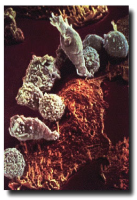
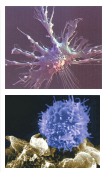
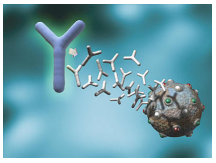





ISI Newsletter

Volume 4 – Issue 1 – March 2008

In this issue:

ISI elects a new president

Aideen Long (IMM, St. James) was elected as the new ISI president at the 2007 ISI AGM. Aideen is well known to us all and has been an active member of the ISI since the early 1990s.

Her primary research interests lie in cell signalling mechanisms with a particular emphasis on mechanisms of T cell activation and migration. Aideen is the sixth elected ISI president and takes over from Cliona O'Farrelly (TCD). We hope that Aideen enjoys her new role and continues to build on the success of the ISI put in place by her predecessors.

Kingston Mills (TCD) was also elected as vice-president. Cliona may have hung up her presidential hat but continues to play an active role in the society as a committee member.

We look forward to continue to prosper under the guidance of the new ISI team.

The modern and ever expanding campus of Dublin City University was the setting for the Annual ISI Conference held on the 13th and 14th of September 2007. The growing immunology research community in Ireland was evident with a record number of delegates in attendance. In an attempt to further bridge the academic and clinical immunology research settings, the ISI was proud to introduce a Continuing Medical Education (CME) accreditation system at the 2007 meeting. Every year the ISI strives to bring researchers together, spark lively scientific discussions, fuel ideas and foster collaborations. I think delegates would agree that the 2007 conference certainly did not fail in meeting any of these goals.

Steve Calvano (New Jersey) opened the meeting, discussing the challenges for modelling and interpreting the complex biology of severe injury and inflammation.

- Continue overleaf-.

The question of whether peptide length could influence peptide affinity was posed by Cathal O'Brien (Dept of Immunology TCD and St James Hospital). Caroline Sutton (TCD) described the importance of IL-1 and IL-23 for the differentiation of IL-17 producing cells and provided evidence for γδT cells acting as an innate source of IL-17 in the promotion of IL-17 αβ T cells.

A lively and thought provoking presentation by Padraic Fallon (St James) discussed whether a worm a day could keep allergy at bay. The chronic autoimmune disease, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and specifically, Ro52; an autoantigen associated with lupus was the focus of Caroline Jefferies (RCSI) presentation. Martina Schroder (TCD) unravelled the viral evasion strategies of the vaccinia virus, K7. She demonstrated that K7 interacts with a cellular DEAD-box protein and that this mediates the inhibitory effect of K7 on IRF activation.

Members of the Pellino family and the role they play in the regulation of innate immune signalling was discussed by Paul Moynagh (NUI, Maynooth). A clinical insight into sepsis and inflammation was provided by Tom Ryan (St James). Jim Johnson's (Queen's University) presentation explored the world of SOCS in myeloproliferative disease. Andrew Bowie (TCD) closed the first day of the meeting with an intriguing insight into the clever evasion strategies of viruses and what viruses have taught us about innate immune recognition pathways.

The final day of the meeting was opened with a visually spectacular and informative presentation by Ester de Jong (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands). She discussed how the development of antibacterial Th17 cells are selectively promoted by dendritic cells and showed that bacteria, but not viruses, primed human DCs to promote IL-17 production in memory T cells through a NOD2 dependent pathway. The NOD2 agonist, MDP, enhanced obligate bacterial TLR induced IL-23 and IL-1, which in turn, promoted IL-17 expression by T cells.

Most vaccines are administered in the presence of alum. Although alum has been used effectively in vaccines for decades, its precise mode of adjuvant action is not very well understood. Ed Lavelle (TCD) described work undertaken by his group in unravelling how adjuvants work and how the activation of innate immune responses is largely behind their mode of action.

Clostridium difficile is commonly behind hospital "superbug" outbreaks. Christine Loscher (DCU) demonstrated that surface proteins isolated from this pathogen activates innate immune responses through a TLR4 dependent mechanism.

A role for high mobility group box protein-1 (HMGB1), a nuclear DNA-binding protein, in the pathology of systemic autoimmune diseases such as SLE and rheumatoid arthritis was discussed by Anthony Coyle (MedImmune™, USA). He showed that HMGB1 is an essential component of DNA-immune complexes that stimulate immune cells to produce potent inflammatory responses. Evidence presented seemed to indicate that HMGB1 may be an important factor in the sequence of events that result in severe tissue damage following injury or during chronic inflammation. MedImmune™ also have data indicating that blocking antibody to HMGB1 may provide protection in chronic inflammatory diseases.

T cells are critical to control acute infection of a host with retroviruses but they are unable to prevent the development of chronic infections. Ulf Dittmer (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany) described studies of mice chronically infected with Friends virus, which revealed a complex balance of immune responses including two distinct $CD4^+$ T cell subsets with opposing effects. A $CD4^+$ T cell effector subset exerts the antiviral activity required to keep virus replication in check while a $CD4^+$ regulatory subset suppresses

the ability of $CD8^+$ T cells to eliminate the infection.

Rick Maizels (University of Edinburgh) described regulatory T cells induced by Parasites. Work by Maizel's group suggests that in the mouse model of filariasis, CTLA-4 co-inhibition and $CD4^+CD25^+$ T regulatory cells form complementary components of immune regulation that inhibit protective immunity *in vivo*.

The 2007 ISI meeting closed with a presentation by Kingston Mills (TCD) on regulatory T cell control of effector and pathogenic T cells and the implications for disease processes. It was a great end to a great meeting.

This article cannot do justice to the excellent presentations given by all the speakers (apologies to those not mentioned in this piece). The ISI team are currently organising the 2008 meeting and it promises to be one of the best yet.

List of ISI winners, page 9

Sarah Higgins

A date for your diaries!
ISI Annual Conference 2008:
15th -16th September, RDS, Dublin 4.
Don't miss it! *See pages 7-9 for preliminary programme and substantial prizes!!*

Also of interest:
"Recent Advances in Pattern Recognition", Lisbon, Portugal, September 24th-28th 2008 (www.toll2008.org).

4th Congress of the Federation of Immunology Societies of Asia-Oceania (FIMSA) to be held in Taipei (Taiwan) from 17th-21st October 2008 (www.fimsa2008.org)

CAREER FOCUS

Welcome to a new section of the ISI newsletter. As we all know, immunologists are *extremely* talented individuals and have a lot to offer in the workplace. In this section, we aim to explore the various career paths taken by individuals with an immunology background. We start the series with Dr. Olive Leavy, Senior Editor, Nature Reviews Immunology.

Dr. Olive Leavy

Job Title: Senior Editor, Nature Reviews Immunology

Degree: BSc from NUI, Maynooth

PhD: "Mechanisms of immunomodulatory activity of cholera toxin", School of Biochemistry and Immunology, Trinity College Dublin.

Describe a typical work day.

Every day is different. Most mornings involve going through the recent table-of-contents of all immunology-related journals over a cup of coffee to see what papers have been published, followed by replying to the many emails that come in from the US overnight. Then it's down to the hard work of the day! This can involve anything from editing the first draft of a manuscript for structure, clarity, flow and content, writing a Research Highlight on a recent paper of particular interest, which we publish in the front half of the journal each month, drawing figures for the articles with our art editor, proofing articles before they are published, liaising with referees and authors and sending the referee reports to the authors with our additional comments, or research potential commissioning ideas for our monthly commissioning meetings. One of the great aspects of this job is that every day I am working with articles on diverse and interesting topics, so the job never gets boring!

- Continue overleaf-.

What are the highlights of your job?

The main highlight for me is travelling to conferences. Although the jet-lag can be tough sometimes, I've travelled to some amazing parts of the world, and more importantly, have met many of the top researchers in this field. It is always exciting to attend a conference at which new, unpublished data is presented and to meet the people that are actually doing the work. I also get to chat with senior authors of break-through papers, and to pick their brains for potential commissioning ideas.

Do you miss the bench?

My favorite part of my PhD was writing my thesis, so, honestly, no I don't miss the bench. Sometimes, at a conference, I miss the buzz that is associated with finally getting the result you have been looking for and presenting it to your peers, but overall it doesn't really compare with the satisfaction that I get from my job now.

Have you any advice for PhD students/Postdocs that wish to follow a similar career path?

My main advice is to read, read, and read some more! One of the toughest parts of the job is to keep on top of all of the different fields that fall under the umbrella of immunology, so the more you read the easier it becomes to identify the really key papers and the hottest trends that are emerging within each discipline. Because science writing is different from other types of writing I would also encourage people to write some science articles for different newsletters etc — perhaps a meeting report or a highlight of a paper you found interesting.

What advice do you have for those of us about to embark on writing a scientific paper or review?

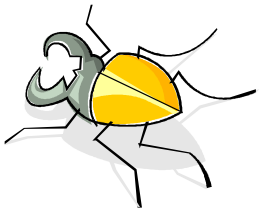
Keep it simple! We work hard to ensure that all our articles — whether it is a Review, a Highlight or a Perspective — have a clear and simple take-home message, which is easily accessible to the reader. We ask all our authors, irrespective of their experience, to first submit a synopsis to us before starting on the full article. We find this to be a crucial step in the writing process, as it provides a skeleton for the author to work from but also allows us to provide feedback on the overall structure and the logical progression of the piece. Things that I think are important to consider before starting an article or paper are: What is the key take-home message or story that you want to convey in the piece? Is there a succinct introduction that will provide the necessary background to highlight why this is an important and timely article? What are the main sections of the article and do they follow in a logical order (not just in the order that the experiments were done in or the publication date of the references)? What is the key take-home message of each section and how does this tie in with the overall message of the article? Is there a clear, concise final section that not only draws the article together but that discusses the future prospects of this area of research?

…and what are the common downfalls you encounter in the work that you review?

There are a few things that occur quite often, most of which are related to the questions that I listed above. In addition, a common downfall is a presumption that the reader knows as much as you do, which is rarely the case. It is important to provide enough background in an article to ensure that the reader can understand the significance of the discussion without clogging it up with superfluous information. We spend quite a lot of time trying to get this balance right. Another area that we focus on is inconsistencies in the terminology used in the article. As in many science disciplines, there can be several ways to define a molecule or describe a process. However, for clarity, we insist that only one term is used throughout an article and that every abbreviation is defined within the text.

Many thanks to Olive for participating in this piece. We hope that budding scientific writers out there found her advice useful.

If you have any suggestions for the Career focus section please contact the Editor.



IRISH SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY

SCHOOLS TALKS 2008:

The ISI has organised a series of Schools Talks, in association with the RDS, as part of their contribution to the global "Day of Immunology" (29th April 2008). These talks are aimed at second level students and hope to stimulate both an interest in and understanding of immunology.

"WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM – HOW YOUR BODY SEEKS AND DESTROYS INVADERS."

FRIDAY 18TH APRIL 2008,
RDS CONCERT HALL, 10AM – 1PM.

10:00am **Dr Derek Doherty.**
National University of Ireland Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
"The Immune System – The Body's Armed Forces and their Weapons"

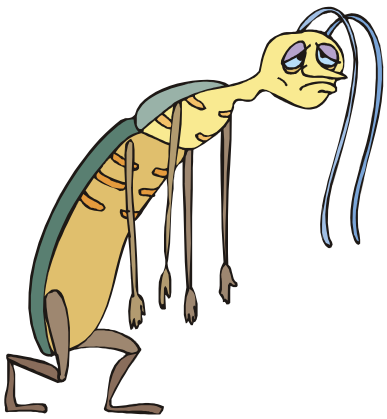
10:30am **Dr Niall Conlon.**
Beaumont Hospital, Dublin 9.
"Allergy; A Plague for our times?"

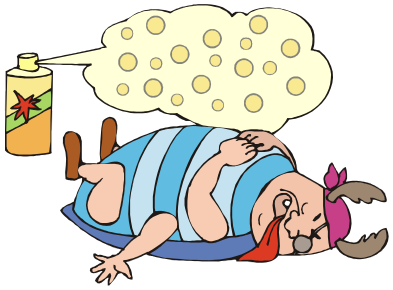
11:00am **Break**

11:30am **Dr Sarah Higgins.**
Trinity College, Dublin 2.
"Bacteria: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"

12:00pm **Dr Mary Bourke,**
Wyeth Medica Ireland.
"Making Vaccines and Saving Lives."

12:30pm **Dr Mary Keogan.**
Beaumont Hospital, Dublin 9.
"HIV – Why is it so dangerous?"





ALL WELCOME

ISI Public Lecture Award, May 15th, 2008:

The Irish Society for Immunology (ISI) is committed to promoting the public understanding of immunology in Ireland. Each year this society makes an award to an outstanding Irish immunologist in recognition of their major contribution to the understanding of Immunology and health improvement. Thus, a major component of the award ceremony is a public lecture by the awardee on his or her work and how it pertains to health. This year, the ISI will present the award to an outstanding Irish Immunologist working abroad.

The ISI are pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the award is Professor Cliona O' Farrelly, Professor of Comparative Immunology, Trinity College Dublin.

Professor O' Farrelly will deliver an ISI/Irish Times/Royal Dublin Society (RDS) Science Today lecture entitled:

"Bugs or Us: Immunity and the Battle for Survival"

In The Merrion Room, RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, on Thursday, 15th May 2008, from 7.30-8.30pm.

This year's public lecture by Professor O' Farrelly will mark the ISI's contribution to the "Day of Immunology" which will be hosted on April 29th, 2008. This event has been organized by The European Federation of Immunological Societies in an effort to promote the public awareness of immunology both in Europe and globally.

Cliona O'Farrelly, Professor of Comparative Immunology, Trinity College Dublin.

2008 ISI Public Lecture Awardee

After graduating from Trinity College Dublin in 1977 with an Honours degree in Natural Sciences and a Moderatorship in Microbiology, Professor Cliona O'Farrelly pursued a Ph.D in Immunology, also at TCD. This academic background laid the foundation for a lifelong interest in infection and how our bodies respond to it. Her post-doctoral studies led her to Sussex University where she studied immune mechanisms in the gastrointestinal tract and how they might influence rheumatoid arthritis. These efforts led to opportunities at Harvard University in Boston, where Cliona taught Immunology and was engaged in research on how hen egg components might influence mucosal immunity and protect against gastrointestinal infection.

On her return to Ireland in 1990, Cliona continued research into mucosal immunity. Cliona took up the position as Director of Research Laboratories at St.Vincent's University Hospital, in 1993. Together with John Hegarty, clinical director of the National Liver Transplantation Centre based at SVUH, Cliona set up a programme of research into human liver immunology. A particular focus has been the immune system in the liver and its response hepatitis C.

A recipient of the Irish Research Scientists' Association Gold Medal, the Graves medal and the Conway medal, Cliona O'Farrelly also was President of the Irish Society of Immunology from 2000-2007 and a Core Conway Investigator at the Conway Institute, UCD. In 2007, Cliona took up her current post as Professor of Comparative Immunology in the School of Biochemistry and Immunology at Trinity College Dublin. Here, she and her research group are particularly interested in ***Comparative Immunomics*** which uses combined in silico and molecular technologies to examine genes and proteins of the innate and adaptive immune systems from different species and how they influence the host's susceptibility to important pathogens.

The focus of the group's work is the battle between ourselves and the microbial world and they are fascinated by how evolution has designed molecular weapons for attack, counter attack and avoidance. Prof. O' Farrelly's group has established a large network of collaborating scientists in academia and industry, both in Ireland and abroad who have a common interest in comparing how host immune genes respond to pathogens like Hepatitis C virus, Salmonella and Mycobacterium tuberculosis. They have published over 120 papers, reviews and book chapters and have raised more than 7 million Euro in research funds from SFI, the Health Research Board.'

ISI Public Lecture, RDS, 15th May 2008:

"Bugs or Us: Immunity and the Battle for Survival."

"Within us, daily battles are fought against all sorts of potential microscopic killers. Mostly, these battles are resolved successfully unbeknownst to us, as all living things have evolved potent mechanisms of defence against microbial infection over the millions of years there has been life on the planet and competition for resources. However, these defences can be breached. Viruses like HIV, flu and hepatitis C and bacteria like Mycobacterium tuberculosis, MRSA and Campylobacter have all evolved ways of attacking, evading and overcoming host defence mechanisms, thus gaining access to rich sources of food, warmth and conditions for successful reproduction. Some species, and even some individuals of particular species, are more vulnerable than others to these evasion strategies. For example, the bacterial species, Campylobacter is the most common cause of food poisoning in humans but is a completely harmless commensal organism in chickens, which are therefore important sources of human infection. We have found that chickens have a unique pathogen detection molecule, TLR15, as well as several unique anti microbial peptides, not found in mammals, which may be critical for their ability to defend themselves against campylobacter infection. Might some of these molecules be useful against human infection? Hepatitis C on the other hand is a virus which only infects humans and for which no cure has yet been discovered. We now know that some humans are able to respond particularly effectively to HCV infection and can completely clear the virus from their systems whereas others remain infected for decades. Our group and our collaborators in Ireland and the US are interested in the molecular mechanisms of this affectivity and the genes that code for them.

In summary, we hope that by identifying species-specific and individual- specific differences in immune genes and molecules, we will be able to develop target directed therapies." *Prof. O' Farrelly.*

HRB Scholars Programme in Immunology

The HRB PhD Scholars Programme in Immunology is the first research PhD of its kind in Ireland. This new programme is led by NUI Maynooth in conjunction with Trinity College Dublin and Queen University Belfast. The Health Research Board has invested €5 million in the programme, which will see a total of 24 PhD students part take in the programme over the next 4 years.

The course is laid out so that the students, in their first year will undertake three rotation placements between the host universities or participating industries, which are Wyeth, Opsona Therapeutics, Biotron, Fusion Antibodies and Genemedix. First year also requires the students to take part in Generic modules such as Information Literacy and Introduction to writing for scientific academic publication. These modules allow the students to build on certain skills and learn about different areas of research outside the lab. Years 2-4 will see the students undertake a dedicated research project, which will take place in one of the participating universities.

The HRB PhD training programme was officially opened my Mary Harney TD, Minister for Health and Children on November 26th 2007. Out of 120 applicants, the successful six were greeted and congratulated by the Minister. Applications for the programme were taken from both Ireland and abroad. The successful scholars were six females; with two places taken by Irish students, while the four remaining places were taken by students spanning from France, India, Singapore and USA.

The HRB Programmed was launched in order to help reach a target which was set up by the Government Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation. The target is to double the number of PhD students trained in Irish Institutes by 2013. NUI Maynooth was chosen as the primary university as the Institute of Immunology has world wide recognition, which makes it the perfect place to develop this new programme.

The director of the programme from NUI Maynooth Prof Paul Moynagh has said that everyone in the Institute of Immunology is delighted to make new contacts with the industries involved in the programme and is equally delighted to be involved in such a unique and promising programme.

Mary Harney with HRB PhD Scholar Programme participants

Heather Kavanagh

Behold the closing statement from one of the founding fathers in the field of immunology, Emil von Behring, in his and Shibasaburo Kitasato's groundbreaking paper entitled: "The mechanism of immunity in animals to diphtheria and tetanus", published on December 4th 1890.

In the year previous, Kitasato became the first to grow the toxin produced by tetanus bacillus in pure culture. Both von Behring and Kitasato were recruited by Robert Koch and worked together in the Institute of Hygiene in Berlin. Between them they showed that animal blood, when exposed for a short period of time to small sterilised forms of tetanus, could produce a substance, which had the ability to destroy the tetanus toxin in its entirety. They christened this substance antitoxin, which today is known as an antibody. From this they went on to show how an "*outstanding therapeutic effect*" could be achieved by injecting this immunized serum into an infected animal. It could also be used to protect animals from further infections or, to

protect those who never contracted it from ever doing so in the (foreseeable) future.

They used very simple experiments to clearly show that:

1. The blood of an animal immune to tetanus has the ability to neutralise or destroy the tetanus toxin.
2. This property exists in cell free serum.
3. This property is stable and can be transferred to other infected animals via blood transfusion to provide a cure and future immunity.

One of the experiments which highlights all three of the above statements was performed as follows:
Blood from previously immunised rabbits was extracted and allowed to stand until it had coagulated and the serum has formed. Separately, a tetanus culture was filtered to isolate the toxin. $1x10^{-4}$ cc of this toxin was sufficient to cause the death of a mouse in 36 hours. 1 cc of toxin was mixed with 5 cc of the serum and left to stand for 24 hours.
0.2 cc of this mixture was then injected into each of four mice, representing over 300 times the lethal dose, while $1x10^{-4}$ cc of tetanus toxin only was injected into four control mice.
The results were that the four control mice died within 36 hours. Those injected with the immunised serum/toxin mixture showed no symptoms of infection and remained healthy. The conclusion here was that the serum showed "*enormous toxin destroying activity*" and demonstrates also, the existence of an antitoxin in serum and its ability to be transferred to other infected animals with a significant therapeutic effect.

Von Behring and Kitussato made one mistake here in that they assumed the mice would remain permanently immune:
"*The mice from all of the experiments that have received either serum alone or serum with toxin were rendered permanently immune, so far as one can tell. Repeated injections at a later time with virulent tetanus bacilli caused not a trace of illness in them.*"
Of course in these more enlightened days we know that what actually was given to the mice was passive immunity and that this eventually would wear off as the rabbit antibodies were destroyed by the mouse's immune system.

Following countless more experiments resulting in the successful roll out a therapeutic serum for diphtheria, Von Behring, but notably not Kitusato was awarded the Nobel prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1901: According to the Nobel committee: *"he has opened a new road in the domain of medical science and thereby placed in the hands of the physician a victorious weapon against illness and deaths"*

The commercialisation of antitoxin for diphtheria only occurred with the help of techniques developed by Paul Ehrlich. This makes their discovery all the more remarkable as they were blind as to the substance they were working with and as scientists must have been intoxicated with intrigue seeing as their hypothesised antitoxin had definite potential for specific therapies for some of the worlds deadliest diseases.
In 1890, blood truly was a very unusual fluid.

Enda Shevlin

ISI Annual Conference 2007 winners

	Winner	Award
Best oral Presentation	Martina Schroeder	€350
Runner up	Karen English	€200
Best Poster Presentation	Anna Barry	€350
Runner up	Sarah Doyle	€200
Student Poster	Declan Madsen	Science Magazine subscription
Runner up	Danijela Petrovic	Science Magazine subscription

Congratulations to all the winners!

Irish Society for Immunology

Joint Meeting of the Irish Society for Immunology (ISI) & the Ulster Immunology Group (UIG).

15th & 16th September 2008, The Concert Hall, Royal Dublin Society, (RDS) Dublin 4, Ireland.

Preliminary Programme

MONDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER

09:15 – 10:15	**Registration, Trade Exhibition & Tea/Coffee**
10:15 – 10:20	**Conference Open/Welcome** *Dr Aideen Long (St. James's Hospital, Dublin & Trinity College, Dublin), President, Irish Society for Immunology.*

Session 1: Immunoregulation.

Chairs: TBA.

10:20 – 11.00	**Keynote address:** ***Title TBA*** **Rob Kastelein (Alabama, USA).**
11:00 – 11.15	**Selected Oral Presentation.**
11:15 – 11.45	***Title TBA*** **UIG speaker.**
11.45 – 12.15	***Tea/Coffee.***
12:15 – 12:30	**Selected Oral Presentation.**
12:30 – 12:45	**Selected Oral Presentation.**
12:45 – 13:15	***"Interplay between pathogenic Th17 and protective T-reg cells in regulation of autoimmunity."*** **Vijay Kucheroo (Harvard, USA).**
13:15 – 14:15	**Lunch, Posters and Trade Exhibition.**

Session 2: Molecular Mechanisms of Immune Mediated Disease.

Chairs: TBA.

14:15 - 14:45 **"*Novel regulatory pathways in immune cells signalling.*"**
Massimo Gadina (Queen's University, Belfast).

14:45 - 15.00 **Selected Oral Presentation.**
15:00 – 15:15 **Selected Oral Presentation.**

15:15 – 15:45 ***Title TBA***
Vincenzo Cerundolo (Oxford University, UK).

15:45 -16:15 ***Tea/Coffee.***

16:15 – 16:45 **Selected Oral Presentation.**
16:45 – 17:00 **Selected Oral Presentation.**

17:00 - 17:40 ***"From paediatric infectious diseases to novel primary immunodeficiencies."***
Jean-Laurent Casanova (Inserm, France).

17:40 - 19:30 **Poster Session, Wine Reception & Trade Exhibition.**
19:30 - LATE ***Banquet Dinner, The Courtyard, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.***

TUESDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER

Session 3: Neuroimmunology.

Chairs: TBA.

09:00 - 09:30 ***Title***
Trevor Owens (University of Southern Denmark).

09:30 – 9:45 **Selected Oral Presentation.**
09:45 – 10:00 **Selected Oral Presentation.**

10:00 – 10:30 ***"Interleukin-27 in CNS autoimmune inflammation."***
Denise Fitzgerald (Jefferson University, USA).

10:30 - 11:00 ***Tea/Coffee.***

11:00 – 11:30 ***Title TBA***
Marina Lynch (Dublin, Ireland).

11:30 – 11:45 **Selected Oral Presentation.**

11:45 – 12:15 ***Title TBA***
Daniel Anthony (Oxford University, UK).

12.15 – 13:00 **Short Presentations from Selected Student Posters.**
(6 Students: 3 min talk + 2 min questions) - *Chair: TBA.*

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch and Posters and Trade Exhibition.**

Session 4: Immunotherapy & Drug Discovery.

Chairs: TBA.

14:00 – 14.30 ***Title TBA***
Niall Tubridy (St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin).

14:30 – 14:45 **Selected Oral Presentation.**

14:45 – 15:15 "***Polyclonal activation of regulatory T-cells with CD28 superagonists?"***
Thomas Hünig (University of Würzburg, Germany).

15:15 – 15:30 **Selected Oral Presentation**.

15.30 – 16:00 ***Tea/Coffee*.**

16:00– 16:30 ***Title TBA***
Professor Luke O'Neill (Trinity College, Dublin).

16:30 – 16:45 **Prizes to be awarded by *TBA***

Oral Presentation Prizes:
Best oral presentation prize: €350 / **Runner-Up prize**: €200.
[Sponsored by (TBA)].

Poster Presentation Prizes:
Best poster presentation prize: €350 / **Runner-Up prize**: €200.
[Sponsored by (TBA)].

Best student poster presentation: €250 prize / **Runner-Up prize**: €150.
[Sponsored by (TBA)].

16:45 **Close of Conference.**
16:50 **Irish Society for Immunology, AGM.**

Win a Harlan Antibody!!

Deadline for application:
31st May 2008

The ISI in association with Harlan are offering a free **custom made polyclonal antibody raised in rabbit at the new Harlan polyclonal production facility in the Hillcrest site in the UK.** The competition is open to PI's, Post-docs, and PhD students. The winning scientist would provide an antigen and the polyclonal antibody would be raised in a rabbit and the resulting antibody would then be harvested and delivered to the scientist."
To enter the competition please send a 200 word article describing how the "Harlan-Antibody" would benefit your research to michelle.armstrong@ucd.ie before 31st of May 2008.

ISI BURSARIES AVAILABLE!!

Deadline for application:
30th April 2008

The ISI are offering 3 bursaries of €300 each to ISI members attending international, immunology-themed meetings

To apply for a bursary you need be a current ISI member and to email/post the following information to the address below:

(1) A copy of your abstract.
(2) Written evidence that your abstract has been accepted for a poster/talk at the meeting of interest.
(3) A letter from your supervisor supporting your bursary application.

Successful ISI bursary applicants are asked to contribute an article (and figure) to the ISI Newsletter before being issued with their bursary.

Contact: michelle.armstrong@ucd.ie

Dr Michelle Armstrong,
School of Medicine and Medical Science,
UCD Conway Institute,
University College Dublin,
Belfield, Dublin 4.

Note from the Editor

I hope you enjoyed this edition of the ISI newsletter. We hope to get more and more ISI members involved in contributing towards the newsletter. Students are given a monetary sum for articles published (poor postdocs could also make a case for a monetary award!) We are interested in hearing about your research, recent conferences you have attended or you can simply write about an area of immunology that fascinates you.

Also, if you have suggestions on how we can improve the newsletter, please contact me or any one of the ISI committee members.

I look forward to your articles and feedback.

Sarah Higgins, ISI Newsletter Editor

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