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FOCIS 2022: Register before June 19



Join us for the **FOCIS 2022 Annual Meeting**, June 21-24, as the FOCIS community comes together in San Francisco for the first in-person meeting since 2019! Register before June 19 to get the best rates.

Register Now >>

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Successful 2022 U.S. Advanced Course

Our popular Advanced Course in Basic and Clinical Immunology course was held virtually on March 7-9, 2022 with over 350 registrants. Course organizers report overall positive feedback, noting diverse international presence representing 38 countries.

Program

Over three days, 12 renowned speakers explored major topics in cellular and molecular immunology – taking attendees from the bench to the bedside and back again.

Attendance

FOCIS members received complimentary registration. To encourage global participation, organizers offered non-members a tiered rate structure with discounted registration fees for FCE trainees and attendees from lower-income countries. FOCIS also gave four group registration packages to groups of three (3) or more individuals with a commonality of organization or working group, with group registrants representing 10% of total attendance. Of the 357 registrations, 56% were from the US or Canada and 44% were based internationally. All registrants had access to course recordings slide decks for an additional 30 days after the live course.

Reviews and Evaluations

94% of attendees rated the course as 'excellent or very good'. Attendees praised the course in the evaluations, sharing:

- "All of the lecturers were incredibly clear in explaining their topics, many of which are complex."
- "I loved the depth of presentation, sequence and coordination of presenters. I love the way questions were answered during the presentations."
- "I enjoyed the organized format, high level of expertise in each subject, and the lovely poems from Dr. Pillai."

- “Wonderful teachers and lecturers who covered a nice breadth of immunology.”
- “It is a comprehensive course for learners in all stages.”
- “I am looking for short courses to recommend to new Immunology and Allergy trainee specialists – this will certainly be one of them!”

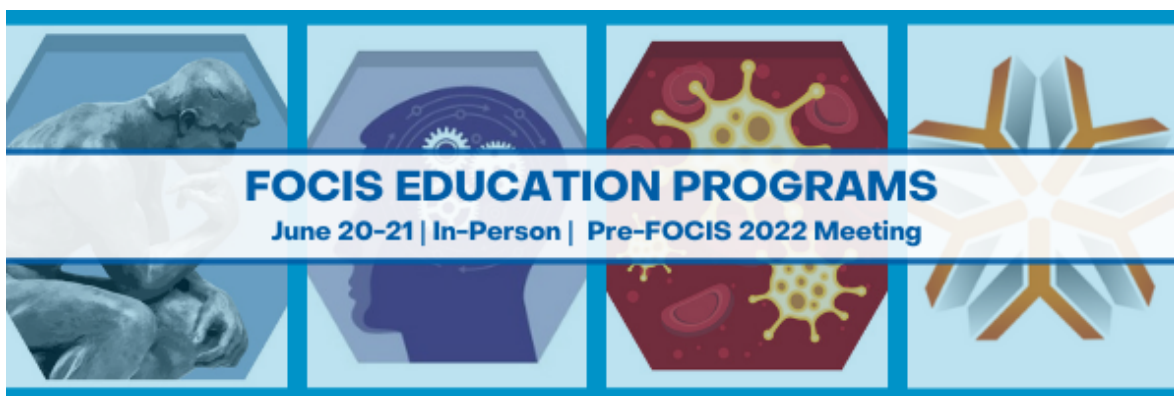
Thank You to Supporters

The course was supposed by educational grants from Bristol Myers Squibb, Grifols, and from Janssen Biotech, Inc., administered by Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC.

Invitation for 2023 Course in San Diego

Experience this popular course for yourself! Join the list of more than 2,600 clinicians, researchers, and trainees who attended the course since it was first offered in 2007. The 2023 U.S. Advanced Course will be held from February 26-28, at the Estancia La Jolla in San Diego, California, USA. Online registration will open in fall 2022.

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Add on FOCISed Courses at FOCIS 2022

FOCIS offers four educational opportunities before the FOCIS 2022 Annual Meeting begins. This year, they will be held on Monday, June 20 and Tuesday, June 21 at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis, the FOCIS 2022 host venue.

One or two-day course packages are available. Courses run the full day and include breakfast, lunch and designated networking breaks.

These pre-meeting courses are offered in conjunction with the FOCIS 2022 Annual Meeting **OR** as a standalone educational opportunity. During the registration process, you will be able to select FOCIS 2022 Annual Meeting + FOCISed Courses or FOCISed Courses only. [Review the detailed registration instructions here for more information.](#)

Register for FOCISed Courses



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FCE Spotlight



Get to Know FCE Director Remi Creusot, PhD | Columbia Center for Translational Immunology, New York

Take a moment to learn more about FCE Director Remi Creusot. FOCIS interviewed Dr. Creusot about his career path, proudest achievements, involvement with FOCIS and his work with the Columbia Center for Translational Immunology. Read excerpts from that interview below, or listen to the full interview and read the transcript, [here](#).

How did you first get involved in immunology?

I was exposed to immunological research doing a six-month internship for my Master's, which I did in the Immunology Unit at GSK, which was GlaxoWellcome, at the time. That was in England. And it was my first experience abroad since I had only studied in France, and I got to work on DNA vaccines at a time it was a new and promising alternative approach to vaccination. I studied CD4 T-cell responses and how they cross regulate each other. Back then I learned Flow Cytometry, which is a technique I have been using extensively throughout my career. I loved it. Once I graduated with my Master's, I knew I had to do a PhD in immunology. I was fortunate enough to apply for a PhD position in a university in London, in a lab whose Principal Investigator just started sabbatical leave in the same unit I was previously in at Glaxo. And so things fell into place really well. I went back to the same company to do one more year as part of my PhD project and I transferred my studies to University College London. That's where I graduated after a couple of years and I was then proud to call myself an immunologist.

Tell us about the research you're most proud of.

Honestly, I'm proud of all my research projects even if some projects are harder to get funding for than others. I am particularly proud of the project that I have been able to integrate or link together, which helps me leverage advances in some projects to support the others. I tend to be also prouder of technological advances than advances in fundamental knowledge, simply because I feel that these take me a step closer to a potential treatment for patients.

[Listen to the full interview or read the transcript here.](#)

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The creation of this committee embodies FOCIS's ongoing commitment to ensure a fair, equitable, and welcoming environment for all engaged in the science and management of immunological disorders. This commitment is underscored by the stated mission, which is to foster understanding and awareness of gender issues, promote career development of women in immunology, and advance understanding of the role of sex and gender in immunological disease.

Championed by several successful immunology leaders, this committee is chaired by **Dr. Elaine F. Reed, PhD, University of California – Los Angeles**, and co-chaired by **Dr. Terri Laufer, MD, University of Pennsylvania**. They are joined by Founder and Past Chair, **Dr. Maria-Grazia Roncarolo, MD, Stanford University**. In addition to these core leaders, the committee includes a steering sub-committee made up of eight members nominated by the FOCIS Member Societies.

Steering Committee members include:

Catherine Wu, MD, Harvard Medical School
 Eva Untersmayr-Elsenhuber, MD, PhD, Medical University Vienna
 Yanet Valdez Tejeira, PhD, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia
 Evelyn Ullrich, MD, PhD, University Hospital Frankfurt
 Monica Guzman, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine
 Lee Ann Baxter-Lowe, PhD, d(ABHI), Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Sachiko Miyake, MD, PhD, Juntendo University
Jane Grogan, PhD, Graphite Bio

Additionally, see below for some initiatives that are underway for the committee in 2022:

A manuscript entitled, [The Women of FOCIS: promoting equality and inclusiveness in a professional federation of clinical immunology societies](#), which was published in *Frontiers in Immunology* on April 4, 2022.

A lunch session at the FOCIS 2022 Annual Meeting, co-hosted with Women in Transplantation (WIT), an initiative of the Transplantation Society (TTS). The session will be held on Thursday, June 23 from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM PT and is entitled, [Achieving Gender Equality in the Life Science World: From Compensation to Career Opportunities in Industry and Academia](#), given by Keynote Speaker Katherine Vega Stultz, President & CEO, Ocelot Bio. Admittance to this session is included in your FOCIS 2022 registration.

You're Invited

Since 2019, the annual FOCIS Women in Clinical Immunology (WICI) session (formerly known as Women@FOCIS) has brought together women working in different areas of immunology, academia, and industry. This event is designed to celebrate women in immunology, connect trainees and young investigators with female leaders in the translational immunology community, and share inspiration on personal and professional development. WICI is pleased to partner with the TTS Women in Transplantation (WIT) group to present this annual jointly organized session at the FOCIS 2022 Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 23, 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM PT.

The session, co-chaired by Elaine Reed, PhD and Maria-Grazia Roncarolo, MD, is entitled *Achieving Gender Equality in the Life Science World: From Compensation to Career Opportunities in Industry and Academia*. The format will be a 30 to a 35-minute presentation by Katherine Vega Stultz, President and CEO, Ocelot Bio, followed by a 25 to a 30-minute panel discussion. Panelists include Terri Laufer, MD, Jeffrey Bluestone, PhD, and Gerald T. Nepom, MD, PhD, who will lead and facilitate discussion from their perspective as leaders in immunology, either in an academic or industry setting, and who will contribute their professional and life experience working in the field to the important discussion of what can be done to alleviate challenges and issues faced by women in the workplace.

Please join us for a robust dialog and networking environment as we celebrate women in science and female leadership across the breadth of translational immunology.

Program Agenda:

11:30 am - Welcome, Introductions, and Session Overview
11:40 am - Keynote Presentation
12:15 pm - Panel Discussion
12:40 pm - Closing Remarks
12:45 pm - Adjourn Sessions

Session Questions

Do you have a burning question on this topic? Have you experienced a challenge in the field of immunology that could be discussed at this session? [Please submit your questions here.](#)

Session Supported By:



[View the Session Program >>](#)

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ITN Request for Proposals



The Immune Tolerance Network is currently [requesting proposals](#) for the supplementary mechanistic analyses for the [remaining participant samples](#) from the Gauging Response in Allergic Rhinitis to Sublingual and Subcutaneous Immunotherapy (GRASS) trial.

The [GRASS](#) trial is a single-center, randomized, double-blind, double-dummy, placebo-controlled, three-arm study comparing SLIT, SCIT and placebo (randomized 1:1:1) of 106 participants over 3 years' duration. Participants received 2 years of immunotherapy or placebo followed by a 1-year observation period. Both SCIT and SLIT, when compared to placebo, were successful in inducing desensitization at year 2. There was a broad range of sustained unresponsiveness (year 3) although not significantly different for either treatment group compared to placebo.

Banked serum, PBMC, and nasal fluid from over 80 participants are available for supplementary mechanistic analyses. Most of these participants have all sample types available at all study time points allowing for both longitudinal and cross-sectional analyses.

Deadline: Responses to this RFP will be evaluated upon receipt and the RFP will remain open until the samples have been allocated.

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Betty Diamond, MD, recently elected to National Academy of Sciences (NAS)



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#dedicated



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Apply Now for 2022 Michelson Prizes



The Michelson Medical Research Foundation (MMRF), together with the Human Vaccines Project, established the Michelson Prizes: Next Generation Grants in 2017. This \$20 million initiative supports research proposals from young investigators who are using disruptive research concepts and inventive processes to significantly advance the development of vaccines and immunotherapies for major global diseases.

The 2022 Michelson Prizes is accepting applications related to **Human Immunology and Vaccine Research**, including research aimed at tackling the current roadblocks in human vaccine development and expanding our limited understanding of key immune processes that are fundamental to successful vaccine and immunotherapy development (e.g., immune memory, immune receptor recognition, tissue-specific responses, host-microbe interactions, underlying genetic mechanisms, genetic susceptibility, etc.).

The Michelson Prizes are intended to support individuals early in their careers who possess novel ideas and who have significant potential to execute these ideas to affect transformative change in their respective fields. Research should incorporate multiplexed and non-traditional approaches from outside the fields of immunology and vaccinology and demonstrate a high degree of novelty and creative thinking. The successful applicants will clearly articulate a vision that challenges current dogma and demonstrates an ability to look beyond convention to make a lasting impact on vaccine and immunotherapy research.

Applications due June 26, 2022

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