your research during the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Stephanie S. Watowich, Ph.D.  
Immunology Program Director

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## 2007 Immunology Program Travel Awards

**Yen-Michael Hsu** (*Dr. Xin Lin*)  
Keystone Symposium, Intracellular and Intercellular Signaling  
in Dendritic Cell Function  
Keystone, CO, February 2007

**Omar Duramad** (*Dr. Xiao-Feng Qin*)  
Keystone Symposium, Regulatory T Cells  
Vancouver, Canada, February 2007

**Eliseo Castillo** (*Dr. Kim Schluns*)  
13th International Congress of Immunology  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 2007

## 2006-2007 Graduate Student Awards

**2006 Best Poster Award, Riken Summer Program  
for Allergy and Immunology**  
Omar Duramad (*Dr. Xiao-Feng Qin*)

**2006 Schissler Foundation Fellowship in Genetics  
of Human Diseases, GSBS**  
Yen-Michael Hsu (*Dr. Xin Lin*)

**2006 Schissler Foundation M. D. Anderson  
Fellowship in Cancer Research, GSBS**  
Omar Duramad (*Dr. Xiao-Feng Qin*)

**2006 American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship, GSBS**  
Omar Duramad (*Dr. Xiao-Feng Qin*)  
Athanasia D. Panopoulos (*Dr. Stephanie S.  
Watowich*)

**2006 GSBS Presidents' Merit Scholarship**  
Lenka Hurton (*Dr. Laurence Cooper*)

**2006 Vivian L. Smith Award for Outstanding Young  
Immunologists, Center for Cancer Immunology  
Research, MDACC**  
Omar Duramad (*Dr. Xiao-Feng Qin*)  
Thang Van Nguyen (*Dr. Chengming Zhu*)

**2006 Trainee Recognition Award, Department of  
Molecular & Cellular Oncology, MDACC**  
Yen-Michael Hsu (*Dr. Xin Lin*)

**2006 Poster Competition, Third Place, Pathology  
and Laboratory Medicine Mini-Symposium, UTHSC**  
Melanie McGill (*Dr. Steve Norris*)

**2007 Strategic Training in Allergy Research  
(ST\*AR) Program Award from American Academy  
of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology**  
Pornpimon Angkasekwinai (*Dr. Chen Dong*)

**2007 Keystone Symposia/National Institute of  
Allergy and Infectious Diseases Scholarship**  
Yen-Michael Hsu (*Dr. Xin Lin*)

**2007 First Place, Society of Chinese Bioscientists of America Symposium Competition (Professor Alexander Yeu-Ming Wang Memorial Scholarship)**  
Yen-Michael Hsu (*Dr. Xin Lin*)

**2007 UT Presidents' Research Scholarship, GSBS**  
Athanasia D. Panopoulos (*Dr. Stephanie S. Watowich*)

**2007 Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholarship, GBSS**  
Yen-Michael Hsu (*Dr. Xin Lin*)

**2007 GSBS Student Travel Award**  
Yen-Michael Hsu (*Dr. Xin Lin*)  
Eliseo Castillo (*Dr. Kim Schluns*)

**2007 First Place, John P. McGovern Graduate Student Poster Award, GSBS (post-candidacy category)**  
Yen-Michael Hsu (*Dr. Xin Lin*)

**2007 Second Place, John P. McGovern Graduate Student Poster Award, GSBS (pre-candidacy category)**  
Eliseo Castillo (*Dr. Kim Schluns*)

**2007 Second Place, U.T. MD Anderson Cancer Center Trainee Recognition Day Competition (Category: Graduate Student in Basic Science Research)**  
Yen-Michael Hsu (*Dr. Xin Lin*)

**2007 Poster Competition, Third Place, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Annual Symposium, UTHSC**  
Melanie McGill (*Dr. Steve Norris*)

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### 2006-2007 Student Meeting Presentations

**Yufeng Li** (*Dr. Laszlo Radvanyi*)  
Poster, American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), Washington, DC, April 2006.

**Melanie McGill** (*Dr. Steve Norris*)  
Poster, Gordon Research Conference: Biology of Spirochetes, Barga, Italy, April 2006.

**Pornpimon Angkasekwinai** (*Dr. Chen Dong*)  
Presentation, RIKEN Research Center for Allergy and Immunology International summer program. Yokohama, Japan. September 2006.

**Yufeng Li** (*Dr. Laszlo Radvanyi*)  
Presentation, Presidential session, International Society for Biological Therapy of Cancer (ISBTc Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. October 2006.

**Morgan McKeller** (*Dr. Hector Martinez-Valdez*)  
Poster, 1st Annual National Graduate Student Research Festival, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. October 2006.

**Melanie McGill** (*Dr. Steve Norris*)  
Poster and Short talk, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Research Mini-Symposium, UTHSC Houston, TX. 2006.

**Melanie McGill** (*Dr. Steve Norris*)  
Invited Speaker, Department of Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. 2006.

**Yen-Michael Hsu** (*Dr. Xin Lin*)  
Poster & Platform Presentation, Keystone Symposia-Intracellular and Intercellular Signaling in Dendritic Cell Function, Keystone, CO, February 2007.

**Tae Kon Kim** (*Dr. Krishna Komanduri*)  
Poster, 2007 BMT Tandem Meetings, Joint Annual Meetings of ASBMT and CIBMTR. Keystone, CO, February 2007.

**Lenka Hurton** (*Dr. Laurence Cooper*)  
Poster presentation, US HUPO 3rd Annual Conference, Seattle, WA March 2007.

**Melanie McGill** (*Dr. Steve Norris*)  
Poster, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Research Annual Symposium, UTHSC Houston, TX. 2007.

**Yen-Michael Hsu** (*Dr. Xin Lin*)  
Poster, Gordon Research Conferences-Phagocytes Program, Bryant University, Smithfield, RI. June 2007.

**Eliseo Castillo** (*Dr. Kim Schluns*)  
Oral Presentation, 13th International Congress of Immunology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 2007.

### Student Publications (2006-2007)

Woodside DG, Kram RM, **Mitchell JS**, Belsom T, **Billard MJ**, McIntyre BW, Vanderslice P. 2006. Contrasting roles for domain 4 of VCAM-1 in the regulation of cell adhesion and soluble VCAM-1 binding to integrin alpha4beta1. *J Immunol.* 176:5041-9.

Ito T, Kanzler H, **Duramad O**, Cao W, Liu YJ. 2006. Specialization, kinetics, and repertoire of type 1 interferon responses by human plasmacytoid dendritic cells. *Blood* 107:2423-31.

Rao MK, Pham J, **Imam JS**, MacLean JA, Murali D, Furuta Y, Sinha-Hikim AP, Wilkinson MF. 2006. Tissue-specific RNAi reveals that WT1 expression in nurse cells controls germ cell survival and spermatogenesis. *Genes Dev.* 20:147-52.

**McKeller MR**, Martinez-Valdez H. 2006 The kappa-like pre-B receptor: surplus biology or a missing link? *Semin Immunol.* 18:40-3.

Brinkman MB, McKeivitt M, **McLoughlin M**, Perez C, Howell J, Weinstock GM, Norris SJ, Palzkill T. 2006. Reactivity of antibodies from syphilis patients to a protein array representing the *Treponema pallidum* proteome. *J Clin Microbiol.* 44:888-91.

**Panopoulos AD**, Zhang L, Snow JW, Jones DM, Smith AM, El Kasmi KC, Liu F, Goldsmith MA, Link DC, Murray PJ, Watowich SS. 2006. STAT3 governs distinct pathways in emergency granulopoiesis and mature neutrophils. *Blood.* 108:3682-3690.

Hanabuchi S, Watanabe N, Wang YH, Wang YH, Ito T, **Shaw J**, Cao W, Qin FX, Liu YJ. 2006. Human plasmacytoid dendritic cells activate NK cells through glucocorticoid-induced tumor necrosis factor receptor-ligand (GITRL). *Blood.* 107:3617-23.

Drouin SM, **Sinha M**, Sfyroera G, Lambris JD, Wetsel RA. 2006. A protective role for the fifth complement component (c5) in allergic airway disease. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 173:852-7.

Wolf P, **Nghiem DX**, **Walterscheid JP**, Byrne S, Matsumura Y, Bucana C, Ananthaswamy HN, Ullrich SE. 2006. Platelet-activating factor (PAF) is crucial in psoralen + UVA (PUVA)-induced immune suppression, inflammation and apoptosis. *Am. J. Pathol.* 169:795-805.

Matsumura Y, Byrne SN, **Nghiem DX**, Miyahara Y, Ullrich SE. 2006. A role for inflammatory mediators in the induction of immunoregulatory B cells. *J. Immunol.* 177:4810-4817.

**Walterscheid JP**, **Nghiem DX**, Kazimi N, Nutt LK, McConkey DJ, Norval M, Ullrich SE. 2006. Cis-urocanic acid, a sunlight-induced immunosuppressive factor, activates immune suppression via the 5-HT2A receptor. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA.* 103:17420-17425.

**Hsu YM**, Zhang Y, You Y, Wang D, Li H, **Duramad O**, Qin X, Dong C, Lin X. 2006. The adaptor protein CARD9 is required for innate immune responses to intracellular pathogens. *Nature Immunol.* 8:198-205.

Nurieva R, Yang XO, **Martinez G**, Zhang Y, **Panopoulos AD**, Ma L, Schluns K, Tian Q, Watowich SS, Jetten AM, Dong C. 2007. Essential autocrine regulation by IL-21 in the generation of inflammatory T cells. *Nature* 448:480-483.

Kile BT, **Panopoulos AD**, Stirzaker RA, Hacking DF, Tahtamouni LH, Willson TA, Mielke LA, Henley KJ, Zhang JG, Wicks IP, Stevenson WS, Nurden P, Watowich SS, Justice MJ. 2007. Mutations in the cofilin partner Aip1/Wdr1 cause autoinflammatory disease and macrothrombocytopenia. *Blood.* May 21 [Epub ahead of print]

Yang XO, **Panopoulos AD**, Nurieva R, Chang SH, Wang D, Watowich SS, Dong C. 2007. STAT3 regulates cytokine-mediated generation of inflammatory helper T cells. *J Biol Chem.* 2007 282:9358-9363.

**Angkasekwinai P**, Park H, Wang YH, Wang YH, Chang SH, Corry DB, Liu YJ, Zhu Z, Dong C. 2007. Interleukin 25

promotes the initiation of proallergic type 2 responses. *J Exp Med.* 204:1509-1517.

Wang YH, **Angkasekwinai P**, Lu N, Voo KS, Arima K, Hanabuchi S, Hippe A, Corrigan CJ, Dong C, Homey B, Yao Z, Ying S, Huston DP, Liu YJ. 2007. IL-25 augments type 2 immune responses by enhancing the expansion and functions of TSLP-DC activated Th2 memory cells. 204:1837-1847

**van Nguyen T**, Puebla-Osorio N, Pang H, **Dujka ME**, Zhu C. 2007. DNA damage-induced cellular senescence is sufficient to suppress tumorigenesis: A mouse model. *J Exp. Med.* 204:1453-1461.

Natzke AM, **Shaw JL**, **McKeller MR**, Emo KL, Mullen CA. 2007. Hematopoietic stem cell recipients do not develop post-transplantation immune tolerance to antigens present on minimal residual disease. *Biol Blood Marrow Transplant.* 13:34-45.

#### Submitted for publication:

Trachtenberg E, Vinson M., Hayes E, **Hsu YM**, Houtchens K, Erlich, H, Klitz, W, Hsia, Y., Hollenbach, J. 2007. HLA class I (A, B, C) and class II (DRB1, DQA1, DQB1, DPB1) alleles and haplotypes in the Han from Southern China. *Tissue Antigen*, revised.

**Robertson J**, Lou Y. Resistance to T cell-mediated anti-GBM glomerulonephritis in lewis rat is due to spontaneous recovery from early glomerular inflammation. Submitted.

Brinkman MB, **McGill MA**, Peterson J, Rodgers A, Matejkova P, Smajs D, Weinstock GM, Norris SJ, Palzkill T. A novel *Treponema pallidum* antigen, TP0136, is an outer membrane protein that binds human fibronectin. Submitted.

#### ~~~~~ New Immunology Program Faculty, 2006-2007

**Dr. Nami McCarty, Assistant Professor**  
The Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine

**Dr. Larry Kwak, Professor and Chair**  
Department of Lymphoma, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

**Dr. Sattva S. Neelapu, Assistant Professor**  
Department of Lymphoma, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

**Dr. Krishna Komanduri, Associate Professor**  
Department of Stem Cell Transplantation, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

**Dr. Laszlo Radvanyi, Associate Professor**  
Department of Melanoma Medical Oncology, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

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**Mark your calendars for GSBS Recruitment, 2008**

**Jan 31-Feb 3, 2008**  
**Feb 14-17, 2008**  
**Feb 28-March 2, 2008**

**March 13-16, 2008**  
**April 3-6, 2008**