

Immunology Update

A quarterly publication of FOCIS

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FOCIS Announces New Board and Steering Committee Leadership

The 2023-2024 Board of Directors and Steering Committee were installed at the FOCIS 2023 Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

FOCIS Board of Directors

The Board of Directors oversees the management, direction, and control of the business, policies, and affairs of the Federation.

The Officers and Executive Committee of the FOCIS Board of Directors include President Megan Sykes, MD, Columbia University, President-Elect Ignacio Anegon, MD, Nantes University, Secretary/Treasurer William Robinson, MD, Stanford University, and Past President Mark Anderson, MD, PhD, University of California, San Francisco.



The FOCIS Board of Directors is also comprised of FOCIS Committee Chairs, At Large and Ad Hoc Directors, and a Compliance Officer. The FOCIS Committee Chairs are Jeffrey Rathmell,

PhD, Vanderbilt University (FCE), Olivier Boyer, MD, PhD, Normandy University (FCE Multinational), Stephanie Eisenbarth, MD, PhD, Northwestern University (Education), Betty Diamond, MD, Feinstein Institute (Membership & Scientific Outreach), Laurence Turka, MD, Harvard University (Industry Relations), and Joshua Milner, MD, SB, Columbia University (Scientific Program Committee).

At Large and Ad Hoc Directors include Todd Brusko, MD, University of Florida, Jane Buckner, MD, Benaroya Research Institute, Jane L. Grogan, PhD, Biogen, Terri Laufer, MD, University of Pennsylvania, Leonie Taams, PhD, King's College London, Megan Levings, PhD, University of British Columbia, Jonathan Maltzman, MD, PhD, FAST, Stanford University, Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, Mount Sinai Medical Center, Elaine Reed, PhD, D(ABH), University of California, Los Angeles, and Compliance Officer Jordan Pober, MD, PhD, Yale University.

FOCIS Steering Committee

The Steering Committee comprises 20 Member Society representatives representing FOCIS in their respective disciplines. It advises FOCIS on the Annual Meeting program and abstracts, develops satellite programs, promotes FOCIS meetings and activities, and votes on the Board of Directors candidates.

The Steering Committee welcomed three FOCIS Member Societies and their representatives for the 2023-2025 term. They include:

Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAACI), with representative Ruby Pawankar, MD, PhD;

Egyptian Society of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology (ESPAI), with representative Prof. Dalia El-Ghoneimy;

German Society of Immunology (DGFI), with representative Prof. Dr. Stefan Meuer.

The continuing members of the Steering Committee and their representatives include: **American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology** (AAAAI), Lanny Rosenwasser,

American College of Rheumatology (ACR), Tejpal Gill, PhD;

American Society of Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics (ASHI), Elaine Reed, PhD;

American Uveitis Society (AUS), Phoebe Lin, MD, PhD;

Clinical Immunology Society (CIS), Troy Torgerson, MD, PhD;

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA), Andres Hurtado-Lorenzo, PhD;

Japanese Society of Clinical Immunology (JSCI), Yoshiya Tanaka, MD, PhD;

Immune Tolerance Network (ITN), Gerald Nepom, MD, PhD;

Immunology of Diabetes Society (IDS), Bart Roep, MD, PhD;

Indian Immunology Society (IIS), Amit Awasthi, PhD;

International Society for Neuroimmunology (ISNI), Vijay Kuchroo, DVM, PhD;

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), Daniel Rotrosen, MD;

Sociedad Mexicana de Inmunologia (SMI), Yvonne Rosenstein, PhD;

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC), Francesco Marincola, MD;

Society for Mucosal Immunology (SMI), Antiopi Varelias, PhD;

The Transplantation Society (TTS), Fadi Issa, MD;

Ukrainian Society of Specialists in Immunology, Allergology &

Immunorehabilitation (UTIAI) Halyna Koval, PhD,

The full membership of the Board of Directors and the Steering Committee can be viewed here. Member listings for the FOCIS Committee are available here.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to all the FOCIS leaders for their dedication, commitment, and leadership of FOCIS!

FOCIS Announces New Strategic Plan Letter from President Sykes

Dear Colleagues,

I am excited to announce the new FOCIS strategic plan. Created by members, member society representatives, leaders, committees, and staff from our community, this plan sets the organization's 2023-2025 strategic direction.

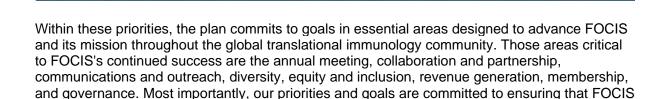
The new plan also beautifully expands on the updated FOCIS mission to apply the science of immunology to improve human health through interdisciplinary research, education, communication, and collaboration.

These priorities will guide our efforts:

Immunology Societies

- Broaden Organizational Impact. Build a strong and sustainable organization committed to diversity and scientific excellence that is a respected and trusted resource in the immunology community.
- **Strengthen the Member Experience.** Provide exceptional member value through quality education, support, and engagement.
- Connect the Immunology Community. Facilitate communication and collaboration to expand opportunity and knowledge sharing throughout the industry.





Mission: FOCIS applies the science of immunology to improve human health

through interdisciplinary research, education, communication, and collaboration

continues to provide the highest quality of offerings and services with long-term sustainability at its core.

FOCIS leadership and committees will monitor and refresh the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan implementation annually. We look forward to highlighting our progress in this newsletter and during the State of FOCIS report at the FOCIS Annual Meeting.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support.

Megan Sykes, MD Columbia University FOCIS Board President

Learn More

FOCIS Welcomes Two New Member Societies

FOCIS is pleased to welcome the **Autoimmune Association** and the **European Mast Cell and Basophil Research Network (EMBRN)** as FOCIS Member Societies. FOCIS now has 63 Member Societies, representing over 60,000 clinicians and basic researchers dedicated to a cross-disciplinary approach to immunologic disease.

The **Autoimmune Association** is the world's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to autoimmune awareness, advocacy, education, and research.



The Autoimmune Association leads the fight against autoimmune disease by collaborating to improve healthcare, advance research, and support the community through every step of the journey. For over 30 years, the Autoimmune Association has been a pioneer in serving autoimmune patients, sponsoring research, advocating for access to healthcare, and fostering collaboration to identify and explore the common threads that link autoimmune diseases. Established through the remarkable determination of Founder Virginia T. Ladd, the Autoimmune Association has transformed into an internationally recognized leader, reaching over 60 countries worldwide



The European Mast Cell and Basophil Research Network (EMBRN) is composed of scientists and physicians from all over the world who are engaged and interested in mast cells, basophils, and related cells.

EMBRN's purpose is realized particularly by basic research and application-oriented clinical research projects engaged in mast cells, basophils, and related cells.

The association facilitates such research projects. The goal is to extend the knowledge of mast cells and basophils. The network includes industrial members associated with mast cell and basophil research and mast cell/basophil-related diseases to support scientific collaboration between industrial partners and research institutes. Furthermore, the network supports and participates in collaborative research applications, e.g., EU applications and other multinational applications for funding. The network promotes developing and distributing unique scientific tools, protocols, reagents, and models for mast cell and basophil research. The EMBRN runs a website and organizes regular meetings.

What is a FOCIS Member Society?

A FOCIS Member Society is a non-profit organization representing an interest in or application in clinical immunology. Becoming a FOCIS Member Society extends your society's network to include over 60,000 clinicians and basic researchers dedicated to a cross-disciplinary approach to immunologic disease.

Why should my society apply for the FOCIS Member Society designation?

- Professional development opportunities
- Financial savings
- · Recognition and promotion
- Free opportunity to host a Symposium at the FOCIS Annual Meeting

Contact the FOCIS Executive Office at info@focisnet.org to learn how you can apply today.

Member Society Directory



FOCIS 2023 Annual Meeting

The 23rd Annual Meeting of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS 2023) was held June 20-23, 2023, at the Boston Marriott Copley Place in Boston, Massachusetts. Over 950 attendees from 37 countries participated.

The FOCIS Annual Meeting continues to be THE meeting in translational immunology, and this year was no exception! FOCIS 2023 featured 435 abstracts, 48 keynote, plenary, and thematic

speakers, 52 travel award recipients, four pre-meeting educational courses, 16 Member Society symposia, and 10 industry and affiliate partner tutorials.

Four keynote presenters (Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Fiona Powrie, FRS, FMedSci, DBE, University of Oxford; Carl June, MD, University of Pennsylvania; and Nir Hacohen, PhD, The Broad Institute) gave us enlightening presentations ranging between a multitude of different topics.

Many thanks to the FOCIS 2023 Scientific Program Committee for their time and talent in assembling an incredible topic lineup and speakers.

- View the FOCIS 2023 Program
- Download the FOCIS 2023 Abstract Supplement

FOCIS 2023 Award Recipients

Each year, FOCIS recognizes exceptional research with awards given during our Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients!





2023 British Society for Immunology (BSI) Poster Prize Award Recipient
Yuan Gao, PhD, MD
Shanxi Medical University
Abstract: "Sex-specific Unconventional Neutrophils Determine

Immunological Outcome in Autoinflammatory Disease"



2023 C. Garrison Fathman Fellows Fund (CGFFF) Award Recipient

Dominic Boardman, PhD

The University of British Columbia

Abstract: "CRISPR-Mediated Deletion of PD1 to Enhance the Efficacy of Human CAR Tregs"





2023 Clinical Immunology Award Recipient

Daniela Olivera, B.S.
Institut Pasteur of Montevideo
Abstract: "The Cation Channel TMEM176B as a Protective Factor In Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis"



FOCIS Research Award

This award is presented to FOCIS members who are presenting authors of abstracts accepted for oral presentation during the FOCIS Annual Meeting.

View Award Winners>>

FCE Award

This award recognizes trainees affiliated with an FCE, who are FOCIS members, and submitted an abstract to the FOCIS Annual Meeting.

View Award Winners>>





Posters of Merit

This award recognizes the FOCIS Annual Meeting posters that scored in the top 10%.

Award recipients received a blue ribbon on their poster on the day of their presentation.

View Award Winners>>

View the Full List of FOCIS 2023 Award Recipients

Reminder: Two Pre-recorded FOCIS 2023 Member Society Symposia Recordings Available

Two FOCIS Member Societies pre-recorded their FOCIS 2023 symposia, which are still available online! If you missed or wish to rewatch them, now is your chance!

- Session: "The Microbiome and Immunity of Mast Cells and T Cells in Immunotherapy"
 - Organized by the Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma, and Clinical Immunology
- Session: "Uncommon Inborn Errors of Immunity: An Egyptian Center Experience"
 - Organized by the Egyptian Society of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology

FOCIS 2024: Save The Date!

Start planning now to join us for FOCIS 2024 Annual Meeting in California at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis on June 18-21, 2024.

Registration and abstract submission will open in October 2023.



US Advanced Course in Basic & Clinical Immunology - 2024

Join us for the 2024 US Advanced Course in Basic & Clinical Immunology being held from February 4-7 in San Diego, California. We hope you can join us and look forward to seeing you there!



Register Now

FOCIS Around The World

FOCIS is organizing sessions at both the APAAACI & IUIS Congresses. We hope to see you there!

FOCIS Session at APAAACI 2023 Congress

FOCIS will host a symposium at the Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAACI), 2023 International Conference, October 23-26, 2023, in Singapore.

FOCIS-APAAACI, Symposium 16

October 24, 2023, 16:00- 17:30 (90 minutes)
At the Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Center



Agenda:

- Integrating single-cell RNA-seq and high throughput TCR seq to understand human organ transplant outcomes Megan Sykes (USA)
- Novel immune-based treatments in allergy improving our insight into relevant pathomechanisms - Edward Knol (Netherlands)
- Tissue-resident immunity in transplantation Michaela Lucas (Australia)

Join us for the FOCIS-APAACI Immunology Workshop on October 26, 2023, from 13:00-16:00.

Agenda:

- Transplantation immunology Megan Sykes (USA)
- Complement pathway and innate immunity Michaela Lucas (Australia)
- Molecular allergology, The different levels of allergen-immune system interactions -Edward Knol (Netherlands)
- Biomarkers in organ transplantation Narinder Mehra (India)

Learn More

FOCIS Session at IUIS 2023 Cape Town

FOCIS will host a Society Symposium at the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS), 18th International Congress of Immunology, November 27 - December 2, 2023, in Cape Town, South Africa.



Agenda:

- Chairpersons. Megan Sykes (Columbia University FCE*, President FOCIS) and Mark Anderson (UCSF University FCE*, Past President FOCIS).
- Ignacio Anegon (INSERM-University of Nantes FCE, Nantes, France). New immunotherapies to induce tolerance in autoimmunity, organ transplantation, and acute GVHD.
- Catherine Riou (University of Cape Town). T cell immunity following vaccination and infection against TB, HIV, and SARS-CoV2.
- Sarah Crome** (Toronto General Hospital Research Institute, Canada). Insights into factors regulating human IL-10-producing ILC2s and their applications in cell therapies.
- Eliane Piaggio (INSERM-Institut Curie FCE, Paris, France). Increased anti-cancer immune responses by inhibition of Treg cells.
- *FOCIS Center of Excellence; FCE
- *IUIS 2023 Rising Star

Learn More

IUIS Clinical Immunology Poll

Dear fellow immunologists,

What is the breadth of **Clinical Immunology**? And which aspects of our practice should be considered part of its domain?

The Clinical Immunology Committee (CIC) of the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS), has set out to understand how we define Clinical Immunology around the globe. This is to propose a unified concept, closer to current training and best practice of our field.

To obtain an unbiased and global understanding of the topic, we kindly ask you to contribute less than 10 minutes of your time, by answering the questionnaire below. Please click on the link or copy it into your browser as required.

Questionnaire

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdlygDjl1 GG89qXU6 Sa4IV4mKotrbRtWIOzpd7AjLX---EQ/viewform

The results of this initiative will be presented at the forthcoming IUIS Congress in Cape Town (27 Nov-2 Dec 2023) and your participation will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,



International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS)

Clinical Immunology Committee (CIC)

José Crispin, Tineke Cantaert, Alberto Pinzon, Pierre Miossec for the CIC



Stay updated with the latest news from the FOCIS Centers of Excellence! From new scientific research published to events to awards and honors – there is always something new happening at our FCEs. Below are a few highlights, but you can view the full update here!

Benarova Research

New FCE Committee Director Named

Carmen Mikacenic, MD, was recently named director of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCiS) Centers of Excellence (FCE) Committee, which is charged with overseeing a network of leading academic medical centers that promote innovation in translational immunology research and clinical practices, provide interdisciplinary training programs, and promote new links for researchers and clinicians.

Yale School of Medicine

Awards and Honors

Dr. Madhav Menon (Associate Professor of Nephrology and Director of Research in Kidney Transplantation at Yale School of Medicine) was awarded a Young Investigator Award at the 2023 American Transplant Congress.

Dr. Akiko Iwasaki (the Sterling Professor of Immunobiology and Professor of Dermatology and of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology and of Epidemiology (Microbial Diseases) at Yale School of Medicine) was awarded the 2023 Else Kröner Fresenius Prize for Medical Research.

Do you want to highlight your FCE in future FOCIS publications? We would love to hear from you – submit your news here.

FCE Collaboration Travel Grant Award Recipient Announced

FOCIS is pleased to announce the winner of the first-ever FCE Collaboration Travel Grant:

Georgios Tousinas, MD, Mayo Clinic – Scottsdale

- FOCIS established the FCE Collaboration Travel Grant award opportunity in 2023 to further expand the FCE network and to support the FOCIS strategy of elevating FOCIS' presence globally.
- The purpose of the travel award is to facilitate communication and scientific exchange among centers in the FCE network by providing financial support for collaboration and/or research technique-sharing opportunities.
- The award is for up to \$1,500 to support travel-related expenses for the collaboration. Applications are reviewed twice annually by the FCE Committee. The next submission deadline is November 15, 2023.

Learn More & Apply Here

Continue Your FOCIS Membership Today!

It is almost time to renew your FOCIS membership! Login to your account and check to see when your membership is expiring and stay tuned for more details to come. We're bringing together immunology communities – from transplantation to cancer immunotherapy to autoimmunity and beyond. Gain access to the scientists, clinicians, and researchers who are studying the mechanisms of diseases.

An active FOCIS membership is the only way to ensure continual access to your many member benefits. FOCIS member benefits include:

- Networking opportunities with our global community.
- Member savings of over \$1,000 annually with discounts to our many educational opportunities.
- Free Annual Meeting abstract submissions.
- Complimentary job postings in our career center.
- And more!



Group Membership

The FOCIS Group Membership provides an opportunity for several members of your lab to take advantage of everything FOCIS has to offer at a discounted price. Group Membership includes one Regular Membership and up to four additional memberships for trainees, research associates, technicians, and other members of your lab. To learn more about FOCIS Group Membership, please click here.

Science Immunology Science Immunology

MAAAS

In every issue of *Science Immunology*, FOCIS publishes exceptional and interesting immunological research articles. The free articles are published under the 'Editors' Choice' article category. Browse and read the recent Editors' Choice articles linked below.

Science Immunology is a monthly, online-only, peer-reviewed research journal designed to facilitate understanding of the immune system by showcasing innovative advances in the expanding field of immunology, drawing from studies in all organisms and model systems including humans.

Editors' Choice Articles

VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 87 | SEP 2023

Everything everywhere all at once

BY ASHA PILLAI

In successful melanoma immunotherapy, clonal TCRs can recognize multiple tumor-specific antigens simultaneously through cross-reactivity.

The HLA advantage: Why COVID-19 benches you but not your co-worker

BY NISHA SAIF, GABRIEL K. GRIFFIN

An HLA variant confers protective immunity against COVID-19 through cross-reactive T cells induced by seasonal coronaviruses.

VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 86 | AUG 2023

Escape from the Pore

BY XIANGYUN YIN. STEPHANIE C. EISENBARTH

Perforin-2 mediates endocytic escape in cross-presenting dendritic cells.

Toddler's T cells are taught in muco-school

BY FATEMEH KHANI-HABIBABADI, KEVIN C. O'CONNOR

Tissue-resident memory T cells accumulate in mucosal sites during infancy then mature through childhood.

VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 85 | JUL 2023

TCRward personalized transplant therapies

BY ASHIMA CHADHA, JONATHAN S. MALTZMAN

scRNA/TCRseq of kidney biopsies from acute cellular rejection reveals limited clonality and diverse T cell phenotypes.

Fueling the fire of B cell activation

BY PATRICIA M. SIKORSKI, LINDA L. KUSNER

Antigen activated naïve B cells undergoing germinal center responses have distinct metabolic requirements.

VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 84 | JUN 2023

Game over for RSV?

BY MADISON S. STRINE, CRAIG B. WILEN

Passive immunization with nirsevimab protects infants from severe RSV disease without impairing the immune response to natural infection.

Antibody-mediated immunity against lung cancer goes retro

BY STEPHANIE N. LANGEL, DAVID R. MARTINEZ

Endogenous retrovirus antibody responses contribute to survival after immune checkpoint blockade therapy against lung adenocarcinoma.

VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 83 | MAY 2023

Unearthing the Rosetta Stone of public antibody responses

BY GIANVITO MASI

Comprehensive profiling of humoral responses to viruses reveals that germline-encoded V gene motifs govern the emergence of recurrent antibody epitopes across individuals.

"Age could not wither her..." because of her cytotoxic CD4+ T cells?

BY THOMAS GUY, SHIV PILLAI

Cytotoxic CD4+ T cells specific for CMV cull senescent skin fibroblasts.

FOCIS is an IUIS Associate Member!

We are pleased to announce that FOCIS is an Associate Member of the IUIS.

The International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) is an umbrella organization for many of the regional and national societies of immunology throughout the world. View the PDF of 'IUIS at a Glance.'

Previously, FOCIS and the IUIS Gender Equality Committee (GEC) jointly sponsored four travel awards for young immunologists in the developing world to attend the FOCIS 2023 U.S. Advanced Course in Basic & Clinical Immunology. View the 2023 travel award recipients.

Our IUIS membership allows us to promote scientific knowledge, experience, and best practices. FOCIS will maximize our IUIS membership by:

- Participating in the Day of Immunology
- Participating in the IUIS Congress and sponsoring symposiums (details in the following news article here)
- Helping immunology organizations in resource-constrained settings
- & more!

We are eager to expand our partnership, connect with their international immunological research community, and utilize our IUIS membership benefits. Stay tuned as we share them with you.

Immunology Community Events



APAACI 2023 International Conference

Monday, October 23, 2023 - Thursday, October 26, 2023 Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Center | Singapore View Event >>>



International Primary Immunodeficiencies Congress (IPIC2023)

Wednesday, November 8 - Friday, November 10, 2023 Rotterdam, The Netherlands

View Event >>>



Society for Immunotherapy Cancer 38th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 - Sunday, November, 5, 2023 San Diego, CA, or Virtual

View Event >>>



International Congress of Immunology (IUIS) 2023

Sunday, November 27, 2023 - Friday, December 2, 2023 Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa View Event >>>



British Society for Immunology Congress 2023

Monday, December 4, 2023 - Thursday, December 7, 2023 Belfast, UK

View Event >>>



Go Immuno Meeting 2023

Monday, December 11, 2023 - Tuesday, December 12, 2023 Nantes, France View Event >>>

Submit Your Event



FOCIS Career Opportunities

Canada Research Chair Tier 2 - Inflammation and Sustainable Healthy Aging

University of Western Ontario

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University invites applications for a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Inflammation and Sustainable Healthy Aging. The successful candidate will be appointed to a full-time probationary (tenure-track) appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor or Associate Professor, probationary or tenured. View Now>>

Open Rank Faculty Search

La Jolla Institute for Immunology (LJI)

The La Jolla Institute for Immunology (LJI, San Diego, California) invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor or higher, with academic rank to be determined in accordance with the candidate's experience and productivity.

View Now>>

2024-25 Immunogenetics Fellowship

UCLA Immunogenetics Center

We are excited to announce that the UCLA Immunogenetics Fellowship Training Program is now open for recruitment. This fellowship provides two years of formal training in Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics with the principal goal of providing trainees with the necessary knowledge, experience, and skills to competently fulfill the responsibilities of a histocompatibility director. View Now>>

Use the FOCIS Career Center to post job openings, find potential candidates, search for openings, and subscribe to new posting notifications. To submit an opening, click here. FOCIS members may post job openings for free!







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