

Balazs Rada, Ph.D.

Balazs Rada is a Professor at the Department of Infectious Diseases at the University of Georgia. He completed his Ph.D degree at the Semmelweis University Medical School in Budapest, Hungary. Dr. Rada moved to the United States in 2005 and spent six years at the National Institutes of Health in the Washington D.C. area as a postdoctoral and research fellow to perform research related to innate immune mechanisms of the respiratory tract. He started his independent research group at UGA in 2012 as an assistant professor where he has been active since. Dr. Rada's research focuses on innate immune defense mechanisms at the respiratory mucosa with a special emphasis on reactive oxygen species. His laboratory currently studies two major topics: 1) the role of oxidative airway epithelial defense mechanisms in acute respiratory infections caused by bacteria including *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*; and 2) the interactions between neutrophils and major respiratory bacterial pathogens in cystic fibrosis. His research is mainly funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Dr. Rada has been a member of the Society for Leukocyte Biology, participated and presented at their annual conference and also served as a co-chair for the meeting's scientific program in 2023.



Statement of Interest:

I am running in this year's election for the office of Councilor for the Society for Leukocyte Biology. I have been running my independent research group at the Department of Infectious Diseases at the University of Georgia since 2012. My research of interest is respiratory innate immunity in health and disease. My related research has been continuously funded by the NIH and Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. In particular, my research team is highly interested in several aspects of neutrophil biology. I have been an active member of the society, and my students and I attended and presented at several of the annual SLB meetings. I served as a program co-chair for SLB 2023 that was organized in our home town, Athens, GA. I believe that my scientific interest and work in the field of phagocyte biology, and experience with organizing the scientific program of the conference qualify me to run for the councilor position. As a councilor, I would advise the Council to guide the operations and direction of the society.