Tammy Kielian, PhD
Professor
Choudari Kommineni, Endowed Professor of Pathology
Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, Nebraska

Education:
Tammy received a BS in Biological Sciences from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1991, a MS in Immunology from Kansas State University in 1994, a PhD in Immunology from the University of Kansas Medical Center in 1998 and completed postdoctoral training in neuroimmunology at Dartmouth Medical School in 2001. A common thread throughout her graduate training was a focus on macrophage biology that extended to microglia during her postdoctoral work.

Professional Experience:
In 2001, Tammy established her independent laboratory at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2006. Tammy was recruited to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 2008 where she is a professor and holds the Choudari Kommineni Endowed Professorship in Pathology. Tammy has served as a regular and ad-hoc member on numerous NIH study section panels, and her research program has been continuously funded by the NIH since its inception in 2001 with a total of 166 research publications to date. Tammy recently became editor-in-chief of *Journal of Neuroinflammation* in 2024. Tammy is passionate about mentoring and received the Graduate Student Association Distinguished Mentor Award in 2015, the Outstanding Mentor of Junior Research Faculty Award in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology in 2019, the Outstanding Mentor of Graduate Students Award from the UNMC Faculty Senate in 2022, the Mentorship Excellence Award in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology in 2025, and was named the UNMC Scientist Laureate in 2016, the highest honor that UNMC bestows to researchers. In 2026 Tammy was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology.

Research Interests:
My research interests span the fields of immunology, infectious disease, and neuroscience with a unifying theme of innate immunity with an emphasis on macrophage and granulocyte biology. My laboratory has a long-standing interest in studying the pathogenesis and immune responses elicited by *Staphylococcus aureus* biofilm using mouse models of prosthetic joint and craniotomy infection. My group also collaborates with orthopaedic surgeons and neurosurgeons to explore immune responses in patients with prosthetic joint and craniotomy infections with the goal of identifying novel immune biomarkers for infection diagnosis and therapy.

Statement of Interest:
I have been a long-standing member of SLB. I joined the Society during my MS training in 1994 and published my first peer-reviewed publication in the *Journal of Leukocyte Biology* in 1995 with several subsequent papers in the Journal. I have attended several SLB Annual Meetings and love the comradery and welcoming atmosphere, which has made SLB one of my favorite meetings to send my pre- and post-doctoral trainees.

As a first-generation college graduate, I am passionate about graduate education and supporting trainee development. As an SLB Councilor I would play an active role in trainee opportunities offered by the Society, including serving as a liaison for trainees at annual meetings to make them feel welcome. I would play an active role in promoting the benefits of SLB membership and associated award opportunities and help in recruiting new members to the Society, in particular trainees.

I also have experience with conference organization, having served as a past co-chair of a Gordon Research Conference in addition to organizing several symposia at national and international meetings. I have participated in forums on career development and conversations about the barriers to inclusivity in the sciences, which is another area that is important to me.

I would be honored to contribute to the vibrant SLB community and support the Society as a Councilor.