

# **CSI BULLETIN**

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Pres	ident's Report 2024
1.	CSI Executives & Council Members 2024
2.	2024-2025 EDI and TEC Committees
3.	Minutes of the 36 <sup>th</sup> AGM 2024
4.	Financial Audit 2023
5.	CSI Annual Meeting Highlights
6.	CSI 2024 Award Recipients
7.	CSI Sponsored Symposiums
8.	ECI Webinar Series
9.	Immunology in Canada
10.	Blasts from the Past

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024

Dear friends and colleagues,

We had yet another fruitful year in 2024, and your council members worked hard to make sure that we, as a society, continue to shine at national and international arenas. I am pleased to highlight some of our recent accomplishments and initiatives in this report.

I would like to begin by thanking the local organizing committee (LOC) for CSI2024 [Troy Baldwin (Chair), Colin Anderson, Xavier Clemente-Casares, Markus Geuking, Kathy McCoy and Sue Tsai], our Vice-President and Scientific Program Committee Chair (Sheela Ramanathan), our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee (chaired by Yanet Valdez), and our very capable Trainee Engagement Committee (TEC) members who together organized and ran a very successful conference in Banff. This meeting featured world-class Canadian and international speakers, a CIHR Institute of Infection & Immunity (III)-sponsored Early Career Investigators session, a "Meet the Editor" session with Adrian Liston (Editor-in-Chief, *Immunology & Cell Biology*), and an EDI training roundtable, among other activities.

One of our recent initiatives is to sponsor <u>local and regional meetings</u> across Canada. To this end, several applications were received and adjudicated by an ad hoc sub-committee [Colin Anderson, Sherri Christian and Mani Larijani (Chair)], of which five were funded. We have also provided logistic support for the 11th International γδ T Cell Conference, co-chaired by our very own Michele Anderson and Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker (along with Maria Ciofani of Duke University), to be held in Toronto in May 2025. Furthermore, we have maintained a visible and impactful presence in meetings and activities organized by our partner societies, including the AAI, FOCIS and IUIS. This is made possible through our members' leadership roles in the above organizations, the guest symposia we hold, and the travel awards we provide to our junior investigators and trainees. For instance, we sponsored a symposium on "Antagonistic Roles of Interferons" during the 2024 AAI meeting in Chicago. This symposium was co-chaired by Subash Sad and Deanna Santer with additional talks given by David Brooks, Jörg Fritz and Nathalie Grandvaux. The upcoming AAI meeting in Hawaii will also include a CSI symposium entitled "Unveiling the Tissue Guardians: Novel Insights into Innate Immune Signaling in Human Disease", which will feature presentations by Ali Abdul-Sater (Co-Chair with Katrina Gee), Valentin Jaumouillé, Nargis Khan and Ajitha Thanabalasuriar. As for our future annual conferences, I am pleased to report that Winnipeg and London were chosen by the CSI Council as venues for our 2026 and 2027 meetings, respectively. Working with LOC Chairs for these meetings (Thomas Murooka and Bryan Heit, respectively), we made sure that these conferences will not coincide with major religious holidays. It is also noteworthy that our 2026 meeting will be preceded by the 35th Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) conference, which should help promote collaborations between CSI and CAHR members working in the area of HIV infection and immunity. Finally, we will serve as the host society for the 20th IUIS meeting to be held in Toronto in August 2028. We are grateful to Tania Watts and Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker for their splendid efforts in bringing this important event back to Canada. Therefore, we have many exciting meetings to look forward to in the coming years!

We recently formed a strategic partnership with the <u>Clinical Immunology Network – Canada (CINC)</u>, whose mission is *to enhance and promote clinical and research collaborations in clinical immunology* 

in Canada. Founded in January 2020, CINC is a growing pan-Canadian network that reunites clinicians and researchers in pediatric and adult clinical immunology. I am also delighted to report that we recently endorsed and partnered with the <u>Canadian Immunocompromised Advocacy Network</u>, which should help raise public awareness about immunocompromised states, enhance science advocacy campaigns, and enrich research endeavors through patients' perspectives, among other potential benefits. As you likely know, our <u>Member Directory</u> now features a search engine that makes our areas of expertise visible to our colleagues, partners and other community stakeholders. I urge you to update your profile from time to time, enabling our partners to reach out to the best experts in their respective fields. You may be contacted by Co-Chairs of our recently launched Advocacy and Public Engagement (APE) committee, Jennifer Gommerman and Craig Jenne, seeking your participation in networks and functions relevant to your expertise and experience. Please consider such requests.

We recognize and emphasize the importance of EDI in the biomedical workforce. This is particularly important in light of the ongoing challenges and uncertainties faced by many of our neighboring colleagues to the south. We will remain vigilant about anti-science movements, and will continue to engage the public, politicians and policymakers, whenever necessary, to promote evidence-based measures and practices and to lend support to our fellow immunologists.

A keystone to our tight-knit society is our community of early career investigators (ECIs). Our Michael Gold ECR Webinar Series is going strong, and I urge everyone, especially our trainees, to take advantage of this series and the many networking/collaboration opportunities it offers. To facilitate in-person participation in our annual meetings in an inclusive manner, your Council recently approved the continuation of our Childcare Bursary program for the foreseeable future. Spearheaded by Lisa Osborne, this program helps offset conference costs for those with young families, with preference given to trainees and ECIs if requests exceed available funding. On a different note, I wish to highlight some of our ECIs' leadership roles outside the CSI council. For example, Lee-Hwa Tai and Julianna Blagih are representing us in the recently formed IUIS Junior Community. We are grateful for their efforts in seeking, adjudicating and submitting nominations on CSI's behalf for the IUIS's Rising Stars program. Moreover, a CSI mentorship program is in development, thanks to the efforts spearheaded by Lee-Hwa Tai, Julianna Blagih, Bebhinn Treanor and Lisa Osborne. This program will support Canadian immunologists across career stages, and should be particularly helpful to ECIs who have recently joined or will soon join our community of scholars. To better understand our mentorship priorities and opportunities, a survey was recently launched, which will help tailor this initiative to our needs and preferences. I invite you to participate if you have not done so already. Consistent with our efforts to promote mentor-mentee relationships, it is my pleasure to report that our Awards Committee (chaired by Aaron Marshall) has established a named award to recognize and celebrate the contributions of distinguished CSI members to the career progression of ECIs and scientists-intraining. This award can be, but is not necessarily, given each year during our annual CSI meetings. Please stay tuned as the named award and the inaugural recipient will be revealed during our upcoming annual meeting in April (Gatineau 2025).

I wish to take this opportunity to provide my final update regarding a project we undertook ~1.5 years ago to digitize CSI records and articles of historical significance. I have been fortunate enough to work with Lori Coulthurst (CSI Administrator) and a team of dedicated trainees, including Nicole Wang (a Ph.D. candidate from my laboratory) and several Work-Study students paid by Western University (Reena Hachmi, Mina Hatami and Thu Pham) to bring this project to fruition. I also wish to express my gratitude to past and present CSI members who generously donated their documents and old photos taken during our annual meetings and other CSI functions.

Here is how some of our archived materials can be accessed:

Scanned CSI bulletins dating back to July 1969: <a href="https://www.csi-sci.ca/Bulletins.html">https://www.csi-sci.ca/Bulletins.html</a>

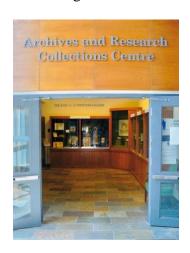
Cinader laureates (and their pictures): <a href="https://www.csi-sci.ca/Award\_Winners.html#cinader">https://www.csi-sci.ca/Award\_Winners.html#cinader</a>

Past CSI presidents (and their pictures): https://www.csi-sci.ca/CSI\_Presidents.html

Past CSI executives (including vice-presidents, secretaries and treasurers) and CSI councilors: <a href="https://www.csi-sci.ca/ExecutivesCouncillors.html">https://www.csi-sci.ca/ExecutivesCouncillors.html</a>

We have also posted ~600 photos, in addition to several caricatures and poems extracted from old program books, for your browsing/viewing pleasure. Please note these items are available only to CSI members by visiting the Member Area under "Blast from the Past".

Last but not the least, we found a permanent home for our historical records (excluding individual photos). After reaching out to several institutes, and after securing the Council's approval, we decided to donate our records to the Archives and Research Collections Centre (ARCC) at Western University. The ARCC (pictured in this report) is a climate-controlled, secure storage facility that currently holds 30,000 boxes of items and 450,000 books. Researchers are able to access the stored records by emailing <a href="mailto:archives.services@uwo.ca">archives.services@uwo.ca</a> 48 hours in advance of their visit date so that the requested materials can be retrieved to a designated reading room (pictured) for use. Moreover, scanning is an option for researchers who are not local to London, Ontario (for a fee). Finally, new CSI materials can be added to the Society's archive as they become available. I have just signed a "Deed of Gift-in-Kind" form on our Society's behalf after running the document by the Council. I would like to consider this undertaking a small step in the right direction to preserve our Society's rich history, to be cherished by the future generations of Canadian immunologists for years to come.









This report would have been incomplete without acknowledging Lori Coulthurst's dedication to our society and her splendid support throughout the years, including during my term as CSI President. We look very much forward to many more years of collaboration with Lori.

Finally, the LOC for our 2025 annual meeting [Michele Ardolino (Chair), Angela Crawley, Amy Gillgrass, Madhuri Koti, Seung-Hwan Lee and Subash Sad] has put together an exciting program, which promises to be one of our best so far and one to remember! We thank them for their dedication, energy and efforts. This meeting was sold out quickly as we had no choice but to cap the registration to 400! As of today, we are a 621-member-strong society and steadily expanding in size. Therefore, I am confident that our incoming executives and councilors will work with future LOCs to revisit (and potentially revise) the logistics of our future conferences in order to accommodate most, if not all, members, when possible.

See you all in Gatineau!

Sincerely, Mansour Haeryfar, Ph.D.

## 1. CSI EXECUTIVES & COUNCIL MEMBERS 2024

CSI council members are nominated and elected from within the CSI community and volunteer their time to lead the core functions of the Society. These include planning conferences (in conjunction with local organizing committees), scientific programming, awards, collaborations with related scientific societies, oversight of CSI member-led sub-committees and global advocacy for our discipline.



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#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS:**



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## 2. 2024-2025 EDI AND TEC COMMITTEES

#### **EDI Committee 2024 – 2025:**

In our quest to mold the CSI into a model of equity, diversity, and inclusion, the EDI committee has engaged in various initiatives over recent years. Collaborating closely with the CSI council, we've crafted a comprehensive EDI strategic plan, heightened awareness about pertinent issues, and tried to foster an inclusive environment valuing diverse perspectives. Since the establishment of the EDI committee, our ongoing efforts aim to recognize and address vital matters within our society through innovative initiatives.

These proactive initiatives encompass a variety of activities. We've organized an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training workshop during the 2022 CSI meeting, initiated childcare support for symposium participants from 2023 onward, invited role model speakers for the 2023 CSI meeting, and launched an internal EDI survey in 2024. Moreover, by meticulously collecting, analyzing, and interpreting the provided data, we have gained a better understanding of society equity in leadership, membership and gender representation over the past few decades. These efforts represent just a segment of the ongoing EDI team endeavor, highlighting our proactive and data-driven approach to fashioning an environment that addresses the diverse needs of our members.

We are hopeful that our past activities have successfully addressed some of the pressing issues within our society. Through our efforts, we aspire to have opened new avenues for future activities, paving the way for continued progress and impactful endeavors. Together, we endeavor to build a more inclusive and supportive community for all CSI members, fostering an environment where every voice is heard and valued.

#### Publications 2024:

A Retrospective Analysis of Leadership, Awardees, and Member Gender Representation of the Canadian Society for Immunology, Published April 15, 2024, Journal of Immunology



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#### **TEC Committee 2024 – 2025:**

The CSI Trainee Engagement Committee (TEC) is dedicated to two key objectives: (1) Social media management – engaging the immunology and broader scientific community to promote awareness, share immunology-related news, and serve as a trusted resource for research updates. (2) Trainee engagement at the annual CSI conference – organizing interactive sessions and activities that foster meaningful, long-lasting connections among immunology trainees across Canada.

Throughout 2024, the TEC worked diligently to create networking and career development opportunities for CSI trainees. At the annual spring conference, the TEC organized a Coffee Social and Trainee Mixer, providing a relaxed setting for trainees to connect. Additionally, the TEC hosted a Career Development Lunch, where trainees engaged in open discussions with academic and industry professionals about career paths and professional advice. Another highlight was the Trainee Networking Lunch, which followed a speed-networking format designed to spark collaborations and potential job opportunities. A post-conference survey revealed overwhelmingly positive feedback on these events, though some attendees provided suggestions for improving the networking lunch. In response, for the 2025 Ottawa meeting, the TEC will introduce a panel discussion ahead of the networking session to enhance the experience.

Beyond in-person engagement, the TEC continues to leverage CSI's social media platforms to promote immunology awareness, strengthen community connections, and provide access to reliable research updates. This year, the TEC launched several campaigns, including spotlights on Canadian researchers, a "Back to School" series, and a year-end wrap-up. Recognizing shifts in communication preferences, the TEC conducted a survey to determine the most effective ways to engage with the CSI community. A significant number of respondents expressed interest in email updates, leading the TEC to introduce a monthly newsletter. This new initiative delivers key highlights, including award announcements, notable research publications from CSI members, and upcoming opportunities.

Keep an eye on your inbox for the latest TEC updates—the TEC is excited to keep the community informed and engaged!

#### **Alberta 2024 Local Organizing Committee**



**Kasia Dzierlega** Clemente-Casares Lab, University of Alberta



**Shae Komant**Baldwin Lab, University of Alberta



**Isla Skalosky**Geuking Lab, University of Calgary

### Quebec (Gatineau) 2025 Local Organizing Committee



**Simin Ahmadvand** Lee Lab, University of Ottawa



Natasha Norton Reynolds Lab, University of Victoria



**Sophia Stegeman** Gee Lab, Queen's University

### Manitoba 2026 Local Organizing Committee



**Maria Hangad** University of Manitoba



**Padmanie Ramotar** Mokherjee Lab, University of Manitoba



**Taehyun Kim**McNagny Lab, University of British Columbia

## 3. MINUTES OF THE 36<sup>TH</sup> AGM 2024

# 2024 CSI Annual General Meeting Tuesday, April 23, 12:30 to 2:00pm

Meeting called to order at 12:20 pm and those present welcomed by Sheela Ramanathan on behalf of Mansour Haeryfar.

#### 1. Welcome to the CSI AGM 2024

#### 2. Additions to the Agenda

#### 3. Approval of the Agenda

No additions to the agenda Motion to approve agenda – (Moved: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker; Seconded: Kelly McNagny)– Motion carried.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2023, Meeting

Motion to approve – minutes (Moved: Bryan Heit; Seconded: Sylvie Lesage) – Motion carried.

#### 5. President's Report — Sheela Ramanathan on behalf of Mansour Haeryfar

- a. CSI archives
- b. CSI Bulletin showed bulletin of all past presidents with their pictures online (CSI website) and the most recent bulletin samples.
- c. Childcare 8 applications were received, and all were awarded. The budget for this was \$5K. All members (including PIs and trainees) were encouraged to apply.
- d. CSI registration of the meetings have been sold out since 2022. To explore accommodating about 400-450 participants in the future meetings. It was noted that the CSI community has been growing and the additional members need to have access to attend.
- e. Trainee travel award funding as there was an excess of 30K from the 2023 meeting, this will be divided between 2025-2027 CSI meetings 10K each; 7.5K supplement to existing 12.5K trainees travel award and 2.5K to LOC towards trainee-oriented events.
- f. CSI Organization Gemstone has been a great choice since 2022. To date the LOC from Halifax, Orford and Banff were satisfied and happy to work with Bobbi and Shaina. The contract has been extended for the next 3 years until 2027. We will need to rework the contract in 2026 for the future from 2029. 2028 is ICI in Toronto.
- g. Additional poster awards through collaborations with journals/publishers Mucosal immunology, ICB, Pathogens and Immunity.
- h. CSI symposia call for topics we received 20+ suggestions for 2024. Some were just topics without names. Even though the topics were great, difficult to select the topics without knowing who the speakers are. For 2025 the call for symposia topics will ask for precisions. The next call for Symposia topics will be sent out following this year's meeting to avoid summer holidays.
- i. AAI and FOCIS symposia Interferons: Interference by Interferons; Immune consequences of stress.

- j. CSI support for local/regional immunology-related meetings will be posted on the website with all the details. CSI will provide support to a maximum of \$1,000/meeting. Eligible expenses include venue rental, food (non-alcoholic beverages, i.e. alcoholic beverages are not eligible), travel costs and hosting of external speakers. For hosting speakers, airfare must be at the lowest possible excursion rate (economy class) and must be at an advanced purchase rate or equivalent.
- k. Proposals are invited to host the 2026 CSI Meeting. Submissions should be sent to Sheela and Mansour.
- 1. CINC Report they're interested in continued collaboration with CSI and Helene reached out to inquire about working with CSI again in 2025.
- m. APE Committee Craig Jenne presented and proposed a new committee as part of CSI to take a leadership role in coordinating engagement with other groups/community, drafting position statements, etc. The APE committee will report on its activities to the Society at the Annual General Meeting.

The mission statement and vision for this committee were shared as follows:

#### Vision

To elevate the profile of the CSI in the Canadian public, establishing the Society as a trustworthy and reliable source of information and to create a network of experts who engage in science communication, mentorship, and advocacy.

#### Mission

The APE committee will liaise with CSI council:

- To build public awareness of the CSI;
- To establish a network of experts who are trained/experience in science communication (in English and French);
- To develop public outreach and engagement events/programs;
- To support mentorship and education activities in the community;
- To advise Council on position statements for public release when necessary.

There was support of this to move ahead CIHR – Trainees should be included in this Motion to approve APE agenda – (Moved: Kelly McNagny Heit; Seconded: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker) – Motion carried.

#### 6. Approval of New Members – Sheela

- 137 new members from 2023-2024

Motion to approve new members – (Moved: Bryan Heit; Seconded: Tania Watts) – Motion carried.

#### 7. Treasurer's Report – Colin Anderson

- Lori Coulthurst, Brent Johnson and GEM were thanked for their assistance with budget preparation.
- It was noted that there was a gain of 12.5% (\$151K) in investments and a gain of 10.4% (\$129K) in assets.
- Net Assets for 2024 were \$1,463,979, up from \$1,303,254 from 2023.
- The surplus from 2023 meeting was approximately \$45K and therefore there was no need to withdraw from the investment account.
- Current proposed budget was presented.
- Question was asked about what the surplus amount should be before money is used for additional programming. There is no limit on the amount of money the society can have invested. This surplus can be considered for additions to the CSI Community.

Motion to approve draft budgets – (Moved: Kelly McNagny; Seconded: Heather Melichar) – Motion carried.

#### 8. Meeting Reports:

- a. CSI 2023 Orford, QC Manu Rangachari
  - Manu recapped the 2023 LOC members.
  - The 2023 registrations were 301 (92 members, 20 non-members, 35 associate members, 154 students) and 193 submitted abstracts.
  - The budget was shown with an approximate revenue of \$39K.

#### b. CSI 2024 – Banff, AB – Troy Baldwin

- Meeting was sold out well before the early bird registration deadline.
- There were 172 posters and over 320 attendees.
- The posters were capped and triaged so that one poster per trainee was presented, and trainees took priority.
- The Meeting is expected to be close to break-even.
- Highlights for this year's meeting include Journal support (MI Journal supporting travel awards, PhD Poster prizes and EDI session). The entertainment for the Banquet Dinner (a singer/guitarist)
- The CIHR grant was not received this year pre-meeting. Once the grant is approved, they're awarded at random until funding runs out and unfortunately CSI was not selected this year.
- Recommendations for future meetings include: looking for larger venues with more hotel room nights, increasing additional funding for travel awards, consider a different poster presentation format to be able to include more presentations with input from the TEC.
- Questions were asked about the space restrictions this year and whether more space could have been secured. GEM was able to provide an answer regarding the space available and contracted was at its maximum for what the venue could offer.
- Invite post-docs as poster judges.
- Possible extension of program to a full day on the last day instead of a half day for the last day and include a keynote/Cinader award that day as well as more breaks.

Motion to extend the CSI Meeting for 2026 onwards to end in the evening on the last day (format will stay as is with the addition of another poster session, break time and keynote/Cinader presentation on the final day, ending at approx. 5:00pm) – (Moved: Kathy McCoy; Seconded: Lisa Osborne) – Motion carried. Brent Johnson, Craig Jenne and Brian Heit abstained.

- c. CSI 2025 Ottawa, ON Subash Sad (on behalf of Michele Ardolino)
  - It was noted that an incentive from Tourism Outaouais was received which will be a financial asset for the meeting.
  - There is lots of room to grow this meeting to 450/500 people and more space for sponsors/posters.
  - There is another group that is interested in joining with CSI for 2025 (CCIC). Details are to be announced.

#### 9. Awards Committee Report – Aaron Marshall

- The following awards nominations were: Cinader nominations (10), Investigator Award 3 new and 6 carried over from previous years and New Investigator award 4 new and 2 carried over.
- There were no nominations received for the JD Reynolds service award this year.
- New Mentorship Award will be launched on the website to acknowledge the fantastic mentors in the CSI Community. It will be a named award, for which, nominations will open over summer 2024.

Motion to approve the CSI Council proposed new Mentorship Award budgets – (Moved: Kelly McNagny; Seconded: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker) – Motion carried.

#### 10. IUIS Report – Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker

- Capetown 2023 meeting was successful which broke even.
- IUIS is now a registered non-profit organization.
- UofT IMMspire Team, nominated by the CSI, was awarded the Best Newcomer Award for their Day of Immunology program.
- The planning for the Vienna 2025 meeting is ongoing however the Scientific Program Committee has selected Keynote and Plenary Speakers, and the Symposia Speakers will be selected over the Summer.
- Toronto 2028 planning will start right after 2025 ICI concludes.

Motion to approve the conclusion of the CSI AGM – (Moved: Brent Johnson; Seconded: Craig Jenne) – Motion carried.

Adjournment – 1:30 pm

## 4. FINANCIAL AUDIT 2023

# THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2023

		2023	2022
ASSETS			
CURRENT Cash Marketable securities (Note 4) Goods and services tax recoverable Deposits paid	\$	82,217 1,357,320 5,442 19,000	\$ 67,357 1,206,041 17,856 12,000
	\$	1,463,979	\$ 1,303,254
LIABILITIES AND NET ASS	ETS		
CURRENT Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Deferred conference registration fees Deferred conference sponsorship fees Current portion of deferred membership dues (Note 5)	\$	4,500 27,120 11,890 21,295	\$ 4,500 5,100 11,600 15,953
		64,805	37,153
DEFERRED MEMBERSHIP DUES (Note 5)	_	24,370	20,550
		89,175	57,703
NET ASSETS	_	1,374,804	1,245,551
	\$	1,463,979	\$ 1,303,254

See notes to financial statements

APPROVED BY	
Coler 16	Director
	Director

#### THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY

#### Statement of Revenues and Expenditures Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
REVENUES Conference registration fees Sponsorships Membership dues Donations	\$ 174,922 112,966 25,728 395	\$ 185,926 81,889 23,668 540
EXPENDITURES  Awards Childcare bursary Conference expenses Dues, licenses and memberships Interest and bank charges Office Professional fees Travel	16,215 1,343 248,353 3,468 3,690 19,537 4,766 11,925	292,023 10,642 - 284,606 3,130 5,059 18,196 4,531 11,103
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATIONS	 309,297 4,714	337,267 (45,244)
OTHER ITEMS Investment income Gain on sale of marketable securities Unrealized gain (loss) on marketable securities Investment management fees	 38,223 26,433 77,103 (17,220) 124,539	33,388 79,368 (153,285) (20,233) (60,762)
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 129,253	\$ (106,006)

## 5. CSI ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC), consisting of Dr. Troy Baldwin (Chair), Dr. Colin Anderson, Dr. Sue Tsai and Dr. Xavier Clemente-Casares from the University of Alberta, and Dr. Kathy McCoy and Dr. Markus Geuking from the University of Calgary, along with Trainee Engagement Committee members Isla Skalosky, Kasia Dzierlega, and Shae Komant were thrilled to welcome everyone to the Banff Centre in majestic Banff, Alberta for CSI 2024.

The conference began with a bang with the Keynote address from Dr. Fiona Powrie, the Director of the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology at the University of Oxford. Dr. Powrie led the crowd on a journey through basic discoveries of intestinal immunity to translating these discoveries into therapies for inflammatory bowel disease.

Dr. Adrian Liston, Editor-in-Chief of Immunology and Cell Biology (ICB), hosted a "Meet the Editor" session where Dr. Liston delivered a presentation about the journal and fielded various questions from researchers. The CSI is hopeful to continue to build ties with the journal. In addition to building ties with ICB, the conference received generous support from other journals including Mucosal Immunology and Pathogens and Immunity.

CSI Council and the LOC continued to provide childcare bursaries to participants to facilitate conference attendance, recognized the incorporation of sex and gender as variables in immunology research through sponsorship provided by the CIHR Institute of Gender and Health, and through generous sponsorship from Mucosal Immunology, supported an EDI training session roundtable.

The CSI Trainee Engagement Committee hosted a variety of outstanding events focussed on networking and career development. They were also active in outreach and promotion of the conference.

Finally, the LOC was excited to have Calgary's own Dayne Greiner perform an Alberta-style acoustic solo guitar set for everyone's enjoyment at the Banquet dinner and Awards Presentation prior to him leaving to record in Nashville, TN.







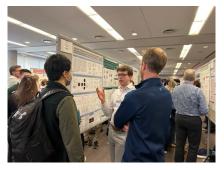


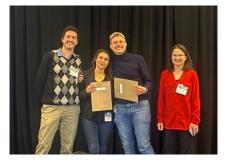
























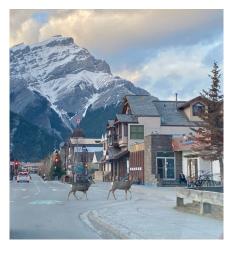
















## 6. CSI 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### **Hardi Cinader Award Recipient 2024**



Fumio Takei, PhD
Distinguished Scientist, BC Cancer Research Institute, Terry Fox
Laboratory; Professor, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine,
University of British Columbia

The 2024 CSI - Bernhard (Hardi) Cinader Award Recipient

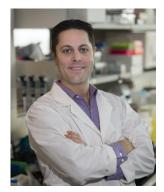
Presentation: "Long and winding road across the field of innate lymphocytes"

Dr. Fumio Takei was born in Japan and obtained his BSc from University of Tokyo in 1968. After graduation, he worked for industry for 3 years before he started graduate studies at UBC in 1971. He worked in the laboratories of Drs. Doug Kilburn and Julia Levy to investigate suppressor T cells for his PhD. In 1977 he obtained NCIC fellowship and started his postdoctoral work in the laboratory of Dr. Edwin Lennox at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, England. During his postdoctoral work, he collaborated with Dr. Cesar Milstein and learned the hybridoma technology.

In 1980, he received a scholarship from the Medical Research Council of Canada to start his own laboratory as an assistant professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, UBC. In 1981, he joined the newly established Terry Fox Laboratory as a scientist. In 1980s and early 1990s, his laboratory generated a number of rat monoclonal antibodies to mouse cell surface proteins, including Ly49A (KLRA1), ICAM-1 (CD54), PC-1 (ENPP1) and CD160. His research initially focused on cloning cDNA for those proteins and characterizing their functions. Subsequently, his research mainly focused on the Ly49 family of NK cell receptors. In collaboration with Dr. Dixie Mager, a colleague at the Terry Fox Laboratory, Dr. Takei's laboratory identified multiple members of the Ly49 family of NK cell receptors and determined their specificities for MHC class I.

While investigating how NK cells acquire the Ly49 family of receptors during their development, his laboratory found a unique population of lymphocytes that produced large amounts of type 2 cytokines in mouse lungs. The population was initially termed natural helper (NH) cells but later renamed group 2 innate lymphoid cells (ILC2s). Following this finding, ILC2s became the main focus of his research. ILC2s were found to drive allergen-induced allergic lung inflammation but also promote initiation of Th2 responses to allergens. The Takei Lab also investigated the development of ILC2s and identified RORα as a key transcription factor and generated ILC2-deficient mice and ILC2 lineage tracer mice. Using those mice, the Takei Lab identified new ILC progenitors in neonatal lung and spleen. Flow cytometry and transcriptome analyses of activated lung ILC2s also revealed multiple functional subsets, including memory ILC2s and migratory ILC2s. Currently, Dr. Takei continues his research on ILC2s and other ILCs in inflammation and fibrosis of the liver and the lung.

#### **Investigator Award Recipient 2024**



**Dr. David Brooks**, *Professor*, *Department of Immunology*, *University of Toronto*; *Senior Scientist*, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre* 

Dr. David Brooks is a Senior Scientist and the Scotiabank Chair of Inflammation Research in the Tumor Immunotherapy Program at the Princess Margaret Cancer Center (PMCC), and a Professor in the Department of Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, at the University of Toronto. Dr. Brooks' laboratory is focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms and cellular interactions that regulate immune responses in chronic infections and cancer. His group has shown that these diseases are associated with inflammation that counter-intuitively

exacerbates immune dysfunction to promote disease progression. His goal is to use this information to design therapies that broadly restore immunity to fight infections and cancer.

Before relocating to Canada, Dr. Brooks was a tenured Associate Professor and led a laboratory at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) for seven years. Dr. Brooks did his post-doctoral fellowship with Dr. Michael Oldstone at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California studying the immune response to chronic virus infection. Dr. Brooks earned his Ph.D. from UCLA under the mentorship of Dr. Jerome Zack, studying HIV latency and therapeutic strategies to reactivate the latent virus. Dr. Brooks earned his B.S. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Arizona. He was born and raised in Venice, California.

#### **New Investigator Award Recipient 2024**



**Dr. Sarah Crome,** Assistant Professor, Department of Immunology, University of Toronto; Senior Scientist, Toronto General Hospital Research Institute, University Health Network

Dr. Sarah Crome is a Senior Scientist at the Toronto General Hospital Research Institute within University Health Network (UHN), and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Immunology at the University of Toronto. Dr. Crome holds a Tier Canada Research Chair in Tissue-Specific Immune Tolerance. She leads a research program focused on uncovering mechanisms that regulate immune responses in transplantation, autoimmunity and cancer. Translational

efforts within her lab are focused on developing approaches to promote immune homeostasis. In particular, she is exploring targeting or harnessing populations of tissue-resident lymphocytes called innate lymphoid cells (ILCs).

Prior to joining UHN and the University of Toronto, her postdoctoral research with Dr. Pamela Ohashi at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre led to the discovery of a novel innate lymphoid cell population that inhibits the activity and expansion of tumour-associated T cells and is associated with poorer clinical outcomes in ovarian cancer. Her PhD research at the University of British Columbia in the lab of Dr. Megan Levings defined molecular, epigenetic and cellular regulatory mechanism that control human CD4<sup>+</sup> T helper 17 cell development and their pro-inflammatory functions.

Dr. Crome has received numerous awards including the Rising Star award from the International Union of Immunological Societies, the Next Generation of Scientist award from the Cancer Research Society, and both International Scholar and Team Science awards from the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer.

#### HOW TO NOMINATE YOUR FELLOW IMMUNOLOGISTS FOR CSI AWARDS:

Do you think your supervisor, colleague, former trainee or friend is an OUTSTANDING immunologist? Then why not nominate them for one of the **CSI AWARDS**? We welcome nominations from the immunology community and it takes essentially no time to complete. Best of all, they can be submitted at any time. Your nominee will be honored and appreciate that you recognized their achievements. Simply email the required information to: <a href="mailto:info@csi-sci.ca">info@csi-sci.ca</a>

We have four categories of awards:

The Bernhard Cinader Award is named in honor of Dr. Hardi Cinader who was the inaugural award recipient at the first CSI meeting held in 1987. Dr. Cinader was a member of a small group of immunologists that "founded" immunology in Canada in the 60's. Dr. Cinader was an outstanding immunochemist with a strong personality and a passionate patron of native Canadian art and artists. The Bernhard Cinader Award is awarded to an immunologist working in Canada who is an exceptional researcher, exceptional mentor and also has something "extra". The "extra" could be teaching, art, outreach, writing, nearly anything in which the researcher excels (is not average). The nominee's service to the Canadian Immunology community will also be considered. Nominations are accepted by letter(s) and should describe the exceptional abilities and contributions of the scientist nominated. The award includes travel reimbursement to the meeting as well as a plaque along with a cash prize (\$500). The award is given at the CSI meeting.

\*NEW\* - CSI Mentorship Award: The CSI Mentorship Award is given to recognize CSI members who make outstanding contributions to the mentoring of scientists at all levels, including but not limited to undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars and early career investigators. The award can be, but is not necessarily, given each year during annual CSI meetings. The nominee can be in any sector (academic, industry) beyond 6 years from their first appointment as an independent investigator. Nominations should include a CV, mentee nomination letter(s) and a brief mentorship statement including equity, diversity and inclusiveness considerations. The award includes a \$1,000 CSI meeting travel reimbursement to be used by the awardee and/or their mentee(s) at the awardee's discretion.

**CSI Investigator Award**: An award for a member of CSI for excellence or potential excellence in research. The applicant must be beyond six years from their first appointment as an independent investigator, and can be in any sector (academic, industry). The award is up to \$1,000 for one or two trainees of the CSI Investigator Awardee to attend the next CSI Conference. Nominator must send a letter of rationale/support summarizing the achievements and CV of the Nominee. Note: Awardee must use this award within two years of receipt.

CSI New Investigator Award: An award for a member of CSI for excellence or potential excellence in research. The applicant must be within six years from the date of their first appointment as an independent investigator, and can be in any sector (academic, industry, etc.). If the researcher took a parental leave during this six-year period, consideration will be provided at double time for the parental leave. For example, a researcher who took six months for parental leave would benefit from a 12-month extension of their eligibility for CSI New Investigator awards. The award is up to \$1,000 for one or two trainees of the New Investigator Awardee to attend the next CSI Conference. Nominator must send a letter of rationale/support summarizing the achievements and CV of the Nominee. Note: the Awardee must use this award within two years of receipt.

John D. Reynolds Award: This award is named in honor of Dr. John D. Reynolds who was the inaugural award recipient at the 21<sup>st</sup> annual CSI meeting in 2008. For over 20 years, John Reynolds served the CSI in multiple capacities, including as Councilor and President. But what the CSI honors him for most is his developing, building, and managing of CSI's first Website. John's creative computer leadership led the CSI into the 21st Century in conference and membership management long before such usage was common. His volunteer service pushed the CSI to the forefront internationally.

The John D. Reynolds Award is given for a long-term member of the CSI for their exceptional service to CSI. The award can be, but is not necessarily, given each year. The nominator should send a letter of rationale/support summarizing the service to the CSI. The award includes a \$2,000 travel reimbursement to be used by the awardee and as many trainees as they wish to include to the present CSI annual meeting or within two years of award receipt.

#### **Meeting Travel Award Recipients 2024**

Thank you to our Awards Committee, Sherri Christian - Chair (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Anna Blakney (University of British Columbia), David Brooks (University Health Network Research), Sarah Crome (University Health Network Research), Francesca Di Cara (Dalhousie University), Adam Gehring (University Health Network Research), Amy Gilgrass (McMaster University), Krista Heinonen (Institut national de la recherche scientifique), Bryan Heit (Western University), Seung-Hwan Lee (University of Ottawa), Alfredo Menendez (Université de Sherbrooke), Pete Pioli (University of Saskatchewan), Woong-Kyung Suh (Institut de recherches cliniques de Montreal), Sebastian Talbot (Queen's University).

The Canadian Society for Immunology congratulates the following graduate students, post doctoral scholars and new investigators for their success in the CSI 2024 Travel Award competition.

#### Students:

#### MSc Winners (\$500) in alphabetical order:

JCZP University of Toronto Immunology Travel Award	Willem Brandt	University of Ottawa
CSI Travel Award	Laurence Caron	University of Montreal
CSI Travel Award	Amelia Kulle	McGill University
CSI Travel Award	Olamide Ogungbola	University of Manitoba
CSI Travel Award	Amirhossein Rahmati	University of Alberta
CSI Travel Award	Padmanie Ramotar	University of Manitoba
CSI Travel Award	Nicole Wang	Western University

## PhD Winners (\$500) in alphabetical order:

JCZP University of Toronto Immunology Travel Award	Karine Bouchard	Université Laval
CSI Travel Award	Serina Chahal	Western University
CSI Travel Award	Michelle Cheung	University of Toronto
CSI Travel Award	Marina Costa Fujishi	University of Manitoba
CSI Travel Award	Carolina de Amat Herbozo	University of Toronto
CSI Travel Award	Emily Feng	McMaster University
CSI Travel Award	Rachael FitzPatrick	University of Victoria
CSI Travel Award	Kevin Joannou	University of Alberta
CSI Travel Award	Zhe Qi (Kitty) Liu	University of Toronto
CSI Travel Award	Martin Mak	University of Toronto
CSI Travel Award	Sonya Mangat	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
CSI Travel Award	Shayla Mosley	University of Alberta
CSI Travel Award	Diane Tshikudi	University of Manitoba
CSI Travel Award	Stefanie Valbon	University of Montreal

## Post Doctoral Scholars:

## Winners (\$1000) in alphabetical order:

CSI Travel Award	Douglas Chung	University of Toronto
CSI Travel Award	Hassan Jamaleddine	McGill University
CSI Travel Award	Danuzia Marques	Université Laval
JCZP University of Toronto Immunology Travel Award	Laura Mathae	Karolinska Institutet
CSI Travel Award	Sebastien This	Hospital Maisonneuve-Rosemont Research Centre

## New Investigators:

## Winners (\$1,500) in alphabetical order:

CSI Travel Award	Michele Ardolino	University of Ottawa
CSI Travel Award	Francesca Di Cara	Dalhousie University
CSI Travel Award	Jean-Francois Lauzon-Joset	Université Laval

## 7. CSI SPONSORED SYMPOSIUMS

#### AAI Immunology 2024, May 3 – 7, Chicago, IL

CSI Sponsored Symposium: May 7, 8:00 - 10:00 am

#### **Antagonistic Roles of Interferons**

Chairs: Dr. Subash Sad, University of Ottawa; Dr. Deanna Santer, University of Manitoba

**David Brooks**, *University of Toronto, Canada*, "Regulation of T cell dysfunction and response to cancer immunotherapy by interferons"

**Nathalie Grandvaux**, *University of Montreal, Canada*, "Unveiling Interferon Pathway's Intricate Dance with Redox Metabolism through novel post-translational modifications"

Subash Sad, University of Ottawa, Canada, "The benefits of leaky interferon signalling"

**Deanna Santer**, *University of Manitoba*, *Canada*, "Type III interferons: emerging roles beyond antiviral immunity at mucosal barriers"

**Jörg Fritz**, *McGill University*, *Canada*, "Mechanistic insights of Interferon-mediated regulation of group 2 innate lymphoid cells"

#### FOCIS 2024, June 18 - 21, 2024, San Francisco, CA

CSI Sponsored Symposium: June 18, 8:00 - 11:30 am

#### Crosstalk between stress and immunity

Chairs: Jean-Francois Lauzon-Joset, Université Laval; Chao Wang, University of Toronto

Caroline Ménard, *Université Laval*, "Neurovascular adaptations and biomarkers underlie stress vulnerability vs resilience and human depression"

**Chao Wang**, *University of Toronto*, "The Regulation of Stress by IL-17"

**Marie-Eve Tremblay**, *University of Victoria*, "Microglial remodelling of the extracellular matrix: outcomes on synaptic plasticity and behaviour during stress"

**Jean-Francois Lauzon-Joset**, *Université Laval*, "Sex-specific impact of early life stress on lung immunity"

**Kenny Chan**, *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*, "Stress-activated brain-gut circuits disrupt intestinal barrier integrity and social behaviour"

## 8. ECI WEBINAR SERIES

#### **Early Career Investigators Webinar Series:**

This lectureship Series is named in honor of Dr. Michael Gold who has made lasting contributions to the mentoring of ECIs and/or postdoctoral scholars transitioning into independent investigator positions. Please help us celebrate the new additions to our community of scholars by nominating ECIs joining your own institutes and elsewhere. Visit the **CSI website** on how to nominate speakers.



The Michael Gold Webinar Series has been established by the Canadian Society for Immunology (CSI) to honor a current or past CSI member who has made lasting contributions to the mentoring of early career investigators and postdoctoral scholars transitioning into independent research positions. Dr. Gold is a Professor and former Head of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at University of British Columbia and the 2013 recipient of the CSI Cinader Award. He is known for his many contributions to the scientific community, including his roles in mentoring trainees of all levels to the top.

Jan. 11, 2024 **Dr. Hugues Allard-Chamard**, *University of Sherbrooke* "Inborn Error of Immunity as Tool to Understand the Development of Rheumatic Conditions" March 14, 2024 **Dr.** Anna Blakney, University of British Columbia "Next-Generation RNA Vaccines & Therapies" May 16, 2024 Dr. Julianna Blagih, Université de Montréal "Regulating T-cell responses through cellular metabolism and diet" July 11, 2024 **Dr. Amy Gillgrass**, McMaster University "Utilizing Next-Generation Humanized Mouse Models to Investigate Immune Responses in Infectious Disease and Cancer" Sept. 12, 2024 **Dr. Peter Pioli,** *University of Saskatchewan* "Thymus antibody-secreting cells and their potential contributions to immunity and autoimmunity" Nov. 14, 2024 **Dr. Shane Harding**, *University of Toronto* "The Pattern Recognition Response network after DNA damage"

## 9. IMMUNOLOGY IN CANADA

Below is a non-comprehensive collection of updates on immunology happenings across the country.

#### Research Canada: 2024 Year in Review provided by Eleanor Fish



#### Major advocacy pushes

- 1. Budget 2024 advocacy: RC worked strategically alongside the Canadian Research Coalition to achieve maximum results for the Tri Agencies and student supports and welcomed many other research investments in April 2024.
- 2. Post-budget 2024 advocacy: RC did considerable work to track, monitor and influence the further design and plans for operationalization of the proposed capstone organization and Council on Science and Innovation.
- 3. All-party outreach: well in advance of the federal election, RC is maximizing all party outreach and strengthening relationships across parties and federal departments.
- 4. Pre-budget 2025 advocacy: to build on last year's research funding announcements, RC is broadening its approach to talk about the need for support that helps achieve greater impact from research—from idea generation to the commercialization and availability of new products, services and programs that benefit people's health and the economy.

This work has led to numerous meetings media opportunities, speaking engagements and two appearances before the House Standing Committee on Science and Research as they studied a variety of topics critical to our ecosystem.

#### Opportunities to get more engaged with Research Canada in 2025

- 1. RC is growing its pipeline of research and innovation leaders with deep expertise and particular skills for the Research Canada Board of Directors.
- 2. RC will be creating a new policy and advocacy working group as an evolution from the current Policy Engagement Committee, with new Terms of Reference and more regular meetings and sharing of intelligence.
- 3. RC plans to launch a research and innovation communications network in 2025 and are looking for member organizations to name their senior strategic communications professionals and/or research communications professionals to this group.
- 4. RC seeks researcher nominations for their Parliamentary Health Research Caucus events held regularly and CSI should engage.

#### Day of Immunology - April 29

The UofT IMMspire initiative is a student-led outreach program that aims to introduce high school students to the field of immunology research through interactive, inquiry-based, and hands-on experiences. Throughout the school year, our team organizes workshops and seminars that engage students in the latest advancements in immunology. The program culminates in a two-day in-person event, focused on exploring a range of immune-related diseases and their impact. The 2024 IMMspire

event, held around the Day of Immunology, was a resounding success, engaging over 80 high school students from across the Greater Toronto Area with the support of 30 volunteers and 15 speakers.

The theme of IMMspire 2024 was *Clinical and Translational Immunology*. On Day 1, high school students had the unique opportunity to hear from Dr. Teresa Martinu and Dr. Naoto Hirano, who shared insights into their cutting-edge research. After campus tours and a fun, bench to bedside-themed escape room, students further explored STEM opportunities by attending graduate student talks and a dedicated undergraduate career panel, where they could ask questions and learn about pursuing STEM careers. Day 2 focused on introducing students to key immunology techniques aligned with the event's theme. Students engaged in hands-on workshops covering techniques such as Histology, ELISA, Flow Cytometry, and PCR. In each session, they tackled case studies, applied practical laboratory knowledge, and conducted "experiments" to explore and solve scientific challenges discussed in the workshop. The event concluded with inspiring closing remarks from Dr. Jennifer Gommerman, the chair of the department, leaving the students with a lasting impression.

The IMMspire 2024 event proved to be an invaluable experience for all who participated, with student testimonials highlighting immersive experiences and the opportunity to interact with mentors in the field of immunology. Several students expressed that the event's combination of scientific exposure and career-focused discussions helped them better navigate their academic futures. The event's success was not only in the content provided but also in how it sparked curiosity and enthusiasm among the next generation of scientists.

#### From the Ontario Immunology community

#### **Infection and Immunity Research Forum (IIRF)**

The Infection and Immunity Research Forum (IIRF) is an annual, student-led conference organized by graduate students in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Western University. Since its inception in 2006, IIRF has provided undergraduate and graduate students from across Canada with a platform to showcase their research through oral and poster presentations.

Last year, IIRF 2024 took place on November 1, 2024, as a full-day event held at the beautiful Sunningdale Golf and Country Club. The conference attracted 136 attendees and featured 8 trainee talks and 72 poster presentations. IIRF 2024 was honoured to host **Dr. Eleanor Fish** as the keynote speaker, who gave an inspiring and insightful talk on the critical role of interferons in antiviral immunity. The event also featured a career panel discussion, where professionals from academia, medicine, and industry shared their



experiences and provided valuable guidance for attendees preparing to navigate life after graduate school.

Building on the success of last year's event, IIRF 2025 will be generously sponsored by CSI and will continue to provide an engaging platform for trainees to showcase their research and connect with the scientific community.







#### From the British Columbia Immunology community

# 12th Annual ImmunoBC Retreat: A joint ImmunoBC/ImmunoTherapeutics Cluster (ImmunoT) conference

The 12th Annual ImmunoBC Retreat, held on February 20-21, 2025, at UBC's Life Sciences Centre, was an important milestone for the BC immunology research community, as it was the first post-COVID formal gathering of the community and the inaugural ImmunoBC conference jointly

organized by ImmunoBC and the Immunotherapeutics (ImmunoT) cluster. This meeting showcased immunology research happening in BC across diverse immunological disciplines ranging from basic immunology research to translational work on innate and adaptive immunity and immunotherapy approaches.

The program included plenary sessions, trainee talks, poster presentations, and networking events. A highlight of the event was the joint PI-trainee talk format, wherein principal investigators provided a big-picture overview of their research, followed by trainees presenting detailed mechanistic insights. This format highlighted the strong mentorship culture within the BC immunology community. The conference featured an inspiring keynote address from Dr. Kazuyo Moro (Osaka University), who discussed "Type 2 Immunity: A Double-Edged Sword in Health and Disease".



The talks were structured into several thematic sessions, including Host-Microbial Interactions and Inflammatory Disease, Innate Immune Development and Airway Inflammation, Immunotherapy: Cells and Beyond, Immunotherapy in Cancer: From Molecular Mechanisms to Therapeutic Strategies. The conference included 64 trainee abstracts and an engaging poster session.

The organizing committee, led by Chair Dr. Morgan Roberts (UBC), included Drs. Lisa Reynolds (UVic), Mani Larijani (SFU), Kelly McNagny (UBC), and Alice Mui (UBC), with invaluable support

and leadership from trainee co-organizers Maggie Chopra, Stella Chen, and Grace Kuo. Among the numerous sponsors, the organizing committee is grateful to CSI for its support through the newly established regional meeting funding program. Five CSI-sponsored poster awards were presented at the conference.







#### From Saskatchewan and Manitoba Immunology community

The Prairie Infection & Immunity Network (PIIN) is an investigator-driven collection of researchers from academia, industry and government in Manitoba and Saskatchewan with wideranging research interests into the mechanisms of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

The mission of PIIN is to promote health research and education through scientific networking, mentorship and career developments opportunities for trainees and researchers across the prairies. After a successful PIIN 2023 meeting in Hecla, Manitoba with over 140 attendees, we are organizing the PIIN 2025 meeting to be held in Saskatoon, SK at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel from Sept 28-30, 2025. With over 150+ attendees across both provinces expected, PIIN 2025 will feature two keynote speakers: Dr. Anna Blakney (Michael Smith Laboratories, UBC) who combines bioengineering, molecular biology and immunological approaches to develop generation RNA-based therapies, and Dr. Natalie Grandvaux (Université de Montréal) who has expertise in innate immunity against viral infections including respiratory viruses. Each of the 5 scientific sessions will be co-chaired by researchers from Manitoba and Saskatchewan and will highlight talks by established researchers and abstract-selected trainees. Two poster sessions will



feature research presentations by trainees intermingled with networking events. The student organization committee is planning a career development workshop with invited speakers across different career spectrums. At PIIN 2025, we look forward to hearing about exciting research initiatives led by Manitoba and Saskatchewan researchers and trainees. We are thankful for our generous supporters of PIIN 2025 including the University of Manitoba (Departments of Immunology

and MMID), University of Saskatchewan (Department of BMI, School of Public Health), Western College of Veterinary Medicine, VIDO, our corporate sponsors and finally to CSI for supporting trainee awards and student-led workshop activities. If interested in joining us, please contact us!

Drs. Kerry Lavender (University of Saskatchewan) & Thomas Murooka (University of Manitoba) Co-Chairs of PIIN 2025

#### From the Montreal Immunology community

Montreal Immunology Meetings (MIM) is a group of principal investigators working as the organizing committee of an annual symposium to bring together the community of fundamental, translational, and clinical immunologists working in the Greater Montreal area. In 2024, MIM held five Scientific Happy hour events which featured excellent talks from our colleagues in Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec City, and *Trois-Rivières, in addition to free pizza and drinks for all*.

In addition, the 11th annual Montreal Immunology Meetings symposium was held on November 12, 2024, at the Research Center of the University of Montreal hospital center. The free, one-day event attracted more than 220 attendees. The theme of the 2024 symposium was *Modulation of the immune system by environmental factors* and featured outstanding speakers with diverse research programs. Our Keynote speaker, Dr Nick Arpaia from Columbia University, entertained with an enthusiastic talk about probiotic neoantigen delivery vectors for precision cancer immunotherapy. Talks from Drs. Julianna Blagih, Nicolas Cermakian, Daniela Quail, and Ajitha Thanabalasuriar covered the impact of nutrition, obesity, circadian rhythm, and vaping on both the innate and adaptive immune system. Stellar poster and oral presentations from trainees rounded out the day of great science, good food, and lots of networking. Poster abstract awards went to Armando Espinosa Ortiz, Stefanie Valbon, and Sébastien This. Oral presentation awards were given to Hélène Roux, Emma Skora, Elpida Bokou Gianneli, and Dr. Susan Westfall. These activities and other trainee support, including travel awards to attend the annual CSI meeting, would not be possible without generous contributions from many of the local Montreal universities and research institutes as well as from corporate sponsors and a 2024 dissemination grant from the CIHR.



Abstract Excellence Award Winners: (L-to-R) Armando Espinosa Ortiz, Stefanie Valbon, Sébastien This



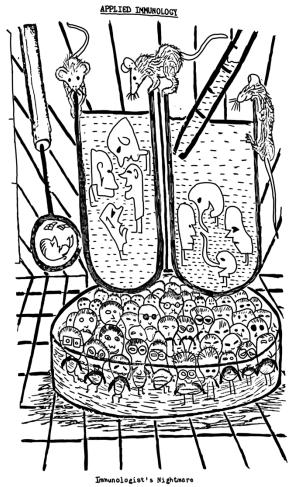
Graduate student and post-doc oral presentation awardees (L-to-R) Hélène Roux, Emma Skora, Susan Westfall, Elpida Bokou Gianneli

## **10. BLASTS FROM THE PAST**

~ 1969 ~

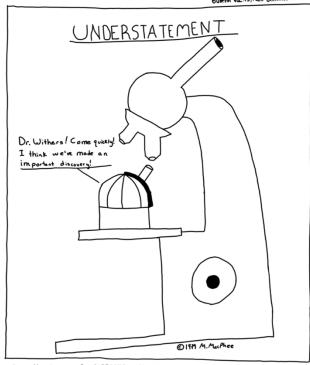
~ 1982 ~

Bulletin VOL. 3NO. 2, December 1969



DRAWBACKS & QUOTES

Bulletin VOL.13, NO.1 December 1982



Contributions of CARTOONS, HUMOROUS QUOTES, PUNCK LINES, and RESPECTABLE SHORT STORIES with either insufficient or abundant 'immunologic contents' are welcomed. If the spirit moves you, send us a laugh.

## ~ 1983 ~

#### 

Bulletin VOL 14. December 1983

#### The CELL family





## ~ 1985 ~

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Bulletin VOL 16 December 1985

#### Prayer of an Immunology Graduate Student

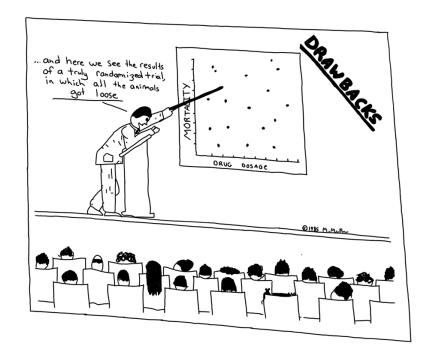
Our father, who art in thymus Hallowed by thy lymphokines A pathogen come, thy will be done In vitto as it is in vivo.

Give us this day our delayed hypersensitivity And forgive us our phagocytosis As we forgive those who phagocytise us.

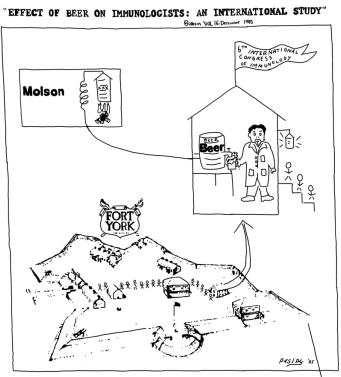
And lead us not into antigenic sin But please deliver us from migration inhibition tests For thine is the MRC grant, labwork and thesis Forever.



Lyn Brundage (Guelph)



## ~ 1985 ~



## ~ 1987 ~

