

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR LEUKOCYTE BIOLOGY

# iSLB

SOCIETY FOR  
LEUKOCYTE  
BIOLOGY

Fall 2021

Vol 3

IN THIS ISSUE

## From the President...

By Nick Lukacs



Nick Lukacs,  
SLB President

Welcome to the last installment of the iSLB Newsletter for 2021. As we look back on our Annual SLB Meeting success, we are very grateful to all that organized, participated and shared their research related to Immunometabolism. This was the 2nd virtual meeting during the pandemic and it was fantastic! You can also view all of the 2021 Awardees and abstract winners at the SLB website and in this issue. We certainly learned how to view great science in a virtual world...thanks Jen Holland! And don't forget that if you missed any of the great talks, they are available On-Demand at the SLB member website.

Now we get to look forward to the 2022 SLB Meeting that will be in person on the "Big Island" of Hawaii- Leukocytes on the Wave for Translating Medicine! The organizers, Domenico Mavilio and Chen Dong, are preparing an outstanding international meeting that will highlight exciting, cutting-edge research. Optimism abounds as we are nearly through the pandemic and we get to meet one another again to relax and share our research. In addition to the organizer driven program there is also an opportunity to put together a Special Interest Group Satellite that will be held in conjunction with the SLB annual meeting the day before the regular program.

This issue of iSLB also brings the launch of a new program for the SLB membership, the Reviewer Training Program. The Publication Committee, in collaboration with JLB and the Professional Development Committee have put together an outstanding on-line, mentor driven program for early- and mid-career society members and trainees at all levels. The program utilizes both didactic programming and a live interactive website for reviewing papers and interacting with editorial committees similar to journal (JLB) performs their reviews. Please take a look at the program and take advantage of this important career development opportunity. A special thank you to Peter Keyel for his vision and leadership of this special project.

While this will be my last iSLB President's letter, I am excited to continue to be involved in the coming years with SLB as past president and as a member. The last 2 years as President have truly been an honor to help the Society to maintain its vigor during an unprecedented time through the pandemic. I can't say that I wasn't disappointed not to be able to see all of the members and colleagues in person during meetings, but I am thrilled with all of the great things that have been established and are ongoing that make SLB such a wonderful Society. It is the membership, at all levels, that make SLB a great place to

- [Behind the Science: Author Interview with Maya Amjadi](#)
- [FASEB Corner](#)
- [2021 Awardees](#)
- [NIGMS BioBeat Feature](#)
- [Reviewer Training](#)
- [Welcome to the Team](#)
- [Important Reminders](#)
- [Cool Labs](#)

experience research, career development, and comradery. I look forward to the success for SLB in coming years with all of the member volunteers, leadership on Council and our new President, David Underhill, and President-elect, Louis Justement. Please participate in some way in SLB, you'll enjoy every moment.

A special thanks to Jen Holland who makes SLB run! And a great contact for you to learn how you can participate!  
[jholland@leukocytebiology.org](mailto:jholland@leukocytebiology.org)

### Seeking Topics & Guest Editors for JLB Issues

What would you like to see as the theme of a JLB issue? [Contact us](#) to learn more about how YOU can become a JLB Guest Editor!

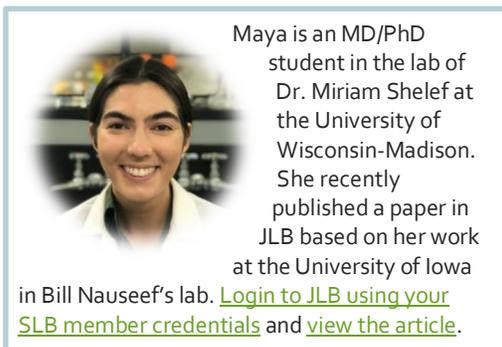
**JLB** JOURNAL OF  
LEUKOCYTE  
BIOLOGY

## JLB Author Interview:

# Maya Amjadi

## Neutrophil-derived Extracellular Vesicles Modulate the Phenotype of Naïve Human Neutrophils

By: Alan Hsu



Maya is an MD/PhD student in the lab of Dr. Miriam Shelef at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She recently published a paper in JLB based on her work at the University of Iowa

in Bill Nauseef's lab. [Login to JLB using your SLB member credentials](#) and [view the article](#).

**Q:** Where did your journey in science begin?

**A:** When I was a first-year undergrad student at the Uni. of Iowa, I joined Dr. Nauseef's lab in the Inflammation Program and through excellent science, collaboration, teamwork, teaching and general enthusiasm for immunology I found there, I realized that research was something I wanted to pursue.

**Q:** How did you choose your current research topic and interest?

**A:** After working in an innate immunology lab for four years, I arrived at the University of Wisconsin for my next stage of training and was looking forward to continuing immunology research in graduate school. I joined the laboratory of Dr. Miriam Shelef. Her lab studies the role of autoantibodies in the pathogenesis of many autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus. Previously my work was in host-pathogen interactions, and I was intrigued by the immunology of attacking self-antigens.

**Q:** Could you use a few lay sentences to summarize your findings in this paper?

**A:** Neutrophils are the most abundant white blood cell in the body and are the first responders to infection. They arrive and produce signaling molecules that communicate with other cells to coordinate an inflammatory response so

that the body has a chance at fending off the foreign invader. Neutrophils can release vesicles from their surfaces that can contain proteins, lipids and nucleic acids. These vesicles can affect other cells by inducing pro- or anti-inflammatory responses and ramping up or damping down inflammation. In this paper, we characterized vesicles released from neutrophils and looked at their effects on naïve neutrophils. We found that these vesicles prime a major neutrophil enzyme that is important for clearing pathogens.

**Q:** What were some memorable moments during this research?

**A:** There were so many exciting moments during this research. I remember working on the day-long extracellular vesicle isolation protocol. Once we had worked out the hurdles of ultracentrifugation and swinging versus fixed bucket rotor, I finally saw tiny pellets, and the excitement of having isolated these vesicles was like fuel. I remember when we were first characterizing the vesicles, we didn't know what they would be composed of, so each finding was exciting. I recall my first time independently running an agarose gel and seeing a thick DNA band, I remember the thrill and suspense of the dark room developing western blots and I remember the anticipation of seeing events appear using the flow cytometer. Other memorable moments include sharing our research findings with other scientists at poster sessions and oral presentations such as at SLB's meeting in 2015.

**Q:** What was the biggest hurdle or challenge associated with this story?

**A:** It can be difficult to publish a story when the scientists working on it are being recruited to continue their training or accept faculty positions at other institutions. By the time our story was published, the five authors that had started together at the University of Iowa had spread out to five different institutions. Thanks to the dedication of each of these authors, we were able to get this story published despite having physically moved across state lines and academically shifted to additional projects and pursuits.

**Q:** Besides your PI is there anyone that helped you in your career path?

**A:** So many people have helped me along the way. The Nauseef lab and the Iowa Inflammation Program at large offered assistance and advice on everything from technical training at the bench and in the hood, to giving a talk, preparing a manuscript and applying for graduate school. Of special note, Dr. Mallary Greenlee-Wacker spent countless hours training and teaching me, encouraged me to take ownership of an independent project, pushed me to write abstracts for conferences, and by her own example, exposed me to what excellent science, mentorship and communication look like.

**Q:** What's next for you?

**A:** I am currently working on my PhD in Dr. Shelef's lab at the Uni. of Wisconsin in the Medical Scientist Training Program. After completing my MD PhD, I plan to continue my training in residency and fellowship.

**Q:** What is your advice for incoming Ph.D. Students who want to pursue a career in science and perhaps your field?

**A:** Join us! If you like to challenge yourself, constantly learn new things, problem-solve, and work as a team, then graduate school may be for you. There are many perks of pursuing a scientific career. So far, I've learned that you get to be at the cutting edge, uncovering new findings and meeting scientists from all over the globe with similar interests and values as your own. Despite stimulating your brain and growing your network, this can be intimidating. So, my advice for junior or incoming students is to not shy away from opportunities for fear of being underqualified. You know more than you think you know and throughout your training, you will gain the skills you need.

**Q:** Tell us something interesting outside of being a scientist about yourself.

**A:** Outside the lab, I like to spend time in the fresh air paddle boarding, kayaking, hiking, playing tennis or sand volleyball.

**Q:** Anything you would like to add.

**A:** Special thanks to the past (2013-2017) and present Iowa Inflammation Program members for their encouragement, patience and kindness while I was early on in my scientific career.

# FASEB Corner

By Jennifer Zeitzer

SLB joined FASEB – the nation’s largest coalition of biomedical researchers, [representing 30 scientific societies](#) – in 2019. FASEB Corner is a regular feature of the newsletter providing updates on recent initiatives that demonstrate the Federation’s dedication to its member societies.

[Rallying for Medical Research Funding](#) – SLB members Louis B. Justement, PhD and Beth Garvy, PhD were among 450 scientists from 47 states who participated in the 2021 [Rally for Medical Research](#), co-sponsored by FASEB. Drs. Justement and Garvy met with Congressional staff via video conference to urge legislators to provide NIH with at least \$46.4 billion in fiscal year 2022, a \$3.5 billion increase compared to current funding. They also advocated for a minimum of \$10 billion in emergency supplemental funding to support research that was stalled or lost due to the pandemic. The [FASEB Resources page](#) on the SLB website provides access to an [Advocacy Tool Kit](#) and [factsheets](#) with data showing NIH funding by state and congressional district.

[Preparing for NIH’s Data Management and Sharing Policy](#) – FASEB recently launched [DataWorks!](#) an initiative to address common concerns about sharing research data and help researchers comply with NIH’s new [Policy for Data Management and Sharing](#) which takes effect in 2023. The initiative includes four components:

- Data Salons – to foster community conversations that explore data reuse barriers and solutions
- Fellows Program – to help researchers and teams improve their data management and sharing skills and mentor peers in data reuse strategies
- Data Help Desk and Knowledgebase – to offer guidance on data sharing polices and practices
- Grand Challenge Prize – to recognize research teams that accelerate discovery through data sharing and reuse

The first Data Salon was held on October 7, 2021. Additional Data Salons will take place over the next year.

[Supporting Diversity in the Scientific Workforce](#) – Planning continues for four pilot programs as part of FASEB’s ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion (DEAI). The pilots include family care awards, recruitment, reverse mentoring, and cohort programs. These programs are intended to complement DEAI efforts offered by FASEB member societies and support collaboration among societies and external organizations. FASEB recently issued a call for volunteers to serve on three DEAI subcommittees who will develop the parameters of the recruitment, family care awards, and reverse mentoring programs (recruitment for the cohort program subcommittee will start in late 2021). SLB member Hazel Ozuna joined the reverse mentoring program subcommittee.



## FASEB

Federation of American Societies  
for Experimental Biology

## Trainee Members Around the World

### Meet Samson Kosemani

I am a first-generation graduate student and a budding young scientist from Nigeria. My journey started with a keen interest in biological science in high school and my passion for therapeutics. This led me to pursue a degree in Biochemistry at Ekiti State University, Nigeria which spurred my interest in biomedical research. In my quest for knowledge, I furthered my studies by earning a Master’s of Science in Biochemistry at the College of Medicine, Uni. of Ibadan, Nigeria where I carried out my research at Professor Adaramoye’s laboratory. My research was centered on how fraction from *Calliandra portoricensis* reduces 7,12-Dimethylbenz (a) Anthracene-Induced mammary tumors in Wistar rats.



I am currently a first-year Ph.D. student of Professor Gustavo Amarante-Mendes, Department of Immunology, Institute for Biomedical Sciences, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil. My research focus is on the role of RAS effector protein in the development of melanoma. My interest is on RAS effector protein, its interface with cell death machines, and its involvement in the resistance to in vivo elimination by CTL-mediated immune responses using melanoma mouse models.

Immunology is an uncharted territory in Nigeria and this is evident in immunological publication output and the level of infectious and non-infectious diseases prevalent in the region. In Nigeria, immunology is taught as part of biomedical courses without giving full autonomy to its study. This is evident in the research findings from the country and has also led to a lack of expertise in the field and failure to address the endemic ravaging the ever-increasing masses of the most populous black nation on the planet. However, deliberate effort from the administrators of education and government in Nigeria will help Immunology education in no small way.

I count it a great privilege to be a member of the Society for Leukocyte Biology and Member in Transition and Training Focus Group (MTTG). I look forward to the beautiful things the future holds. In my free time, I enjoy photography and traveling.

# COVID-19: Scientific Advances in the Field of Leukocyte Biology

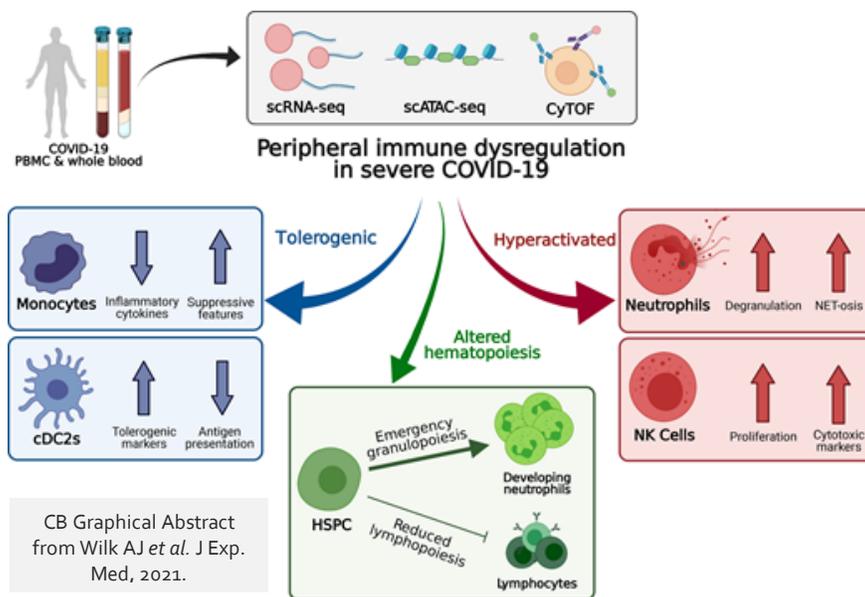
A review of SLB 2021 COVID-19 presentations by Albert Sek and Stephanie Silva del Toro

Since its discovery in late 2019, SARS-CoV<sub>2</sub> has caused profound disruption and loss of life, with nearly 5 million deaths and 240 million cases reported worldwide (Johns Hopkins COVID tracker). Increased understanding of COVID-19 disease and the mechanisms of host-pathogen interactions will be critical to develop novel therapeutic strategies and improving outcomes. At the 2021 Meeting of the Society for Leukocyte Biology, experts shared their latest research on the immunological features and therapeutic strategies for COVID-19 disease. Here, we highlight key findings from their talks, but we invite you to log on to the [society's on-demand library](#) to view the recorded talks in full.

## Innate Immunity in COVID-19: Key Characteristics and Therapeutic Potential

Innate immunity often presents as a double-edged sword: its effects can be protective (e.g., pathogen elimination, tissue repair) and/or pathological (e.g., excessive tissue damage and fibrosis). Modulation of the innate immune response has presented novel therapeutic strategies for a range of illnesses, in which the protective immune response is heightened and/or the pathological immune response is blunted.

To elucidate the protective versus pathological components of the innate immune response, **Catherine Blish** and colleagues compared the peripheral immune response in patients with mild versus severe cases of COVID-19. Leukocytes isolated from the whole blood of COVID-19 patients were subjected to several unbiased approaches, including single-cell RNA-sequencing (scRNA-seq), single-cell assay for transposase-accessible chromatin sequencing (scATAC-seq), cytometry time of flight (CYTOF). These experiments revealed that



patients with severe COVID-19 disease exhibited dysregulation of the immune response, including increased activation of neutrophils as well as increased tolerance in monocytes [Figure 1]. Given this dysregulation, Blish and colleagues suggest that limiting neutrophil activity may serve as a therapeutic strategy for COVID-19 disease. As a proof of concept, Blish and colleagues demonstrated that plasma from patients with COVID-19 induced cell death and chromatin extrusion from neutrophils (collectively known as 'NETosis') and that this process was effectively blocked by agonizing the neutrophil inhibitory receptor Siglec-9.

Another potential therapeutic strategy for COVID-19 disease is the inhibition of ADAM17, a metalloprotease associated with tissue damage. **Nathaniel Lartey** presented work in which ADAM17 inhibitors apratastat and TMI-1 were evaluated in a mouse model of acute lung injury (Poly:IC + SARS-CoV<sub>2</sub> spike

protein). Intriguingly, Lartey and colleagues found that administration of these inhibitors reduced the overall level of lung injury and inflammation. In particular, ADAM17 inhibitors reduced the level of neutrophil and macrophage infiltration in the lung, while increasing the level of T-cells in the lung. Given these promising findings, Lartey and colleagues propose that ADAM17 inhibitors should be considered in the clinical trials to evaluate their effects on COVID-19 disease.

Another potential target for COVID-19 treatment is the SARS-CoV<sub>2</sub> protein ORF8 and its corresponding receptor, IL-17RA/C. **Jae Jung** demonstrated that the ORF8 protein promotes systemic IL17-like inflammation. Patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 variants that lack ORF8 exhibited reduced disease severity associated with lower levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines, chemokines and growth factors in circulation. Using whole blood from patients infected with SARS-CoV<sub>2</sub>, Jung and colleagues demonstrated that ORF8 preferentially activates circulating monocytes. Next, Jung and colleagues identified IL17RA and C as receptors that are activated by the viral ORF8 protein and, in THP1 monocytes, demonstrated that this pathway elicits increased production of inflammatory cytokines as well as activation of the NF- $\kappa$ B transcriptional pathway. RNA-sequencing demonstrated that ORF8 induces an inflammatory signature in human monocytes similar to that seen in IL17-mediated inflammation. Using proximal ligation assay, ORF8 induced higher interaction between

SLB 2021 COVID Session Review continued...

IL-17RA and IL-17RC than IL-17A. Intriguingly, *ORF8* variants exhibit different binding affinities to IL-17RA that correlates with disease severity. In conclusion, *ORF8* acts similarly to IL-17A but induces higher inflammatory responses in human monocytes.

Single-cell RNA sequencing provides a high-resolution platform to study our immune system during COVID-19. **Maha Zohra Ladjemi, awardee of SLB's 2021 Spotlight Abstract Award**, performed single-cell RNA-seq to establish a high-resolution map of antigen-presenting cells in the blood of COVID-19 patients with moderate or severe pneumonia and healthy donors as controls. Briefly, this research group discovered an increase in pro-apoptotic genes, a decrease in innate sensors TLR9 and DHX36 expression, a down-regulation of antiviral effector molecules (including interferon stimulated genes), and a decrease of MHC class II-related gene expression and MHC class II trans-activator activity, suggesting a viral inhibition of antigen presentation. These novel mechanisms could explain patient outcomes and suggest possible strategies to restore defective immune responses.

### Augmenting Adaptive Immune Responses to Control COVID-19 Disease

The adaptive immune response is critical for the clearance of viral infections and represents a therapeutic opportunity, as **Richard Hotchkiss** noted in his presentation. Several lines of evidence support a protective role for T-cells in COVID-19 disease. First, fatal cases of COVID-19 ('non-survivors') are distinguished by markedly decreased levels of circulating T-cells (lymphopenia). In addition, T-cells from COVID-19 patients exhibit decreased function, notably in the production of the antiviral mediator Interferon-gamma (IFN- $\gamma$ ). Given the reduced levels and function of T-cells in COVID-19 disease, Hotchkiss and colleagues evaluated whether the lymphocyte growth factor Interleukin-7 (IL-7) could modulate disease features. In a study of 12 patients with severe COVID-19 disease, administration of IL-7 was well-tolerated and succeeded in increasing the levels of circulating T-cells. *Ex vivo* analysis indicated that IL7 treatment increased T-cell responsiveness to the SARS-COV2 spike protein, as evaluated by IFN- $\gamma$  production. Despite these promising features, the level of mortality was indistinguishable between the IL7-treated and control groups. Further evaluation of IL7-based therapy, potentially in combination with antiviral agents, may be promising for COVID-19 disease.

### Scientific Talks During the COVID-19 Session at SLB 2021

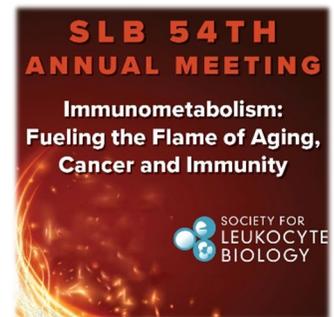
Catherine Blish, *Innate Immune Dysfunction in COVID-19*.

Nathaniel Lartey, *ADAM17 Inhibition is Protective in a Mouse Model of COVID-19*.

Richard Hotchkiss, *Immunotherapy of COVID-19*.

Jae Jung, *SARS-COV2 ORF8 is a Viral IL-17 to Promote Systemic Inflammation*.

Maha Ladjemi, *Antigen-Presenting Cells in Severe COVID-19 Present Defects in Antiviral Immunity*.



Mark your calendars for October 26 – 29, 2022 and join SLB in Hawai'i! Registration, Presentation & Award opportunities coming Spring 2022!

#### 2022 Topics

- Covid-19
- Cancer
- Autoimmunity / Immune-Mediated Diseases
- Advances in Leukocyte Biology
- Innate Immunity
- Adaptive Immunity
- Leukocyte Biology at Tissue Sites
- Infectious Diseases
- Omics in Leukocytes Biology

#### Confirmed Speakers

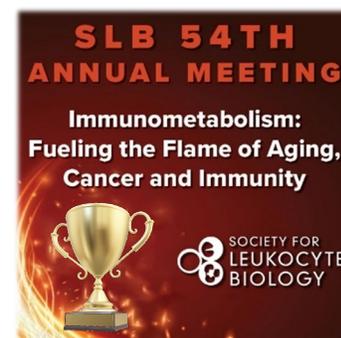
Robert Clark, *Uni. of Texas Health Sci. Center*  
 Mohamed Abdel-Mohsen, *The Wistar Institute*  
 Ivona Aksentijevich, *NIAMS, NIH*  
 Marco Colonna, *Washington Uni. Schl of Med.*  
 Chen Dong, *Tsinghua University*  
 Asma Gati, *University Tunis El Manar*  
 Xiaoyu Hu, *Tsinghua University*  
 Camilla Jandus, *University of Geneva*  
 James Lillard, *Morehouse School of Medicine*  
 Massimo Locati, *University of Milan*  
 Musa Mhlanga, *Radboud University*  
 Kazuyo Moro, *Osaka University*  
 Faith Osier, *International AIDS Vaccine Initiative*  
 Federica Sallusto, *Institute of Microbio. Zurich*  
 Michael Schnoor, *Cinvestav-IPN*  
 Anna Villa, *National Research Council*  
 Jo Viney, *Seismic Therapeutic*  
 Meng Michelle Xu, *Tsinghua University*

**SLB is accepting Special Interest Group Satellite Proposals. Learn more and apply by Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>!**

Visit SLB 2022

# SLB 2021 Awardees

Please join us in congratulating the 2021 awardees. SLB received 70 abstracts and all of the presentations were truly impressive and well done. You may view the presentations anytime via the [on-demand library](#). Read on to learn more about the various abstract based awardees from this year...



## Dolph O. Adams

### Xuwei Zhu



Dr. Xuwei Zhu is an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine-Section on Molecular Medicine at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Dr. Zhu's long-term goal is to identify the molecular and metabolic mechanisms underlying macrophage anti- and pro-inflammatory activation. She is particularly interested in exploring the subcellular organelle-specific metabolic processes and signaling during macrophage inflammation using interdisciplinary approaches, including molecular biology, immunology, and multi-omics techniques. Dr. Zhu has published more than 40 research articles in high-impact journals. She also serves as a member of the SLB DEI Committee.

## Presidential Junior Faculty / Post Doc

### Cressida Mahung



Cressida Mahung, MD is a General Surgery resident currently completing her postdoctoral research in Burn Immunology at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill under the guidance of her mentors, Drs. Rob Maile, PhD and Bruce Cairns, MD, FACS. Originally from the developing nation of Belize, Cressida has a special interest in under-represented populations and hopes to apply her work with the burn trauma population to benefit the underserved. Dr. Mahung is an alumna of Howard University College of Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania.

## Presidential Student

### First Place: Nathaniel Lartey



Nathaniel is delighted to be recognized for the SLB Presidential Student Award. He appreciates the honor of this prestigious award and the visibility it brings to the Schnoor lab. Nathaniel is equally grateful to his mentor Dr. Michael Schnoor for his supervision. Their team has worked on a possible therapeutic intervention aimed at preventing the severe form of Covid-19 and averting morbidity and mortality. Based on their work, their lab proposes inhibition of ADAM17 as a novel promising treatment strategy in SARS-CoV-2-infected individuals to prevent the progression towards severe Covid-19.

### Second Place (tie):



### Sloan Lewis

Sloan is a fifth year PhD student in the Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Department at UCI. Her thesis research has focused on innate immunity, both peripheral and tissue, where she has been characterizing the effects of alcohol drinking on monocyte and macrophage populations in rhesus macaques. Sloan was honored to share her work on lung macrophages this year at SLB and is grateful to be a finalist for the Student Presidential Award.



### Micah Willis

Micah's research focuses on understanding the immune dysfunction following burn injury, more specifically understanding what drives the immune dysfunction, and its mechanisms. Micah's team hypothesize that extracellular vesicles, specifically microvesicles are an unidentified reservoir of immune modulators that are driving immune dysfunction seen in burn injury. This award means a lot to Micah and he appreciates that SLB has provided an opportunity to present this research and network in a safe environment.

## Spotlight and Merit Abstract Awards

Learn more about the Spotlight and Merit Abstract Awardees [on the website...](#)

### Abstract Spotlight Awards

Blake Bertrand  
Christopher Horn  
Maha Ladjemi  
Allison Meyers  
Suhas Sureshchandra  
Hadley Witt  
Ruoxi Yuan  
Daniel Zegarra Ruiz



### Abstract Merit Finalists

Natalie Anselmi  
Lina Silva Bermudez  
Dana Bohan  
Banndith Cheat  
Anugraha Gandhirajan  
Antonio Hrvat  
Minoru Inoue  
Matthew Luzentales-Simpson  
Lalita Mazgaen  
Mohamed Mire  
Allison Owens  
Zhan Wang

## Cool Lab of the Month:

For the love of interdisciplinary science and training...



At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill interdisciplinary, collaborative TEAM science is encouraged. The Burn Research Lab in the Department of Surgery, School of Medicine and the Wallet Lab in the Division of Oral and Craniofacial Health Sciences, Adams School of Dentistry as pictured here is an excellent example of this philosophy. It is a shining example of how two distinct disciplines with overlapping interests and individuals with unique and synergistic expertise have come together to learn from each other and move each other's fields forwards independently and collectively. In addition, this environment is an excellent opportunity for trainees. Pictured here are mentors and trainees of all levels and all walks of life with diverse backgrounds as well as diverse goals and futures. Specifically, we have clinician-scientists, basic scientists and academicians with administrative responsibilities mentoring post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, undergraduates, and research staff.

From left to right starting in the back (Bruce Cairns, Jordan Jacobs *holding Lupe*, Daniel Soliman, Hannah Hall, Roland Seim, Will Lovell, Shannon Wallet, Robert Maile *holding Meep*, Micah Willis, Christina Graves, Dominique Burgess, Jessica Suggs, Ali Altitinch, Cressida Mahung, Sally-Irene Ngeve, and Olivia Mitchem)

**Do you have a cool lab? Send us your group picture and be featured in a future issue of iSLB!**

# SLB Member Julia Bohannon Featured in NIGMS' BioBeat

SLB Member Julia Bohannon was recently featured in NIGMS' Biomedical Beat Blog on her unique road to a career in science and her focus on burn therapies. Julia is a valued member of the society, has served on several committees, and recently co-chaired a 2021 Special Interest Group Satellite Session which can be viewed [on-demand](#).



[Read the full article](#)



Interested in improving your peer review skills? Not sure where to start when reviewing a manuscript? Need a structure for helping your own trainees learn peer review?

SLB is proud to offer its members a free, innovative peer-reviewing training course. In this course, you will learn from peer review experts and practice those skills in a simulated journal environment. Work at your own pace via asynchronous presentations. After completing the asynchronous portion, you will:

- Accurately and fairly assess manuscripts
- Write effective reviews
- Identify conflicts of interest and bias

These skills will be refined and extended in the second part of the course, where you will work with a mentor-editor to review manuscripts in a simulated journal environment. Upon completion, participants receive a certificate from SLB and will be referred to JLB for consideration of reviewer assignments. **Register to get started with the asynchronous modules and begin learning how to be a great reviewer today!**

[Learn more and register](#)

## Welcome to the Team!

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of the team! Paula Popp has joined the JLB team as the new Managing Editor. Along with the Wiley Content Review team, Paula is ready and excited to see your manuscripts in the submission system. [Contact Paula](#) anytime!



***Fun Fact,** Paula recently enjoyed the 49<sup>th</sup> Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta flying right above her home in Albuquerque, New Mexico*

# iSLB

Society for Leukocyte Biology  
10770 Columbia Pike  
Suite 300  
Silver Spring, MD 20901  
301-204-2233  
[www.leukocytebiology.org](http://www.leukocytebiology.org)

contacts:

[Membership](#)

[Meetings](#)

[Administrative Office](#)



**CONTACT SLB**

Thank you to our Sustaining Members:



Robert Clark, Univ of Texas Health Science Ctr

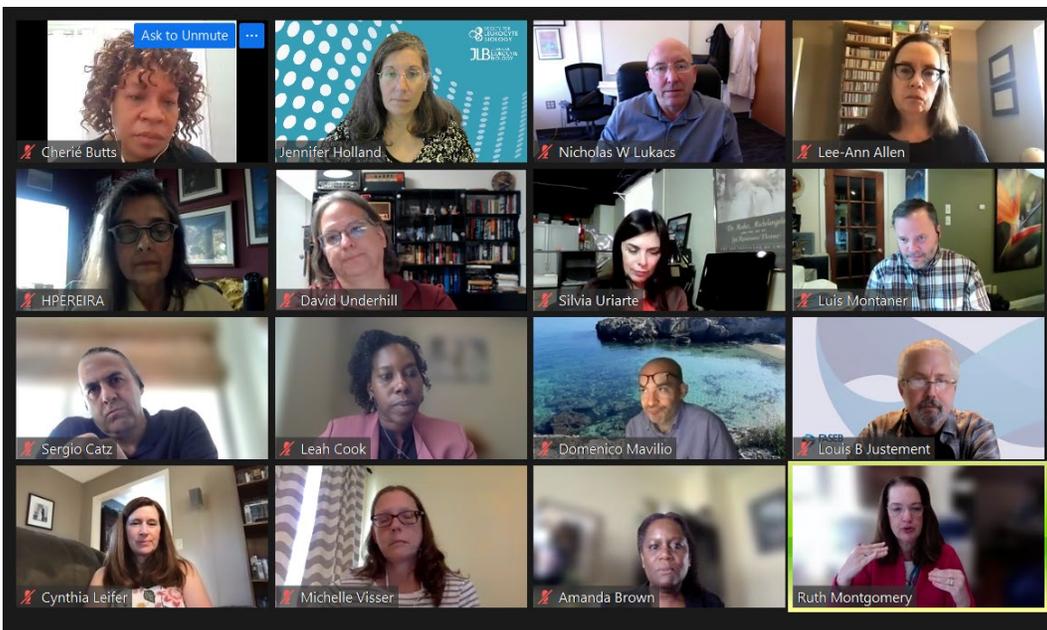


Richard Kew, Stony Brook University

Charles Rinaldo, University of Pittsburgh

## REMINDERS

- SLB is currently **accepting volunteers for all Committees**. Trainees are encouraged to apply and leadership opportunities are available.
- The **Annual Member survey** has launched and we want to hear from YOU! Respond by Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> and be entered into a fun prize drawing! We don't know what the prize will be yet, but it will be FUN!
- Webinars are a great way to share your science. **Plan your own webinar in 2022** and SLB will host it for you! FREE for members, you pick the theme, invited your speakers, and SLB will do the rest!
- Look for the **Annual Member Business Meeting** Video Posting on the website soon.



### SLB Fall Council Meeting

SLB Council recently met for the annual Fall Council meeting. Look for the coming "Annual Member Business Meeting" via video and learn about the latest status and future focus of the Society and Journal.