



IMMUNOBIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023

From the Department Chair

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*Welcome to the Fall 2023 version of the UArizona Department of Immunobiology newsletter. This quarter, we are particularly happy and proud to welcome to our ranks two new faculty members: Assistant Professor, **Dr. Katherine Rhodes**, an expert in bacterial pathogenesis of reproductive tract bacteria, and Associate Professor, **Dr. Koenraad Van Doorslaer**, an evolutionary virology expert with interests in the human papilloma virus and its oncogenic transformation potential. We are delighted that they are our new faculty!*



- Janko Ž. Nikolich, MD, PhD
Director, the Aegis Consortium for Pandemic-Free Future
Bowman Professor and Head, Department of Immunobiology
Co-Director, University of Arizona Center on Aging

New Faculty



Katherine Rhodes, PhD



Koenraad Van Doorslaer, PhD

Hats Off to Our Summer 2023 Graduates!!



Emily Merritt, PhD

Emily is working in the Koshy Lab as she applies for postdoctoral positions.



Henrik O'Brien, PhD

Henrik is continuing in the Johnson Lab in a postdoctoral position.

Awards and Laudatory Notes

Faculty



Felicia Goodrum, PhD, and Gayatri Vedantam, PhD, were recognized as Women of Impact by the Office of Research, Innovation and Impact for being “forward-thinking leaders whose impact resonates across the U of A campus and beyond.”



Michael D.L. Johnson, PhD, was appointed the Associate Dean for Basic Science Research and Graduate Studies at the UA COM-Tucson. This role involves advancing basic science research efforts and supervising graduate student scholarship.



Anita Koshy, MD, was honored as a “2023 Women in Medicine Torchbearer” by COM-T. This award “encourages inclusivity, empowers female professionals, and ensures a brighter, more diverse future for healthcare.”

Koenraad Van Doorslaer, PhD, was selected as the co-leader for the Cancer Biology Program at the UA Cancer Center.



Students



Pierce Longmire (GPMM, Goodrum Lab) received an 2023-24 ARCS Scholarship.

Yamil Sanchez-Rosario (GPMM, Johnson Lab), was awarded an HHMI Gilliam Fellowship.



Chloe Park (Undergrad, Koshy Lab), was selected for and completed a BRAVO project during summer 2023 at the University of Glasgow (Sheiner Lab).

Shruti Attreya (Undergrad, Koshy Lab), completed an honor’s thesis and graduated from UA in May 2023.



Fond Farewell

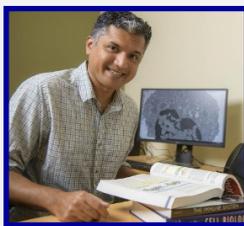


Mladen Jergovic, PhD, left the department at the end of July to take a position as Senior Scientist at Hooke Laboratories in the greater Boston area.



Maggie So, PhD, retired from the University at the end of July; however, she will maintain emeritus status. She is hosting a retirement symposium on Friday, October 27, from 10am-3:15pm in MRB 102.

In the Public Spotlight



Deepta Bhattacharya, PhD, was featured in:

June 5 Interview with UA President, Robert C. Robbins, “Creating the future of Medicine in Arizona: CAMI (Center for Advanced Molecular and Immunological Therapies) will lead as precision medicine transforms patient care.”

Aug 13 ICI Premiere Radio, “COVID keeps evolving, but so does our immunity. Are we now at a ‘stalemate’ with this virus?”

Sept 13 NPR, “The new COVID boosters are coming: here’s what you need to know.”

Sept 26 UAHS “Tomorrow is Here” series, “Insights: vaccines, variants and COVID-19 threats.”



Felicia Goodrum, PhD, was featured in:

March One Health Trust-One Health, One World Podcast with Maggie Fox, “The origins of COV-19 – what scientific research tells us.”

March Progress, Potential and Possibilities Podcast with Ira Pastor, “Rational virology research for human health and pandemic prevention.”

May 24 MSN story, “There is no evidence strong enough to end the pandemic-origins debate.”

Sept KOLD interview: “Are masks making a comeback, Tucson health officials weigh in possible new CDC guidelines.”

Sept Nature interview: “First global survey reveals who is doing ‘gain of function’ research on pathogens and why.”



Janko Ž. Nikolich, MD, PhD, was featured in:

May 30 UAHS “Tomorrow is Here” series, “Fighting the Second Pandemic: Long COVID.”

Sept. 7 Arizona Science Podcast with Tim Swindle, “Updating the Phenomenon of Long COVID.”

Publications

Akbari MS, Keogh RA, Radin JN, Sanchez-Rosario Y, **Johnson MDL**, Horswill AR, Kehl-Fie TE, Burcham LR, Doran KS. The impact of nutritional immunity on Group B streptococcal pathogenesis during wound infection. *mBio*. 2023 Aug 31;14(4):e0030423. doi: 10.1128/mbio.00304-23. Epub 2023 Jun 26. PMID: 37358277; PMCID: PMC10470527.

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O'Brien H, Davoodian T, **Johnson MDL**. The promise of copper ionophores as antimicrobials. *Curr Opin Microbiol*. 2023 Oct;75:102355. doi: 10.1016/j.mib.2023.102355. Epub 2023 Jul 3. PMID: 37406562; PMCID: PMC10529258.

Publications, Continued

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Zarella K, Longmire P, Zeltzer S, Collins-McMillen^d D, Hancock M, Buehler J, Reitsma J, Nelson J, Terhune SS, **Goodrum F**. 2023. Human cytomegalovirus UL138 interaction with USP1 activates STAT1 in infection. *PLoS Pathogens*, June 8; 19(6):e1011185. PMID:37289831.

Zerbini FM, Siddell SG, Lefkowitz EJ, Mushegian AR, Adriaenssens EM, Alfnas-Zerbini P, Dempsey DM, Dutilh BE, Garcia ML, Hendrickson RC, Junglen S, Krupovic M, Kuhn JH, Lambert AJ, Łobocka M, Oksanen HM, Robertson DL, Rubino L, Sabanadzovic S, Simmonds P, Smith DB, Suzuki N, **Van Doorslaer K**, Vandamme AM, Varsani A. Changes to virus taxonomy and the ICTV Statutes ratified by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (2023). *Arch Virol*. 2023 Jun 10;168(7):175. doi: 10.1007/s00705-023-05797-4. PMID: 37296227.

Presentations

Anthony Bosco, PhD, presented at the [Sept 2023](#) Joint Biology Research Retreat, “Emerging Roles for Interferons in Respiratory Viral Infections and Childhood Asthma.”

Sam Campos, PhD, presented at the [June 2023](#) American Society of Virology, University of Georgia, Athens (Invited “State-of-the-Art Lecture”) “Slipping Across Membranes—Lessons from a Sneaky Capsid Protein.”

Colin Fields (Bhattacharya Lab) presented a poster at the [Sept 2023](#) Joint Biology Research Retreat, “Identification and Characterization of Monoclonal Antibodies from Tumor-Infiltrating B Cells.”

Felicia Goodrum, PhD, presented at the following:
[June 2023](#) American Society of Virology (Invited Symposium Speaker) University of Georgia, Athens.

[July 2023](#) International Herpesvirus Workshop (Keynote Speaker) University of Montana, Missoula.

[Sept 2023](#) National Institutes of Health, Virology Interest Group.

Haley Marcarian (Bothwell Lab) presented a poster at the [Sept 2023](#) Joint Biology Research Retreat, “Renal Cancer Cells Acquire Immune Surface Proteins through Trogocytosis.”

Isabelle Tobey (Van Doorslaer Lab) presented at the [July 2023](#) DNA Tumor Virus Meeting in Montreal, Canada, “Attenuation fo the cGAS/STING Pathway by HPV.”

Zachary Williamson (Campos Lab) presented at the following:

[July 2023](#) DNA Tumor Virus Meeting in Montreal, Canada, “A sorting Nexin 1-Derived Peptide Potently Blocks HPV16 Pseudovirus Infection.”

[Sept 2023](#) Poster presentation at the Joint Biology Research Retreat, “A sorting Nexin 1-Derived Peptide Potently Blocks HPV16 Pseudovirus Infection.”

Grants and Funding



Anita Koshy, PhD

Faculty Seed Grant, *Developing single cell RNA-seq for the inflamed brain.*

Rebekah Mokry, PhD

1F32AI178919, (NIH/NIAID) *Impact of diverse nutrient environment on viral replication and metabolite flow in human cytomegalovirus infection, 9/30/23 – 9/29/25 (\$138,580).*

Janko Nikolich, MD, PhD

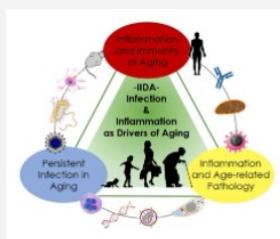
4R37AG020719, *T Cell Homeostasis and Function in Immune Senescence, 5/15/23 – 3/31/28 (\$2,333,955).*

1R01AG082541 (NIH/NIA) *The role of CMV in HIV-associated accentuated aging, 9/1/23 – 5/31/24 (\$3,239,227).*

Yamil Sanchez-Rosario

GT16604, (Howard Hughes Medical Institute/Gillian Fellows Program) *Mechanisms of copper assisted entry into *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, 9/1/23 – 8/31/26 (\$159,000).*

IIDA T32 Grant



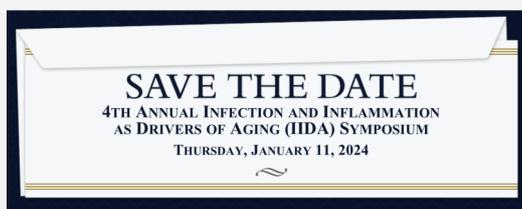
Announcing the 2023-2024 IIDA T32 Grant Awardees:

Kevin Kasper, BME, Gutruf Lab

Jennifer Kraszewski, Epidemiology, Klimentidis Lab

Ivan Sarabia, BME, Wertheim Lab

Bao Thai, GPMM, Bhattacharya Lab



NEW

IMB Post-Docs

The IMB postdoc group is one of the first program-specific postdoc groups at UA. Our mission is to improve recruitment and retention, identify and create training opportunities, and ensure postdoc success. Reach out to co-organizers **Rebekah Mokry** or **Zoe Lyski** with questions, feedback, or if you have a new postdoc interviewing/on-boarding and would like to set up a meeting with other IMB postdocs. If you have information for the IMB postdoc community, you can use our new listserv to quickly share that information with us: imb_postdocs@list.arizona.edu

Outreach



Felicia Goodrum, PhD,

- * is a mentor in the American Society for Virology Mentoring Program.
- * is Co-Chair for the Cellular and Molecular Medicine search for Department Head.
- * was a panel member for Women's History Month.
- * was a panel member for BIO5 Inspiring Women in STEM.

Rob Jackson, PhD, (Van Doorslaer lab) co-hosted a lab tour for the Banner University Medical Center Community Program.

Mike Kuhns, PhD, is an invited member and participant in Solving for Science, <https://solvingfor.org>.

Isabelle Tobey (Van Doorslaer Lab)

- * was a guest lecturer for a course entitled, "Biotechnologies" at Hampshire College.
- * co-hosted a lab tour for the Banner University Medical Center Community Program.

Welcome to IMB!

The following have joined our department since May 2023:

Admin:

Angus Aron, Accountant

Lab Personnel:

Md Abdur Rahman Apu, GA, Bothwell Lab

Amy Banka, GA, Van Doorslaer Lab

Luis Garcia, Research Technician, Purdy Lab

Rob Jackson, PhD, Van Doorslaer Lab

Kelly King, GA, Van Doorslaer Lab

Jaclyn Marroquin, Student Worker, Van Doorslaer Lab

Chloe Mikolajczyk, Student Worker, Bhattacharya Lab

Candice Nkoy, Research Technician, Nikolich Lab

Sofia Ragibese, Student Worker, Van Doorslaer Lab

Esha Rajadhyaksha, Student Worker, Van Doorslaer Lab

Zeni Ramirez, Lab Coordinator, Goodrum Lab

Malini Sajejev, Intern, Bothwell Lab

Suraj Sakaram, Data Scientist, Bosco Lab

Chloe Scott, Student Worker, Johnson Lab

Rebekah Starks, Data Scientist, Bosco Lab

Joel Thompson, Research Tech 1/MS Student, Purdy Lab

Isabelle Tobey, GA, Van Doorslaer Lab

Volunteers:

Abigail LoCascio, Undergrad, Kuhns Lab

Sanjay Menghani, PhD, Johnson Lab

General Announcements

Room Scheduling

To request a room reservation, go to resource-scheduler.pharmacy.arizona.edu/s/roomgrid.pl

Well-Being Resources

Students can reach out to the **CAPS team**, and employees and members of their households can work with **Employee Assistance Counseling**. If you need help, or know someone who does, please use these resources. Creating community is important and you are encouraged to look out for one another.

Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.