

W DEPARTMENT of IMMUNOLOGY

NEWSLETTER — NOV, 2019



ADVANCING UNDERSTANDING OF THE FUNCTION OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM, ENHANCING OUR ABILITY TO FIGHT
INFECTIOUS DISEASE, CANCER AND AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Joan Goverman, PhD
Professor and Chair

There have been some important transitions in our Department this past year. In 2019, Drs. Pam Fink and Ed Clark retired from our faculty. We enjoyed celebrating their contributions over the years as we bid them farewell. We also welcomed a new Assistant Professor, Dr. Elia Tait-Wojno, to our faculty this past August (see opposite column). This is a very exciting recruitment for us; Elia brought a vibrant research program with her that she had initiated at Cornell and is already establishing collaborations with new colleagues in Seattle studying helminth infection and allergic disease. She also brought her enthusiasm and energy for issues of diversity and inclusion, and now chairs our newly formed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (see next page). Despite the retirement of two of our senior colleagues, increases in grant funding to our primary faculty allowed our overall grant portfolio to hold steady at ~\$21 million in FY 2019. We expect these funds to increase over the next year as our programs continue to grow, and new collaborations facilitate funding for large projects. We are excited at the launch of a new Program on Maternal-Fetal Health within the Center for Innate Immunity and Immune Disease (CIID, ciid.uw.edu) that was enabled by collaborations between Dr. Michael Gale Jr. (Professor, Immunology and CIID Director) and Dr. Kristina Adams Waldorf (Professor, Ob/Gyn). Drs. Gale and Adams Waldorf received almost \$19 million in NIH grants that helped launch this new program. Dr. Gale and Dr. Michael Gerner (Assistant Professor, Immunology) are also key collaborators in a new "IMPAC-TB" NIH contract awarded to Dr. Kevin Urdahl at SCRI (Adjunct Professor, Immunology) to study the immune response to tuberculosis. Our graduate program also continues to thrive. We are grateful to the Immunology Department alumni who participated in our "Careers in Immunology" events that allow our current students to interact with prior graduate students and postdocs and learn about their diverse career paths. We are continuing our efforts to increase philanthropy for the department, especially in ways that will enhance our training programs. Our [Fund for Excellence](#) supports many activities for students and postdocs. Our endowed [Dr. Richard Titus Fund for Graduate Student Support](#) generates funds to support a student every other year; we are hoping to increase this fund to support a student fellowship each year. Please consider making a contribution to make a difference in the future of science, immunology and lives of students. A big thank you to those who have donated in 2019 so far: Sarah Bland; Joan and Irwin Goverman, Eric and Priya Huseby; Barbara and Mark Lovseth; Sean Tucker and Frances Chang; Chris and Sherryl Wilson. Your support is deeply appreciated!

**YOUR GIFT =
FUTURE SCIENTISTS**



WELCOME ELIA TAIT WOJNO



Elia Tait Wojno, PhD
Assistant Professor

In August 2019, Dr. Elia Tait Wojno joined the Department of Immunology as an Assistant Professor. She along with two lab members, postdoc Lauren Webb, and Graduate Student Bola Oyesola made the long trek across the country from Cornell University to join us in Seattle. Dr. Tait Wojno graduated with a B.A. in Biology from Drew University. She received her Ph.D. in 2011 from the University of Pennsylvania, completing her thesis work with Dr. Chris Hunter. She completed postdoctoral training with Dr. David Artis at the University of Pennsylvania and Weill Cornell

Medicine. Dr. Tait Wojno went on to establish her own laboratory as an Assistant Professor of Immunology at the Baker Institute for Animal Health and Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine in 2015. Her research program focuses on Type 2 inflammation during helminth infection and allergy with an emphasis on studying the crosstalk between cytokines, lipids and cell/cell interactions in mucosal tissues. She has quickly settled her lab on the 5th floor of our building in South Lake Union and begun serving as the Chair of our new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Welcome Elia!

ALUMNI CAREER PANELS GIVE BACK

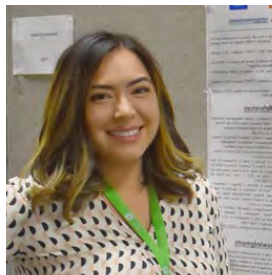


Left to Right: Jess Hamerman (06'), Stacey Dillon, (95') Sasha Astrakhan (10'), Carlos Arbelaez (15'), and Daphne Ma. (12')

Twice each year the Careers in Immunology Series features immunology professionals and alumni who have followed distinctive career paths to share their experiences with our current students and postdocs. This year on Nov. 8, the panel featured a diverse group of alumni who have established careers in the biotech industry. A big thank you to our panelists for taking the time to share: Drs. Stacey Dillon, Sasha Astrakhan, Carlos Arbelaez, and Daphne Ma. We also thank our event organizers Jess Hamerman, Marion Pepper, graduate student Kerri Thomas, and Oberst Lab postdoc Michelle Messmer.

GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATE

- We welcomed six new graduate students to the Immunology Graduate Program in 2019-20: Grace Bugos, Heber Lara, Katrina Lichauro, Emily Park, Elya Shamskhov, and Natalie Thulin.
- Seven Immunology graduate students defended their PhD degrees in 2019: Jenna Sullivan (Campbell Lab), Lauren Aarberg (Gale Lab), Talyn Chu (Hamerman Lab), Katie Wagner (Goverman Lab), Annelise Snyder (Oberst Lab), Nicole Arroyo (Pepper Lab), and Jared Delahaye (Urdahl Lab). Two pathobiology and one MCB student also defended: Kathryn Wuertz (Gale Lab), Radika Soysa (Crispe Lab) and Katie Burleigh (Stetson Lab).



- Gale Lab graduate student Brittany Ulloa attended this year's conference of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) (pictured on the left); and graduate students Sigal Kofman and Joey Leal, along with Assistant Prof. Elia Tait Wojno, and Graduate Program Coord.

Sandy Turner attended the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), pictured below.



Left to Right: Joel Leal (Gerner Lab), Sandy Turner, Sigal Kofman (Oberst Lab) and Elia Tait Wojno, Asst. Professor

2019 RETREAT POSTER AWARDS



(Left) Michael Gerner, Assistant Professor, (right) Sigal Kofman poster award winner.

Congratulations to retreat poster award winners:

Graduate student in 3rd year or below – Sigal Kofman (\$250 award), pictured on the left.
Graduate student 4th year and above - split between Andrey Shuvarikov and Gerald Kellar (\$500 each)
Postdoc split between Tayla Olsen and Courtney Plumlee (\$500 each).

See page 3 for retreat pictures.

IMMUNOLOGY HALLOWEEN



(Joey Leal) and a crow (Brandy Olin) along with many others.

Our annual trick-or-treat and costume contest was a blast! The Stetson Lab formed a 'posse' and won the best group costume award. Everyone enjoyed this year's spooky Halloween RIP happy hour. Other awesome costumes included a bank robber

IMMUNOLOGY DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

This year the department established a formal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) to lead diversity related initiatives. We launched a new diversity-focused website for the department and are continuing our quarterly Pizza & Perspectives discussions. On Nov. 18 we held a successful department-wide DEI event with Rickey Hall, UW Vice President for Minority and Diversity Affairs. For more information on DEI activities visit immunology.washington.edu/dei

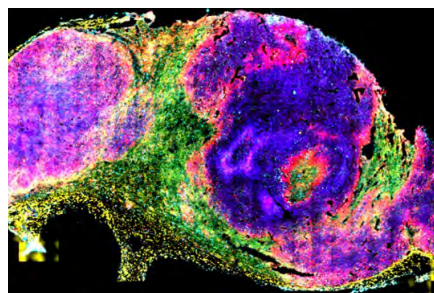


Back row left to right: Kristin Anderson, Elia Tait Wojno, Jakob von Moltke, Ram Savan
Front row left to right: Adriana Forero, Trevor Mileur, Brittany Ulloa, Sigal Kofman and Sarah Bland

SPOTLIGHT ON POSTDOCS

- In 2019 six new postdocs joined primary faculty labs: Lan Chu (Oberst), Nick Parkeh (Stetson), Lauren Webb (Tait Wojno), Ramya Sivakumar (Gerner), Nandan Gokhale (Ram), and Aloe Stanbery (Moltke). Welcome!
- Kristin Anderson of the Greenberg Lab: 1st place winner Annual Immuno-Oncology Young Investigator Award, and Overall Presidential Award Winner from the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer. Way to go Kristin!
- Congratulations to Alison Kell of the Gale Lab who received an NIAID K-22 Career Transition Award.
- Seven Fellowship Awards: 4 T-32s, 1-Cancer Research Institute Irvington, 1-American Heart Association, 1-Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance.
- Seven Travel Awards: 2-from American Society of Virology, 2-from the International Cytokine and Interferon Society, 1-from the UW Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA), and 1-from Immuno-Oncology Young Investigator Forum.
- Numerous Primary Author publications: Cancer Immunology Research, Immunity, Journal of Virology, Nature Immunology, Nature Reviews Immunology, and Nature Communications.

ABOUT THE BANNER IMAGE



This year's newsletter banner background is an image of a treated mouse colorectal tumor (in blue) showing areas of heavy immune cell infiltration. Created by Brandy Olin from the Gerner Lab. Visit the Gerner Lab website at:

<http://depts.washington.edu/myglab/>.



2019 Retreat at Fort Worden

