Hats Off to Our Spring 2024 Graduates!!

Christopher Coplen, PhD
Chris is enjoying time with his family as he applies for a postdoctoral position.

Pierce Longmire, PhD
Pierce is continuing in the Goodrum Lab in a postdoctoral position.

Prabhu S. Arunachalam, PhD

New Faculty
Awards and Laudatory Notes

Faculty

Nafees Ahmad, PhD, was recognized for Excellence in Professionalism as a Basic Science Faculty by the College of Medicine.

Deepa Bhattacharya, PhD, was named the inaugural executive director of the Center for Advanced Molecular and Immunological (CAMI) Therapies.

Sam Campos, PhD, was elected as the Councilor for Animal Virology 2024-2027, American Society for Virology.

Felicia Goodrum, PhD, graduated from the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine fellowship in April.

John Purdy, PhD, received the Excellence in Basic and Translational Investigator Award from the College of Medicine.

Immunobiology received the Outstanding Achievement in Teaching by a Block/Course from the College of Medicine for “Immunity and Infection.”

Trainees

Danielle Becket, PhD (Postdoc, Doyle Lab), received a Travel Award to attend Brain & Brain PET 2023 in Brisbane, Australia.

Chloe Park (Undergrad, Koshy Lab), received the Robie Gold Medal which honors a graduating senior who demonstrates personal integrity, initiative, cooperation, enthusiasm, willingness to give more than required, and a love of God and country.

Jennifer Uhrbraub (Nikolich Lab), received the Trainee Travel Award for Outstanding Travel Award Application at the Midwinter Conference of Immunologists of Asilomar in January 2024, and won the Crafting Your Elevator Pitch competition at the 2024 COM Research Day, with an award of $10,000 with Research Core Services.
Deepta Bhattacharya, PhD, was featured in:
- Nov 1 TEDxUArizona: Spirit of Wonder Full Talks, “Hacking the immune system with precision medicine.”
- TEDxUArizona: “Could hacking the immune system be the future of medicine? A conversation.”
- Jan 11 UAHS News, “Researchers genetically modify stem cells to evade immunological rejection.”
- Jan 18 Drug Discovery World, “Genetically modified stem cells evade immune rejection.”

Sam Campos, PhD, was featured in:
- April 22 UAHS News, “$1.8M NIH grant will help researchers follow a virus on its path to the nucleus.”

Michael Johnson, PhD, was featured in:
- Jan 22 UAHS News, “Immunobiologist’s impact reaches far beyond the lab.”

Janko Ž. Nikolich, MD, PhD, was featured in:
- Nov 1 COM-T News, “Immune rejuvenation could pave the way for healthier aging.”
- UAHS Innovations in Healthy Aging, “Lymph nodes: Seeking a solution for weakened immune systems.”
- Mar 7 UAHS News, “5 things to know about creating a pandemic-resilient state.”
Our annual symposium was held on March 8, 2024 and featured plenary speakers Drs. Jim Collins (Parasitologist, UT Southwestern Medical Center), Anice Lowen (Virologist, Emory University), and David Masopust (Immunologist, University of Minnesota), and four U of A faculty speakers. We had 26 poster submissions, with five selected for oral presentations and the remainder judged for awards by a panel of postdocs and research scientists.

This year’s poster award winners:
Postdocs: 1st place, Danielle Becktel (Doyle Lab); 2nd place, Nicole Jimenez (Herbst-Kravolitz Lab)
Grad Trainees: 1st place, Isabelle Tobey (Campos Lab); Gurbeen Dadiala (Herbst-Kravolitz Lab)

Thank you to Dr. Rhodes and her committee for their hard work in organizing another successful symposium!

**Graduation Ceremony**

The Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences Convocation took place on Wednesday, May 8, honoring trainees graduating from Fall 2023 through Fall 2024. We had two trainees participate this year.

Christine Bradshaw with mentor, Dr. Janko Ž. Nikolich

Pierce Longmire with mentor, Dr. Felicia Goodrum

Congratulations to all!!


Sonar SA, Watanabe M, NikoIich JZ. Disorganization of secondary lymphoid organs and dyscoordinated of chemokine secretion as key contributors to immune aging. Semin Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, poster presentation, American Society for Neurochemistry Conference, Portland, Oregon, April 2024.


Prabhu S, Arunachalam, PhD, presented at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “Immunobiology of Vaccine Adjuvants.”

Danielle Becktel, PhD, (Doyle Lab) presented at the following: 2023 Brain & Brain PET, Brisbane, Australia, “Targeting Lipid Metabolism in Myeloid Cells to Improve Ischemic Stroke Recovery.”

2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, poster presentation, “Repeated Administration of 2-Deoxyglucose (2DG) Attenuates the Chronic Inflammatory Response to Experimental Stroke.”

Hannah Brooks (Goodrum Lab) presented a poster at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “HCMV Hijacking of the Host DNA Damage Repair Pathways.”

Lucas D’Souza, PhD (Bhattacharya Lab) presented a poster at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “Multiple Pathways Link Surface CD19 Expression to Antibody Secretion and Longevity in Plasma Cells.”

Kristian Doyle, PhD, presented at the April 2024 American Society for Neurochemistry Conference, Portland, Oregon, “Targeting Foam Cells to Improve Recovery from Ischemic Stroke.”
Presentations, Continued

Felicia Goodrum, PhD, presented at the following: March 2024 Department of Microbiology and Immunology (Invited Seminar Speaker) University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. May 2024 Department of Molecular Biology and Microbiology (Invited Seminar Speaker) Tufts University School of Medicine, Medford, Massachusetts.

Rob Jackson, PhD, (Van Doorslaer Lab) delivered an oral poster presentation at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “HPV16(+ ) Tonsil Cells Mimic Normal Epithelial Differentiation.”

Kelly King (Van Doorslaer Lab) presented a poster at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “Single-cell Transcriptomics Identifies PRMT1 as a Regulator of Papillomavirus Alternative Splicing.”

Ian Kline (Purdy Lab) presented a poster at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “Human Cytomegalovirus Takes Advantage of a Host Response to Replicate Under Choline-Starved Conditions.”

Sangeetha Senthil Kumar, PhD, (Johnson and Wilson Labs) delivered an oral poster presentation at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “Deciphering the Mechanisms of Inflammasome Activation by S. anginosus: Insights into Host-Pathogen Interactions.”

Nathan Kummert (Ahmad Lab) presented a poster at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “Genetic Characterization of HIV-1 tat Gene from VI-rologically Controlled HIV-infected Older Patients on Long-Term Antiretroviral Therapy.”

Sanna Loppi, PhD (Doyle Lab) presented a poster at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “Boosting Mitochondrial Biogenesis Diminishes Foam Cell Formation in the Post-Stroke Brain.”


Janka Ž. Nikolich, MD, PhD, presented at the following: Dec 2023 Arizona Post-COVID Cohort Consortium Retreat (Organizer and Speaker) Tempe, Arizona. Jan 10, 2024 Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Jan 23, 2024 Curtin Medica School, Perth Australia. Jan 24, 2024 Telethon Kids Institute, Perth Australia. Feb 2024 Gordon Conference on Immunoengeeneering, Lucca, Italy. Apr 6, 2024 Institute for Biological Investigations “Dr. Sima Stančević ,” Belgrade, Serbia.

Katherine Rhodes, PhD, presented at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “Dissecting Mucosal Survival in the Neisseria genus.”

Elizabeth Sargent (Bhattacharya Lab) presented a poster at the 2024 College of Medicine Research Day, “Generating a Hypoimmunogenic Pluripotent Stem Cell Line Derived from B Cells.”

Fadi Sayegh (Bhattacharya Lab) presented a poster at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “Serotype Specific Carbon Utilization in Streptococcus pneumoniae .”

Bao Thai (Bhattacharya Lab) presented at the 2024 4th Annual Symposium on Infection and Inflammation as Drivers of Aging, “Uncovering the Epigenetic Regulation of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Differentiation.”

Isabelle Tobey (Campos and Van Doorslaer Labs) presented a poster at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “The Impact of HPV on the cGAS/STING Pathway.”

Jennifer Uhrlaub (Nikolich Lab) delivered an oral poster presentation at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “Chronic T. pallidum Infection Curtails the Cytotoxic Potential of Acute T-Cell Responses to West Nile Virus in the Brain.”

Emily (Cianflone) Vaslow (Goodrum Lab) presented a poster at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “Human Cytomegalovirus’s Turnover of Low-Density Lipoprotein Receptor Confers a Replicative Advantage.”

Philip Vost, PhD (Kuhns Lab) presented a poster at the 2024 Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, “Engineering Biomimetic Chimeric Antigen Receptors for the Purpose of Immunotherapy.”
Grants and Funding

Sam Campos, PhD
1R35GM152143-01 (NIH/NIGMS) Membrane Spanning and Subcellular Trafficking Mechanisms of a Viral Capsid Protein—Lessons from a Master Cell Biologist ($1,829,551).

Felicia Goodrum, PhD
R01DK137411 (NIH, with Jean Wilson, Curtis Thorne, and Andrew Peak) Modulation of Colonocyte Barrier Function and Signaling by Cytomegalovirus Infection ($2,172,404).

Katherine Rhodes, PhD
1K22AI174066-01 Characterization of Neisseria Factors Required for Asymptomatic Carriage.

IIDA T32 Grant

Our grant has been renewed with an additional 2 training slots!

Symposium

The 4th Annual Symposium on Infection and Inflammation as Drivers of Aging was held on January 11. The symposium gives our grant recipients a chance to showcase their research and get feedback from members of the external academic community. This year’s trainee speakers were Kevin Kasper, Jennifer Kraszewski, Ivan Sarabia, and Bao Thai. Dr. George Sutphin was the invited faculty speaker.

2024-25 Applications

Applications for the 2024-25 IIDA T32 grant will open in June. Be looking for an email announcement.
Welcome to IMB!

Outreach

Kristian Doyle, PhD, presented “The Biology of Healthy Aging” to a 55+ community (Album, Marana).

Rob Jackson, PhD, (Van Doorslaer Lab) hosted a lab tour for the Honors anatomy and Physiology high school students from Mica Mtn. High School.

Michael Kuhns, PhD,
* is an active member in Solving for Science, https://solvingfor.org.
* presented at a retirement community in March.

Janko Ž. Nikolich, MD, PhD, participated in the Gordon Research Conference on Immunoenengineering session on mentorship.

Katherine Rhodes, PhD, is a mentor for WISE (Women in Science & Engineering).

Justin Wilson, PhD, spoke at the local Phi Beta Psi chapter meeting to share how their research funding is used and how cancer research is performed.

The following have joined our department since November 2023:

**Lab Personnel:**
- Christina Arnoldy, GA, Van Doorslaer Lab
- Shree Madhul Bhat, PhD, Nikolich Lab
- Nicholas Cusick, GA, Purdy Lab
- Andrew Khalil, GA, Aranachalam Lab
- Dimitri Koliopoulos, Research Technician, Goodrum Lab
- David McKinzy, PhD, Goodrum Lab
- Sloane McVicker, GA, Rhodes Lab
- Magi Passols Manzano, PhD, Purdy Lab
- Evy Nguyen, GA, Rhodes Lab
- Chloe Sairs, Research Professional, Wilson Lab
- Mamata Savanagouder, PhD, Goodrum Lab
- Sydney Verdugo, GA, Wilson Lab
- Tim White, PhD, Goodrum Lab

**Volunteers:**
- Austin Taylor, Undergrad, Ahmad Lab
- Jaden Todd-Nelson, Undergrad, Ahmad Lab
- Emmett Worth, Undergrad, Ahmad Lab

Room Scheduling
To request a room reservation, use this link.

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 Acknowledgement
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.