



# The Department of Immunobiology

## Upcoming Seminars:

- Apr 3—Parvathi Ranganathan, PhD Graduate Student
- Apr 10—Christine Calton, PhD Graduate Student (OHSU)
- Apr 17—TBA
- Apr 24—Kristin Renkema, PhD Graduate Student
- May 1—Michael Badowski, PhD Graduate Student

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

### Fourth Annual Frontiers in Immunobiology and Immunopathogenesis Symposium

On behalf of the Planning Committee, Dr. Richard J. Ablin expresses their appreciation to everybody who participated in helping to make the *Fourth Annual Symposium* the best attended and from the initial comments (pending review of all of the “Program Evaluation” forms) the best of our *Symposia* to date.

## Upcoming Defenses:

- April 15—Kathleen Corcoran in MRB 102 at 9:00am
- April 15—Vuna Fa in MRB 102 at 1:00pm
- April 16—Cheryl Myers in AHSC 5403 at 10:00am

### Online Harassment Prevention Education Program

The new online harassment training is **mandatory** for all IMB employees. Please complete the training and submit the “Certificate of Completion” to Michelle Blurton no later than May 1, 2009.

The training takes approximately one hour to complete and the program can be accessed from any computer with internet capability at [www.equity.arizona.edu/education/harassment](http://www.equity.arizona.edu/education/harassment). If you need access to a computer with internet, please see Michelle Blurton.

## Next Faculty Meeting:

April 20, 2009 at  
12:00pm in MRB 201



# FACULTY UPDATES

## Publications

- Jiang WG, **Ablin RJ**, Kynaston HG and Mason MD. The prostate transglutaminase (TGase-4, TGaseP) regulates the interaction of prostate cancer and vascular endothelial cells, a potential role of the ROCK pathway. *Microvascular Res.*, 77:150, 2009.
- Haythorn MR and **Ablin RJ**. Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing across the disease continuum. *Prostate Cancer Comm.*, 25(1):3, 2009.
- Wellensiek BP, Ramakrishnan R, Sundaravaradan V, Mehta R, **Harris DT**, and Ahmad N. Differential HIV-1 Integration Targets More Actively Transcribed Host Genes in Neonatal than Adult Blood Mononuclear Cells. *Virology* 385: 28-38, 2009.
- **Harris DT** and Brown H. Collecting, Processing, Banking and Use of Cord Blood Stem Cells for Regenerative Medicine. Humana Press, Invited Review, 2009
- **Harris DT** and Brown H. The Banking of Cord Blood Stem Cells for Current and Future Uses in Transplantation and Regenerative Medicine, Research Signpost, Invited Review, 2009.
- **Harris DT**. Non-Haematological Uses of Cord Blood Stem Cells, *British Journal of Heamatology*, Invited Review, 2009.
- Swain SL and **Nikolich-Zugich J**. Key research opportunities in immune system aging. *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci.* 64:183-6, 2009.

## Media Exposure

- **Dr. Ablin** was interviewed by the [Arizona Daily Star](#) for his comments on the recent reports published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) on screening for prostate cancer that was published on Friday, March 20, 2009.
- **Dr. Harris** was interviewed by The Arizona Daily Star (Tucson), The Arizona Republic (Phoenix), KVOA-TV (NBC) and KGUN-TV (CBS) on the effects of the Obama stem cell ban reversal on Arizona.



## Grants

- **Dr Nikolich** was awarded a \$2.6M grant from NIAID for his study "Broad-based intervention to improve T-cell mediated protection" within the award U54 AI081860 "Pacific Northwest Research Center of Excellence in Biodefense and Emerging Diseases", with an award period from 2009-2014.

## Honors and Awards

- **Dr. Harris** received the 2009 President's Speaker Award, from the Miami OB-GYN Society.

## Presentations and Lectures

- **Dr. Harris** was invited to speak before the State of Maryland Legislature, regarding legislation on stem cells, March 2009.
- **Dr. Harris** will be the Keynote Speaker, Science Symposium, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, April 4, 2009.
- **Dr. Nikolich** opened the NIAID Kickoff Meeting on the Pacific Northwest Research Center of Excellence in Biodefense and Emerging Diseases in Beaverton, OR, on March 3, 2009 with a lecture: "Defense of vulnerable populations against bioattack: challenges and perspectives".
- **Dr Nikolich** gave a lecture Immunological basis of age-related vulnerability to West Nile virus: at the NIAID conference "Advances in West Nile virus research, held in Washington, DC, on March 5&6, 2009.



## GRADUATE STUDIES

### Deadlines for May 2009 Graduation

- **April 20, 2009**—Last day suggested to **TAKE** the Final Oral Examination/Defense and still have time to submit your dissertation by the due date. The **Announcement of Final Oral Defense** is due at least seven (7) working days prior to the date of the examination.
- **May 9, 2009**—Last day to **Submit Dissertations** to Graduate Degree Certification

### GPSA Week

- **North Campus Breakfast on Wednesday, April 1 from 9:00am - 11am at the College of Medicine Courtyard.** Free breakfast for our graduate and professional students that call 'north of Speedway' home.
- **Free BBQ on Friday, April 3 from 11:30am – 1 pm at the UA Mall.** Lunch is on us, but we've only got enough for 600, so come early. Vegetarian friendly. Don't forget to pick up your free t-shirt. A DJ will entertain from 12pm-1pm.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Get Well Soon

For those of you that have not heard, Chris Louis has been out of the office due to illness and at this time it is uncertain when she will be back to work.

If you have something that needs to be done (that Chris normally does), Sherilen and Michelle are filling in and will do their best to get things completed.

Chris: Get well soon and all of us are thinking about you...and missing you!



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## April Birthdays

3rd—Ty Lebsack  
17th—Megan Smithey  
27th—Cheryl Myers  
29th—Michelle Blurton  
30th—Partha Samadder



**Happy Birthday!!**

...and many more!!

### Upcoming UA Holidays:

May 25—Memorial Day  
July 3—Independence Day  
Sept 7—Labor Day  
Nov 11—Veterans Day

## Want to Add Something to the Newsletter?

Send any topics to Michelle Blurton at [mblurton@email.arizona.edu](mailto:mblurton@email.arizona.edu) to be included in the next newsletter.

**Submission deadline for the newsletter is the last Monday of each month.**



**Happy  
Easter**