



2026 Pre-Program

Monday, September 14th

Information Desk

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ballroom Foyer

Special Interest Group Satellites (SIGs):

SIG 1: Immune Exhaustion, from Innate to Adaptive Immunity, and Rejuvenation (8:30-11:30am)

Room: Ballroom A

Chair: Liwu Li

- **Targeting Chronic Inflammation and Immune Cell Exhaustion to Reduce Risk for Age-related Neurodegenerative Diseases**, Malu Tansey, *Indiana University School of Medicine*
- **Monocyte Exhaustion, Propagation and Rejuvenation Therapeutics**, Liwu Li, *Virginia Tech*
- **Immuno-exhaustion in the Lung Tumor Microenvironment**, Haitao Wen, *Ohio State University*
- **Trained Immunity as a Strategy to Restore Trauma-Induced Innate Immune Exhaustion**, Julia Bohannon, *Vanderbilt University*
- **It's All About Proteostasis: The Hidden Logic of T-Cell Exhaustion**, Zihai Li, *The Ohio State University*

SIG 2: Naturally Occurring Veterinary Diseases as Models for Human Diseases

(8:30-11:30am)

Room: Ballroom C

Chair: Rosemary Bayless

Sponsored by [Veterinary and Comparative Clinical Immunology Society \(VCCIS\)](#)



- **Between Mice and (Wo)men: Leveraging Spontaneous Animal Diseases to Benefit Human and Veterinary Patients**, Rosemary Bayless, *North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine*
- **Barn Dust to Breathlessness: Macrophages as the Nexus of Equine Asthma**, Janet Beeler-Marfisi, *University of Guelph, Ontario Veterinary College*
- **What Baby Farm Animals Bring to the (S)Table: Translational Insights into mTB, RSV and Beyond**, Londa Berghaus, *University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine*
- **Gateway to Neonatal Sepsis: The Foal as a Model**, Kelsey Hart, *University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine*
- **Dendritic Cell Modulation: The Foundation for Next-Generation Therapeutic Cancer Vaccines in Comparative Oncology**, Matthew Berry, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, College of Veterinary Medicine*

SIG Attendee Lunch (for SIG registrants only) (11:30am-12:30pm)

Ballroom B

SIG 3: Where and When: Spatiotemporal Determinants of Neutrophil Function (12:30-3:30pm)

Room: Ballroom A

Chair: Ronen Sumagin

- **Spatially Defined Neutrophil Programs Shape Intestinal Inflammatory Outcomes**, Ronen Sumagin, *Northwestern University*
 - **Neutrophil Reprogramming and Bacterial Tolerance in Mucoobstructive Lung Disease**, Rabindra Tirouvanziam, *Emory University*
 - **Temporal Labeling Reveals Prolonged Neutrophil Survival and Distinct Migration Patterns Following Cerebral I/R Injury**, Dave Sullivan, *Northwestern University*
 - **The Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase CD45 promotes Neutrophil Transepithelial Migration, Antimicrobial Function and Colonic Mucosal Repair**, Jennifer Brazil, *University of Michigan*
 - **Novel Mechanisms Regulating Neutrophil Recruitment and Heterogeneity in Sterile Inflammation**, Jaehyung (Gus) Cho, *Washington University School of Medicine*
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SIG 4: Beyond the Tumor Paradigm: The Expanding Biology of Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells (12:30-3:30pm)

Room: Ballroom C

Co-Chairs: Jordan Brauner and Katherine Blin

- **Metabolic Remodeling of Granulocytic Myeloid-derived Suppressor Cells (G-MDSCs) During *Staphylococcus aureus* Biofilm Infection**, Tammy Kielian, *University of Nebraska Medical Center*
 - **Resolution of Post-Lung Transplant Injury by MDSCs via MerTK-dependent Efferocytosis**, Ashish Sharma, *University of Florida College of Medicine*
 - **At the Crossroads with MDSCs: Identifying Senescent Myeloid Cells that Exacerbate Tuberculosis Pathology**, Somnath Shee, *School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University*
 - **Myeloid Cell Control of the Immunopathogenesis of Malaria**, Tracey Lamb, *University of Utah*
 - **The Double-Edged Nature of Myeloid Suppression in Persistent Coinfection**, Ankita Garg, *University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine*
 - **Beyond Supportive Care: Targeting Myeloid-derived Suppressor Cells in Pediatric Critical Illness**, Katherine Blin, *Nationwide Children's*
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BREAK 3:30-3:45pm

SIG 5: Metabolic Control of Leukocyte Biology in the Tumor Microenvironment (3:45-6:45pm)

Room: Ballroom A

Chair: Hind Rafei

- **Tumor-infiltrating Microbes and Their Impact on the Tumor Microenvironment**, Christopher Johnston, *The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*
 - **Macrophage Metabolic Barriers: Gatekeepers of Tumor Immune Evasion**, Stanley Huang, *The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center*
 - **Stromal and Fibroblast Metabolism as a Checkpoint for Anti-Tumor Immunity**, Ranjan Upadhyay, *The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*
 - **GARP-mediated TGF β Activation Shapes Immunosuppression in the Tumor Microenvironment**, Maria Velegraki, *The Ohio State University Medical Center*
 - **NF- κ B Transcriptional Programs Govern CAR T Cell Persistence and Potency**, Yingshi Chen, *Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)/University of Pennsylvania*
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SIG 6: Neuroinflammation Meets Metabolic Disease, T cell Circuits across Brain and Liver (3:45-6:45pm)

Room: Ballroom C

Chair: Smita Iyer

- **T cells in MASLD-associated Neuroinflammation**, Smita Iyer, *University of Pittsburgh*
- **The Role of CD8+ T Cells in High-fat Diet-induced Memory Deficits in Aged Rats**, Ruth Barrientos, *The Ohio State University*
- **Sustained Neuroinflammation and Neurological Deficit after Mild TBI**, Dandan Sun, *University of Pittsburgh*
- **Sex Differences in Subcutaneous Fat Determine Meningeal Lymphocyte Polarization in Obesity**, Alexis Stranahan, *Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University*
- **Brain Endothelial Cell Metabolism in Neuroinflammation: Insights from Sepsis and Ischemic Stroke**, Candice Brown, *Indiana University School of Medicine*

SLB Council Meeting Dinner (Part 1): 5-9 pm – Executive Boardroom– By Invitation Only

59th Annual Society for Leukocyte Biology Meeting
Leukocytes, it's all about location

Tuesday, September 15th

Information Desk

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Ballroom Foyer

JLB Editorial Board Breakfast 7:00 – 8:30 am – Executive Boardroom – **By Invitation Only**

7:00 – 8:00 am Networking Breakfast Ballroom

Hosted by the Engagement and Enrichment Committee, join fellow attendees for this opening breakfast event while discussing a variety of topics. “The Heart of Our Science: Trainee Engagement”

Breakfast Buffet provided.

8:00 – 9:15 am Feature I: Nervous System

Chairs:

Andrew Taylor and Michelle Visser

Location:

Ballroom

8:00 am

Innate Immune Cells Regulate Brain and Behavioral Development, Kathryn Lenz, *Ohio State University*

8:25 am

Neuro-immune Niche that Underpins Touch, Daniel Saban, *Duke University School of Medicine*

8:50 am

Mast Cells: The Versatile Conductors of Allergy, Inflammation and Tissue Remodeling, Theoharis Theoharides, *Nova Southeastern University*

9:15 – 10:30 am Poster Session 1 Ballroom Foyer & Pavillion

Join fellow attendees for a refreshment while browsing the first set of posters (#001-005 & LBX-X).

10:30 – 11:45 am Feature II: Mucosal Tissues

Chairs:

TBD

Location:

Ballroom

10:30 am

A Better Overall Understanding of IL-17 Receptor Signaling in the Oral Mucosa, Heather Conti, *University of Toledo*

10:55 am

Extracellular Vesicles: Regulators of Mucosal Immune Modulation, Shannon Wallet, *University of Florida*

11:20 am

Type 3 Immunity in Mucosal Tissues, Ivaylo Ivanov, *Columbia University*

11:45 am – 12:45 pm Lunch Ballroom Foyer & Pavilion

Join fellow attendees for some social time while enjoying lunch.

12:45 – 3:15 pm **Presidential
Scholars**

Chairs:
Anne Pereira & Cindy Leifer

Location:
Ballroom

Graduate Student Finalists

12:45 pm

**Type 1 Interferon Signaling
Contributes to the Sex-Based
Differences in Pneumococcal
Conjugate Vaccine Efficacy,**
*Anagha Betadpur, University at
Buffalo #033*

1:00 pm

**Probiotic A.muciniphila
Reestablishes Neutrophil
Bactericidal Activity Following
Alcohol and Burn,** Mary Grace
*Murray, Loyola University
Chicago #034*

1:15 pm

**Immunization with sEVs from
Salmonella-Infected
Macrophages Results in
Antigen-Specific Memory T Cell
Responses in mLN's,** Saloni
*Bhimani, University of Florida
#035*

1:30 pm

**VISTA Reprograms Peritoneal Macrophages
following Hemorrhagic Shock and Septic
Challenge,** Fernando Gutierrez Garcia, *Brown
University #036*

1:45 pm

**Filifactor alocis-Infected Neutrophils Sabotage the
Macrophage Efferocytic Process,** Abidemi Ruth
Idowu, University of Louisville #037

Postdoctoral Finalists

2:00 pm

**Polytrauma in Female Mice
Induces Enhanced Inflammatory
but Reduced Coagulant
Responses,** Sudrishti Chaudhary,
University of Pittsburgh #038

2:15 pm

**Epithelial LTA4H-LTB4 Signaling
Promotes Colonic Mucosal
Wound Healing,** Saranyaraajan
*Varadarajan, University of
Michigan #039*

2:30 pm

**Inflamed Intestinal Endothelial
Cells Establish Self-regulatory
Niches with VAMs to Promote
Tissue Damage,** Xingsheng Ren,
Northwestern University #040

2:45 pm

**Exploring Neutrophil Contribution to Anti-TNF α
Therapy Resistance in IBD,** Laura Manzanares,
Northwestern University #041

3:00 pm

**Alcohol Exposure Impairs LC3-associated
Phagocytosis in Macrophage Response to
Infection via IL-1 β -IKK α -ATG4B Axis,** Akash Ahuja,
Cleveland Clinic #042

15 minute break

3:30 – 4:15 pm **Excellence in
Leukocyte Biology Finalists**

Chairs:
Anne Pereira & Cindy Leifer

Location:
Ballroom

3:30 pm

**Phagocytic Completion as a Determinant of
Neutrophil Fate and Pulmonary Disease
Progression during Mycobacterium abscessus
Infection,** Rachel Kinsella, *Emory University #043*

3:50 pm

**Glutamine Metabolism Antagonism Boosts
Phagocytic Activity of Macrophages,** Sadiya
*Parveen-Nesson, Louisiana State University
Health Shreveport #044*

4:15 – 5:45 pm Poster Session 2 Ballroom Foyer & Pavillion

Join fellow attendees for a refreshment (cash bar) while you browse the second set of posters (#006-012 & LBX-X).

5:45 – 6:45 pm

SLB Legacy

Chair:

Elizabeth Kovacs

Location:

Ballroom

Keynote Lecture

SLB Legacy Awardee

Imaging Inflammation and its Resolution, Anna Huttenlocher, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

6:45 – 9:00 pm Opening Dinner Reception, Ballroom Foyer & Pavilion

Join fellow attendees to celebrate coming together at this dinner reception. Mingle, network, and connect with new, and old, friends.

Wednesday, September 16th

Information Desk

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ballroom Foyer

7:30 – 8:30 am Breakfast and Sunrise Focus Session 1: Host Pathogen

7:30 am

Cardiac Complications of Respiratory Virus Infections, Jacob Yount, *Ohio State University*

7:54 am

Methyl-CpG-Binding Protein 2 Supports Natural Killer Cell Responses to Influenza A Virus Infection, Matthew McFadden, *The Ohio State University* #045

8:06 am

BLT1/2 Deficiency Modulates Neutrophil Recruitment and Inflammation During Pneumonic Plague, Kaitlyn Whitefoot-Keliin, *University of Louisville* #046

8:18 am

Commensal Microbes Alter Sexually Dimorphic Immune Response of Mice, Rachel Woodfint, *The Ohio State University* (Presidential Scholars - Graduate Student Merit Finalist) #047

8:30 – 9:30 am Focus 2: Autoimmunity

8:30 am

TLRs and MyD88 Activation in Sjogren's Disease, Jill Kramer, *University at Buffalo*

8:54 am

A Cellular Therapy Targeting Follicular Helper T Cells in Autoimmune Disease, Alex Feldman, *University of Cincinnati / Cincinnati Children's Hospital* #048

9:06 am

Suppression of Autoimmune Disease with Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) Tregs, Darren Lee, *UMass Medical School* #049

9:18 am

Altered B cell Phenotype and CNS Immune-Cell Infiltrates in an EBV-like Infection Mouse Model of Multiple Sclerosis, Christina Rau, *Uni. of Lübeck & OSU* #050

15 minute break

9:45 – 10:45 am Focus 3: Molecular Manipulation of Immunity

9:45 am

Targeting the Tumor Microenvironment to Enhance CAR-based Immunotherapies in Solid Tumors, Hind Rafei, *MD Anderson Cancer Center*

10:09 am

TNFR2 Blockade Potentiates PD-1 Immunotherapy by Targeting Lactate-fueled Treg Metabolism in Highly Glycolytic Tumors, Xin Chen, *University of Macau* #051

10:21 am

Targeting Treponema denticola Mediated Neutrophil Dysregulation Using Single-Chain Antibody Tools, Dayron Leyva Rodriguez, *University at Buffalo* (Presidential Scholars - Graduate Student Merit Finalist) #052

10:33 am

Elucidating A2aR-dependent Mechanisms of Relapse Resistance in EAU, Priya Hegde, *UMass Chan Medical School* (Presidential Scholars - Graduate Student Merit Finalist) #053

10:45 – 11:45 am Focus 4: Omics

10:45 am

Unique Spatial Organization Promotes Local Immunity at the Oral Barrier, Drake Williams, *University of Minnesota*

11:09 am

Hepatic Neutrophil Heterogeneity in Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH), Rosemary Bayless, *NC State Uni. Col. of Veterinary Med.* #054

11:21 am

Lactate Metabolism Regulates Phagocyte Antimicrobial Function in Cystic Fibrosis, Frank Robledo-Avila, *Nationwide Children's Hospital* #055

11:33 am

Adipose-Resident $\gamma\delta$ T Cells have Sex-Dependent Roles in Inflammaging and Senescence, Caitlyn Smith, *University of Kentucky* (Presidential Scholars - Graduate Student Merit Finalist) #056

11:45 am – 12:45 pm Lunch Ballroom Foyer & Pavilion

Join fellow attendees for some social time while enjoying lunch.

12:45 – 1:45 pm Focus 5: Inflammation

12:45 pm

Neutrophils, Inflammation and Resolution, Carole Parent, *University of Michigan*

1:09 pm

Dissecting Transcription Factor Control of Alveolar Macrophage Type 2 Inflammatory Responses, Satarupa Ganguly, *University of Pittsburgh* #057

1:21 pm

HIV-1 Vpr Induces Cellular Senescence in Macrophages via Type I Interferon and cGAS/STING Signaling, Timothy Hanley, *University of Utah* #058

1:33 pm

IL-10 and Pathogen-Specific Factors Modulate Tunneling-Nanotube-Mediated Cargo Transfer between Leukocytes, Charlie Speelman, *University of Nebraska Medical Center* (Presidential Scholars - Graduate Student Merit Finalist) #059

1:45 – 2:45 pm Focus 6: Therapeutic Approaches

1:45 pm

Understanding the Edges of Homeostasis, Andrew Wang, *Yale University*

2:09 pm

Neutrophil Elastase Inhibition Enhances Vaccine Immunity by Modulating Immune Microenvironments, Sungjun Yoo, *The Ohio State University* #060

2:21 pm

Human Derived Immature Myeloid Cells Act as a Neuro-regenerative Therapy for Central Nervous System Injury, Andrew Jerome, *OSUMC* #061

2:33 pm

Neutrophil Progenitors as a Cell Therapy in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lillian Levin, *Brown University* (Presidential Scholars - Graduate Student Merit Finalist) #062

15 minute break

3:00 – 4:00 pm Focus 7: Aging

3:00 pm

Succinate: An Emerging Gerometabolite?, Xin Li, *University of Virginia*

3:24 pm

Age-Dependent Fecal Metabolome Alterations and Neuroinflammation Following Burn Injury, Rachel McMahan, *University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus* #063

3:36 pm

Age Related Changes Impair Neutrophil Plasticity and Axon Regeneration After CNS Trauma, Andrew Sas, *OSUMC* #064

3:48 pm

Age-Related Disruption of the AhR/T-bet Transcriptional Axis and Tissue-Specific Immune Architecture at the Gut Mucosa, Alexandra McNally, *Tulane School of Medicine* (Presidential Scholars - Graduate Student Merit Finalist) #065

4:00 – 5:00 pm Focus 8: Trauma and Wound Repair

This session is sponsored by:



Brigham and Women's Hospital
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

The Gillian Reny
STEPPING STRONG
Center for Trauma Innovation

4:00 pm

Trauma Immunology: From Mechanisms to Modulation, James Lederer, *BWH Harvard*

4:24 pm

The Effect of Neutrophil Depletion on Functional and Cognitive Recovery After a Murine Model of Stroke, Matthew Kays, *West Virginia University* (Presidential Scholars - Graduate Student Merit Finalist) #066

4:36 pm

The Role of PMN-expressed JAML During Transepithelial Migration (TEpM) and Wound Repair, Armando Montoya-Garcia, *University of Michigan* (Presidential Scholars - Postdoc Merit Finalist) #067

4:48 pm

Immunometabolism as a Homeostatic Lever in Traumatic Injury, Chyna Lovell, *Mass General Brigham/ Harvard Medical School* #068

5:00 – 6:15 pm Poster Session 3 Ballroom Foyer & Pavillion

Join fellow attendees for a refreshment (cash bar) while you browse the third set of posters (#013-018 & LBX-X).

6:30 – 8:30 pm Professional Development and MTTC Dinner Workshop

Ballroom

Pre-Registration required

Join this workshop organized by the Professional Development and Members in Transition and Training Committees. A panel discussion will be followed by focused round table groups. Prior RSVP required.

Thursday, September 17th

Information Desk

8:00 am – 2:30 pm

Ballroom Foyer

7:30 – 8:00 am Breakfast

Ballroom Foyer

8:00 – 10:00 am Flash Talks & Undergraduate Poster Talks

Ballroom

Organized by the Members in Transition and Training Committee.

Chair: TBD

Cell-Cell Communication: Co-Chair: TBA

Non-immune and Immune Cell Communication Regulates NRF2-Mediated Immune Evasion in Mucosal Melanoma, Heba El-Ahmad, *University of Florida* (Presidential Scholar - Graduate Student - Merit Finalist) #019

Disruptions in the Metabolic Clock regulation of B cell Fate Leads to Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL), Remy Pastierik, *The Ohio State University* #020

Timing is Everything: The Dual Role of Lung ILC2 Activation in Murine Neonatal Septic Mortality, Theopi Rados, *Brown University, Rhode Island Hospital* #021

Neutrophil Elastase Regulates Innate Immune Cell Communication Networks and Host Responses to SARS-CoV-2 Infection, Douglas Natoce, *The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine* #022

Macrophages: Co-Chair: TBA

Bacteria Take a Victory LAP: Dysfunctional LC3-Associated Phagocytosis (LAP) in Cystic Fibrosis Macrophages, Christopher Harding, *Nationwide Children's Hospital* #023

Adding Insult to Injury: How Mast Cells Impact Macrophage Functions in Cystic Fibrosis, Irina Miralda, *Nationwide Children's Hospital* #024

Who's Driving? Hijacked Catecholamine Signaling in Cystic Fibrosis Macrophages, Hazel Ozuna, *Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital* #025

Monocytes: Co-Chair: TBA

Variation in Duration, Dosage, and Timing of Endotoxin Exposure Elicits Distinct Immune Memory States in Monocytes, Blake Caldwell, *Virginia Tech* #026

Elucidating the role of Microglia in Promoting Neuroprotective Monocyte Function and Neuronal Health, Ryan Bullard, *The Ohio State University* #027

Myeloid Cell State Shapes Conditioning Injury-Induced Axon Regeneration, Shuo Chen, *The Ohio State University* #028

Impact of Innate Immune Memory on MDS Progression by TET2-Driven Inflammation, Alyssa Jarabek, *Vanderbilt University* #029

Neutrophils: Co-Chair: TBA

Chemically Defined Organoid Production of Functional CAR-Neutrophils from Human Pluripotent Stem Cells, Kunming Shao, *Purdue University* (Presidential Scholars - Graduate Student Merit Finalist) #030

ANTS: An End-to-End Automated Platform for Neutrophil Chemotaxis Tracking and Behavioral Profiling, Conwy Zheng, *Purdue University* (Presidential Scholars - Graduate Student Merit Finalist) #031

Cross-Species Examination of Colorectal Cancer Tumor-Associated Neutrophil Specialization, Nikafareed Papari, *Northwestern University* #032

UNDERGRADUATE POSTER TALK COMPETITION: Co-Chair: TBA

Mucosal Inflammation Recovery-Recurrence Cycle Contributes to Microbial Remodeling, Connor Bluff, *University at Buffalo* UG01

Synchrotron X-ray Fluorescence Mapping of the Metallome in Primary Murine Monocytes, Genevive Ehmann, *Ohio University* UG02

Metabolic Characterization of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) B Cells Under Differential Activation Conditions, Ryu Miller, *The Ohio State University* UG03

Potential Elevation of Inflammatory Markers and Brain Reactive Antibodies amid Gamma Herpesvirus Infection, Hridita Dey, *The Ohio State University* UG04

10:00 – 11:15 am Feature III: Skin

Chairs:
TBD

Location:
Ballroom

10:00 am
Early Life Immune-Microbe Crosstalk in Skin, Tiffany Scharschmidt, *UCSF*

10:25 am
Itchy Immunity via Myeloid IL-33, De'Broski Herbert, *Tulane University*

10:50 am
A Novel Monocyte-derived Antigen Presenting Cell-T Regulatory Cell Axis in Wound Healing, Timothy Koh, *University of Illinois, Chicago*

11:15 – 11:45 am Member Business Meeting & Award Presentations

Ballroom

Learn about the current status of SLB and JLB and congratulate award winners with the announcement of Presidential Scholars, Excellence in Leukocyte Biology, and onsite flash talk awards.

11:45 am – 1:15 pm Poster Session IV and Lunch sponsored by Biogen Pavilion

Join fellow attendees and browse posters during this final poster session while enjoying lunch. Flash Talk and Undergraduate Posters are presented (019-032 & UG 01-04).



1:15 – 2:15 pm Feature IV: Cyberspace – AI in Research

Chairs:

Andy Taylor and Michelle Visser

Location:

Ballroom

1:15 pm

Decoding Immune Architecture with Spatial AI,
Kevin Byrd, *Virginia Commonwealth University*

1:45 pm

**Single-cell and Spatial Signatures of Type 1
Diabetes,** Todd Brusko, *University of Florida*

SLB Council Meeting (Part 2): 3:00-6:00 pm pavilion - **By Invitation Only**