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FOCIS 2020 Annual Meeting - New Dates

Due to health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the FOCIS 2020 Annual Meeting – originally scheduled for June 23-26 – has been rescheduled to October 28-31, 2020 at the Marriott Marquis in San Francisco.

The FOCIS Board of Directors feels that rescheduling the meeting is the best course of action to protect our attendees, gather the FOCIS community this fall to showcase the latest translational immunology research, and provide valuable networking opportunities after a prolonged period of social separation.

While we do not know how the COVID-19 pandemic will unfold, we will continue to monitor the situation closely throughout the spring and summer and will provide regular updates to FOCIS

2020 registrants and the FOCIS community.

Our goal is to ensure a safe and successful meeting in October. To that end, we are working closely with our hotel partner to ensure FOCIS 2020 fully complies with CDC guidelines and guidance from state and local public health authorities.

[Visit our website](#) for more information on how FOCIS is monitoring the continuing developments pertaining to the COVID-19.

[Click for More Information](#)

Stay Updated on the FOCIS 2020 Program



We are delighted that over 90% of our invited FOCIS 2020 speakers can participate in the October meeting!

To bolster our already impressive lineup, the FOCIS Scientific Program Committee is working hard to add speakers on the forefront of COVID-19 research to the FOCIS 2020 program.

[View our online program](#) to:

- Search or browse sessions and posters using the options at left.
- Review descriptions and presenters by clicking on session titles.
- View the complete schedule of keynotes, plenary and concurrent thematic sessions

View FOCIS Program

FCE Spotlight



Jeffrey C. Rathmell, PhD

**FOCIS Centers of Excellence Director
Vanderbilt Center for Immunobiology**

To introduce our membership to Dr. Rathmell, we interviewed him about his career path, proudest achievements, his involvement in FOCIS and his research at their FCE.

1. How did you first get involved in immunology?

I was at Jackson Labs where I was partnered with an immunology group to work on Lupus, actually dealing with the mechanisms of auto-antibody production

and cell death. I didn't know anything about immunology going into that, but I just had a wonderful time. I really became fascinated with the field. I went ahead and applied to an immunology PhD program because I decided that's what I wanted to do. I ended up at the immunology program at Stanford and it was a great fit. I've enjoyed it ever since...

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

During my post-doctorate and early in my faculty career, we were involved with cancer metabolism, which doesn't necessarily have an immunological component and we were interested in cell metabolism in general. A lot of our research was done in leukemic and lymphoid cell lines. Some of the controls were just normal T-cells that we would activate, and the projects very easily transitioned to how normal T-cells regulate their metabolism. I remember the first time I presented a poster on the subject, only one person stopped at my poster. Now there are multiple meetings and hundreds of people attending the meetings. It intersects with cancer biology in the field of cancer immunotherapy and tumor microenvironment, so we've come full circle and it's really rewarding to see that. Seeing that field emerge and feeling like I had a role in its early phase is rewarding...

3. What is the most important trait a researcher should possess and why?

Resilience and persistence. You have to be curious and you have to be very smart. The most important characteristic is to recognize what's interesting and to be able to deal with the adversity. Because when you first start, things may not work, and you have to be able to dig through all the noise to try to see why you think it's important and then just keep fighting for it...

[Click to continue reading or listen to complete interview...](#)

[Click to Listen to Full Interview](#)



Learn from the leaders of translational immunology by attending a FOCISed program. Register today for these exciting live courses: [Basic Immunology in Medicine](#), [Cancer Immunity & Immunotherapy](#), and [Systems Immunology](#).

[Learn more about each course](#) and take advantage of the package rates with your Annual Meeting registration. All FOCISed programs will be held before the FOCIS 2020 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis.



BASIC IMMUNOLOGY IN MEDICINE



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28
IN SAN FRANCISCO



This course reviews selected topics in basic immunology with emphasis on recent advances and issues that are relevant to the pathogenesis and treatment of immune-mediated inflammatory diseases.

Past attendees enjoyed the course, sharing “This course provided excellent background for reading and understanding immunology literature in general.”

[View Agenda and Register](#)



CANCER IMMUNITY & IMMUNOTHERAPY



WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 28
IN SAN
FRANCISCO

FOCiS
Federation of Clinical
Immunology Societies
www.focisnet.org

sitc
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

The course is organized in collaboration with the [Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer](http://www.sitcancer.org) (SITC).

This course reviews tumor immunology as the scientific foundation for the current practice of cancer immunotherapy, emphasizing fundamental principles, recent clinical advances, current limitations, and near-term opportunities for further accelerating clinical progress.

Past attendees enjoyed the course, sharing ““High quality course; I found it addressing the main topics in the field with high level presentations.”

[View Agenda and Register](#)



SYSTEMS IMMUNOLOGY



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28
IN SAN FRANCISCO

FOCiS
Federation of Clinical
Immunology Societies
www.focisnet.org

This course provides a better basic understanding of modern statistical and mathematical concepts necessary for their analysis and interpretation.

Past attendees enjoyed the course, sharing “this course really did a great job of introducing the core concepts, techniques, and challenges to consider when analyzing and developing these types of data sets.”

[View Agenda and Register](#)

Don't Let Your Research Go Unnoticed – Submit an Abstract to FOCIS



The FOCIS Scientific Program Committee is committed to showcasing cutting-edge research in translational immunology, especially research relevant to the emergence and evolution of COVID-19.

The FOCIS Scientific Program Committee is highly encouraging late-breaking abstract submissions topical to the COVID-19 pandemic. Share your research findings with researchers and clinicians in immune-mediated diseases!

FOCIS is accepting late-breaking abstracts through August 31, 2020. Late-breaking abstracts will be considered for both oral and poster presentation. Submit a late-breaking abstract if you have new results to share or simply missed the initial deadline in January.

[Submit an Abstract](#)

FOCIS Celebrates Successful U.S. Advanced Course



FOCIS's most popular course, the U.S. Advanced Course in Basic and Clinical Immunology, receives rave reviews from attendees.

More than 135 attendees from 19 countries joined the faculty in La Jolla, California for three days of intensive learning and networking. The course featured lectures on major topics in immunology, including cellular and molecular immunology; autoimmune, allergy and immunodeficiency diseases; and new advances in interventional and clinical immunology.

FOCIS was pleased to once again offer 32 travel awards valued at over \$30,000 to enable trainees from the FOCIS Centers of Excellence ([FCEs](#)) to attend the course.

In collaboration with the IUIS Gender Equality and Career Development Committee (GEC), FOCIS co-sponsored four trainees from the developing world to attend the course.

Similar to previous years, the course featured a pre-test and post-test of the same questions to measure the learning acquired during the course. The post-test results demonstrate a 25% change in knowledge.

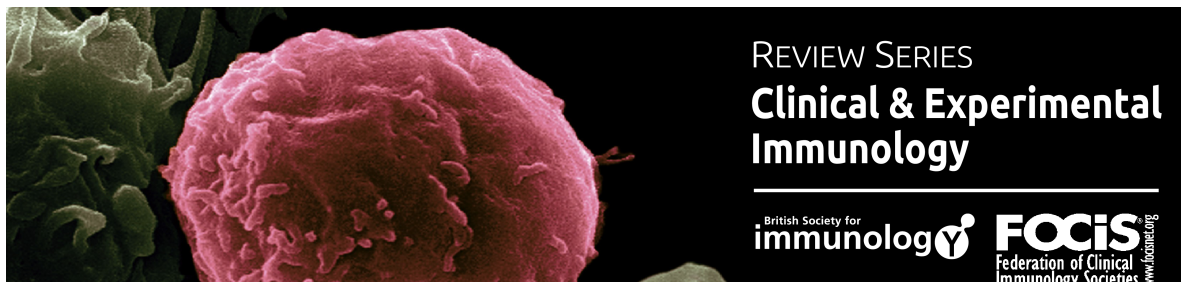
Attendees praise the course, sharing:

- “I also benefited from **networking opportunities with peers and faculty** and was inspired by researchers from **across the US and Europe.**”
- “I feel the course has **deepened my understanding of basic immunology**. . . as well as by allowing me to **learn about fields that have developed significantly** since my undergraduate years.”
- “This course provided a framework for my current knowledge as well as **filled many gaps in my knowledge.**”
- “Forming a strong foundation in immunology will be incredibly valuable throughout my career and will **help me . . . understand new treatment strategies in the clinic.**”

Join us next year in sunny La Jolla to experience this popular course for yourself! The 2021 U.S. Advanced Course will be held from February 28-March 3, 2021 at the Estancia La Jolla in La Jolla, California, USA. Online registration will open in the fall for the 2021 course.

[Learn More about the Advanced Course](#)

Free Access to BSI Review Series



The [British Society for Immunology](#) (BSI) is one of the oldest, largest, and most active immunology societies in the world and is one of the largest in Europe. Our members are based all over the world, with the majority working in Britain.

The BSI was founded in 1956 by a small group of hard working, visionary immunologists, who wanted to come together to share ideas.

Our members work throughout the entire immunology chain, stretching from the laboratory bench right through to the clinics and hospitals in which patients are treated – from discovery to delivery. The fields in which they work are wide and extensive, from HIV/AIDS to allergy, diabetes, malaria, TB, animal health, arthritis, transplantation, vaccination and infectious disease.

As well as representing its members, the BSI publishes two journals, *Clinical & Experimental Immunology* and *Immunology*. The journals enable the society to disseminate research and good practice in immunology, translational medicine and vaccination.

In celebration of The Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) Annual Meeting in 2019, the BSI's official journal Clinical & Experimental Immunology is pleased to provide free access to a [new Review Series](#) based on the scientific programme of FOCIS 2019. It is also guided by the programme of BSI Congress 2019. We invite you to [read the freely accessible series papers here](#).

The '[Immune Checkpoint Inhibition: From Molecules to Clinical Application](#)' Review Series was edited by **Leonie S Taams** and **Tanja D. de Gruijl**.

The identification of molecules that function to keep the immune system 'in check' has revolutionised immunotherapy. Following on from the initial discovery of CTLA-4 and PD-1 immune checkpoints in the 80s and 90s, it wasn't until later their involvement in anticancer immunity was realised. This revolutionary discovery led to James P Allison and Tasuku Honjo being awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine in 2018 and the identification of new targets and therapies has exploded ever since.

This [Review Series](#) focuses on immune checkpoint inhibition and its beneficial role in not only cancer immunotherapy, but also the potential to utilise the agonistic properties of immune checkpoint targeting molecules in treatment of autoimmune diseases like diabetes mellitus.

Read Series Paper



Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies

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