President’s Message
Ann Richmond, President

The SLB meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina to explore “Immunity in Health and Disease”, organized by Elizabeth Kovacs and Nicholas Lukacs was superb. The program was exciting and we also gave 32 travel awards for students and postdoctoral fellows. The inclusion of short poster talks on the first day of the meeting, which was organized by our Members in Transition and Training Group (MTTG), was really fun. There were some great presentations and it was very rewarding to see our junior members shine, not only in their presentations but in their organizational abilities. We had support for the meeting from the NIH thanks to the excellent grant writing efforts of Anne Pereira and we were fortunate to enlist sponsorships from Abbvie, Bio Teche/Research and Diagnostic Systems, Biogen Idec, Biolegend, BosterBio, Cayman Chemical Company, Gilead, Jansen Research and Development, PeproTech, and Sapphire North America.

The MTTG Workshop, the Street Smarts session, Women and Diversity session and the Grant Writing workshop were well attended and the members received “tools for success” from each session.

Beginning in 2016, we welcome our new society leaders but will miss Mark Quinn, Hongwei Gao and Marco Cassatella as they rotate off council. Jill Suttles is also an outgoing officer and has contributed enormously to
the success of the SLB. We look forward to her continued involvement in other capacities.

Our meeting for 2016 will be in Verona and is being organized by Marco Cassatella and Patrick McDonald with joint attendance by the Neutrophil Group. This promises to be a superb venue for a great meeting, so put this on your calendar now for September 15-17, 2016. The theme of the meeting is “Inflammation, Immunity and Cancer: Neutrophils and Other Leukocytes”.

gave a talk on how retinoic acid and Helicobacter pylori differentially regulate CD103 expression by dendritic cells. This session was concluded by Ilhem Messaoudi, the Women & Diversity Paper of the Year winner who presented her work on the role of antibodies in Ebola virus infection in nonhuman primates. You can hear audio recordings of these award talks on the SLB website.

Sunday evening’s opening Reception was well-attended and enjoyed by everyone. This reception along with the mixer on Monday evening, the coffee breaks and lunches before the poster sessions all provided wonderful opportunities for participants to meet and establish collaborations. Following the Opening Reception, Gail Bishop, the Keynote speaker and Bonazinga Winner, gave a wonderful talk on the TRAF molecules in immune regulation. The evening concluded with “Street Smarts of Science” organized by Elizabeth Kovacs, Rebecca Fuldner and Sule Chang.

The Women & Diversity Special Session, chaired by Vijaya Iragavarapu-Charyulu, started bright and early Monday morning with Gail Bishop as the keynote speaker who covered the topic of “Networking”; a topic that is relevant to both upcoming and established scientists. Plenary and Concurrent sessions filled the day and you can see the full program and abstracts online in the society 2015 archives. Breaking for lunch and the poster sessions provided attendees a chance to actually meet and discuss one another’s research at length. New this year was the MTAG Session “Career Transitions” organized by Stephania Libreros and Juhi Bagaitkar. This session was a hit, with outstanding participation from attendees, and involved a panel discussion on trainee career development. The evening ended with a Social Mixer spiced with Caribbean music that allowed great interactions among members.

The last day of the meeting started with a Grant Writing Session chaired by Julian Cambronero with Tina McIntyre, an NIH Scientific Review Officer. This breakfast meeting was attended by many seeking to gain insight into the grant writing process. A special Immunology in the News Session was featured at this year’s meeting. Darren Lee introduced

Highlights of 48th Annual Meeting of the SLB held in Raleigh, North Carolina

Vijaya Iragavarapu-Charyulu

The 48th Annual Meeting of SLB held in the Research Triangle Park region in Raleigh, North Carolina entitled Immunity in Health and Disease was again a great success. This meeting started off with the Satellite Symposium on Alcohol and Immunology: Neuroimmunoendocrine Effects of Alcohol, organized by Elizabeth Kovacs, and it covered interesting topics ranging from how acute ethanol ingestion affects the lungs to how alcohol impacts the functions of other organ responses. This was followed by Poster Talks that covered topics such as Regulation of Lymphocyte Function, Advances in TLR sensing and signaling, and New Insights into Neutrophil Functional Responses. What is so interesting about these sessions was that each were co-chaired by postdoctoral fellows, giving them an opportunity to co-chair, which is something that is not often possible at other larger meetings. You can see the entire program online HERE. Of special note were the SLB Presidential Nominees who all gave such wonderful presentations that it was hard for the judges to make their decisions. This year’s Dolph Adams Awardee, Cynthia Leifer presented her work on TLR 9 stability and signaling regulated by phosphorylation and cellular stress, while Diane Bimczok, the G. Jeanette Thorbecke Awardee,
Ian Crozier who talked about the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone and his unique perspective on this devastating illness from the viewpoint of a doctor and as a patient.

Although the weather did not cooperate in Raleigh as it rained every day, the meeting was a great success with excellent topics and good attendance at the talks. Thanks to the organizers of the meeting, Elizabeth Kovacs and Nicholas Lukacs, and our Executive Director, Jennifer Holland and Meeting Manager, Kendra LaDuca who made the meeting go smoothly. See a slide show from the meeting HERE.

The session was well attended by enthusiastic graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, medical students as well as junior faculty and some members of the SLB council. A brief presentation by MTTG core members Juhi Bagaitkar (postdoctoral associate, Washington University of St. Louis) and Stephania Libreros (postdoctoral associate Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women's Hospital) described the achievements of MTTG since its inception, a year ago. They also discussed some of the future goals and activities that the MTTG anticipates focusing on in the years ahead with continued support of the SLB council.

The career panel featured four eminent speakers from academic and industry backgrounds, Drs. Silvia M. Uriarte, (Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Louisville), Cherie Butts (Associate Director of Biogen), Lee-Ann Allen, (Professor of Medicine and Microbiology at the University of Iowa), and Ilhem Messaoudi, (Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences at the University of California Riverside), who briefly talked about their experiences and individual career paths, setting the stage for an excellent interactive session that followed. The open panel discussion included questions on a diverse range of topics from trainees at various stages of their careers pertaining to pursuing diverse scientific careers, strategizing time, seeking out opportunities, resume pointers, interviewing successfully and maximizing one's potential. At the end of the discussion, Postdoctoral Associates Elizabeth Novak, (University of Pittsburg School of Medicine) and Hemant Kumar Mishra, (University...
of Minnesota) closed the session by re-stating the goals of MTTG and inviting all attendees to get involved and become an active member of MTTG. In addition, MTTG council liaisons, Dr. Uriarte, and Dr. Bruce Levy (Professor of Medicine of Pulmonary and Critical Care at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School) were instrumental in the smooth running of the entire session.

Apart from a very successful ‘Career Transitions’ session, the MTTG hosted the Flash Poster Talks, a new initiative intended to provide graduate students and post-doctoral fellows the opportunity to present their work in a 5 minute long oral presentation. The session was divided into three main topics based on submitted abstracts titled: Regulation of Lymphocyte Function, Advances in TLR Sensing and Signaling, and New Insights into Neutrophil Functional Responses. Each session was followed by an open panel discussion.

As members of the MTTG, we are thankful to the society for their support in fostering career development of junior SLB members. We especially thank our council liaisons Drs. Uriarte and Levy for their continued support and advice that fostered a a very successful session at the annual meeting and the initial establishment of MTTG as an integral part of SLB. If you are a graduate student, post-doctoral fellow, or early stage junior faculty, stay-tuned, participate, and share your suggestions for the MTTG by following us on LinkedIn and the SLB website.
Biomedical Science Postdocs: An End to the Era of Expansion

Published in the FASEB Journal by authors Howard H. Garrison, PhD, Louis B. Justement, PhD and Susan A Gerbi, PhD.

Recent analyses have demonstrated that for the first time in 30 years the number of academic postdoctoral fellows has declined in three consecutive years (2010-2013; the most recent year for which data have been collected). This decline represents a significant shift in the number of postdoctorates and it appears that the rate of decline is increasing. The total number of postdoctoral fellows has declined from a high of 40,970 to 38,719, which represents a 5.5% decrease. Although it was noted that the number of men and women postdoctorates from both the US and abroad have declined, the greatest decrease was for US men (10.4%). The underlying causes for the recent and significant decrease in the number of postdoctoral fellows are of significant interest and require additional studies. It may be that individuals are deciding not to pursue postdoctoral training in favor of careers that are not research intensive due to the tight academic labor market with low compensation and uncertain prospects for long-term career success due to limited funding for research. Regardless of the cause, a continued decrease in the number of academic postdoctoral fellows has significant implications for the future of biomedical research in the US.

Rally for Research September 16 & 17 2015

Dan Remick

The rally for research was held in Washington DC to advocate for increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Advocates from 40 states and more than 200 organizations spoke with their Senators and Congressman about the need for robust, predictable and sustainable NIH funding. The key messages that were delivered included the fact that since 2004 there has been a 24% decrease in the dollars available for NIH investigators (adjusted for inflation). In prior years there was a 1 in 3 chance that a grant would be funded, with the current paylines there is a 1 in 7 chance.

The Society for Leukocyte Biology was represented at the rally by Daniel Remick, M.D., Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine who provided twitter updates throughout the rally.

After orientation on September 16th the 300 rally participants were bused to the Capital for a rally held in the Kennedy Caucus room. Presentations were made by Jerry Moran (R-Kansas), Senator Durbin (D-Illinois), Patti Murray (D-Washington) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota). Each of these Senators expressed strong bipartisan support to increase NIH funding. Senator Murray talked about the need for NIH funding to maintain American exceptionalism. Senator Klobuchar is such a strong NIH supporter that during the last government shutdown, she donated her salary to the NIH. Francis Collins, the Director of NIH spoke passionately about funding saying we cannot wait for cures and we cannot wait for hope. Patient advocates also spoke about why NIH funding saves lives.

The next morning, September 17th 2015, Representative Tom Cole (R-Oklahoma), the fourth ranking Republican in the House of Representatives addressed participants. He emphasized that Congress is eager to show bipartisan legislation that helps the country, and increased funding for NIH was a clear example of this. The rally participants then met with members of Congress and their staff.

The delegation from Massachusetts consisted of Daniel Remick, M.D., Chair and Professor of Pathology & Lab Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine, Susan Hankinson, Sc.D., Chair of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Health Sciences University of Massachusetts and Timothy Leshan, Northeastern University Vice President for Government Relations. The delegation met with our Senators and Representatives. We met first with Ashley Coulombe, Special Assistant to Senator Elizabeth Warren and relayed specific examples of how decreased NIH funding has hurt research. The next meeting was with Andrew Cohen, Counsel to Senator Edward Markey. Senator Markey has long supported funding for NIH.

The delegation was fortunate to spend 30 minutes with Rep. Joseph Kennedy from the 4th district of Massachusetts (see picture). The day finished with meetings with Jennifer Chandler, Senior Legislative Assistant to Rep. James Robert A. Clark

Michael E. Selsted

Charles R. Rinaldo

Thank You to Our Sustaining Members

Robert A. Clark
Lesley A. Doughty
Richard R. Kew
Jill M. Kramer
McGovern and a final meeting with Rep. Capuano's Chief of Staff, Robert Primus.

All of the Massachusetts legislators strongly support increased funding for the mission of NIH and the MA delegates were able to provide several reasons why increased NIH funding is a national imperative.

On October 8, 2015 there was an action alert to contact your members of Congress to request increased funding. The specific alert may be found HERE.

A budget with increases in NIH funding was voted on by the House of Representatives on October 28, 2015.

In Memoriam
Michael J. Brunda Ph.D.

It is with great sadness that we share that Michael J. Brunda Ph.D., passed away suddenly on May 8, 2015 while vacationing in Arizona. Mike was a long-time member of SLB and, for the last 33 years of his life, was affiliated with Hoffman-LaRoche Pharmaceuticals where he was Senior Director/Project Leader at Roche Innovation Center in New York City.

During his career, Mike published over 100 research papers, served on several editorial boards, and played a major role in both the pre-clinical testing and later development of Pegasys, a modified interferon which improved the lives of millions of HCV-infected individuals worldwide. In recognition of his contributions, Mike received the Olympiad award from Roche and was honored by the American Liver Foundation at its annual fundraising gala. In 1999, Mike was a recipient of the Dolph O. Adams Award from the Society for Leukocyte Biology for his highly cited review on IL-12.

Mike's passing is a great loss to the scientific community and is an even greater loss for his beautiful family, close friends, and valued colleagues.

2015 SLB Election Results

The SLB Nomination Committee is pleased to announce the results of the 2015 elections. Thank you to all of the candidates and welcome to our new officers. In addition to electing new officers, both proposed bylaw changes were accepted.

President Elect (2016-2017)
Lee-Ann Allen

Secretary (2016-2017)
Elizabeth Fitzpatrick

Council (2016-2019)
David Underhill
Veronique Witko-Sarsat

Open letter to fellow members

Dear Fellow SLBers,

For most of my career I have done immunology/inflammation research in an industry setting spending 10 years in the biotech industry and the last 13 years at Amway Corporation, a consumer products manufacturer where I study the effects of plant extracts on innate immune function. For most of that time I have not had much contact with academia other than through attendance at SLB and other annual meetings.

Send your poster PDF to slb@faseb.org

Attention 2015 Abstract Submitters

All SLB members who submitted an abstract for the recent meeting in Raleigh are welcome to submit a PDF version of their poster for display on the SLB 2015 meeting website. CV and lab URL links may be posted as well.

PLEASE NOTE: If you intend to submit, or have already submitted, these data to a journal for publication, please check with your publisher to determine if display on the society’s webpage will be counted as prepublication.

Send your poster PDF to slb@faseb.org
The SLB has very few members from industry so I am writing to you as a member of the Development and Outreach Committee from an industry perspective to encourage you to seek out industrial relationships. These relationships can benefit both parties. The industry partner can benefit from learning about emerging science that comes out of academia as well as co-authorships on publications. The academic partner benefits from access to novel reagents, the opportunity for students and post-docs to consider industrial careers, and in this day of dwindling funding sources, the potential for financial support.

In closing I encourage you to also bring any industrial partners into the society as the society can also benefit from such relationships. If you have an industrial co-author on a paper, encourage them to join SLB. If you have a favorite supplier, talk to them about sponsoring the annual meeting and having a table to network with colleagues (or share your industry contacts with the Development Committee to foster these relationships further).

Sincerely,

David Fast

Kansas State University likes Pizza... and Publications

Steven Chapes and Sherry Fleming

For the 2014-2015 academic year our journal club group included 15 people 7 faculty and 8 students from 3 different departments on the campus of Kansas State University. Our discussions included a paper about the intracellular sensing of complement C3 and its role in activating immunity against viruses. We discussed how pig macrophages might be better models for macrophage function compared to mouse macrophages and the implications on how it would change research. We discussed a paper on the role of IL-17 and its role in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection and its role during viral exacerbation of allergic lung disease.

We reviewed a paper on the discovery and characterization of a new metalloprotease secreted by C. difficile and its role in pathogenesis. We discussed how Staphylococcus aureus isolates from chronic osteomyelitis are characterized by high host cell invasion by producing biofilms and high levels of host cell inflammation. Our group discussed a paper on how FoxA1 directs the lineage and immunosuppressive properties of a novel regulatory T cell population in EAE and MS. We also covered a paper that discussed signaling that regulated CX3CL1 expression in intestinal epithelial cells stimulated with Clostridium difficile toxin A. Related to this, we had a presentation on an antimicrobial protein of the gut symbiont Bacteroides fragilis. We discussed a paper showing that there is impaired gamma-delta T cell-derived IL-17A and inflammasome activation during early respiratory syncytial virus infection in infants. We covered how Rift Valley Fever Virus encephalitis is associated with an ineffective systemic immune response and activated T cell infiltration in mice. The last paper that we discussed assessed the potential of differently modified siRNAs to induce the hepatic innate immune system in vitro and in vivo. We had a very active and well-attended journal club.


Verona, Italy 2016: Book your hotel EARLY!

The city of Verona is famous as the setting of Romeo and Juliet – but there is so much more to this quaint Italian town. You will discover the charm and beauty of Verona during the 2016 SLB Meeting as all of the SLB hotels are situated in the vibrant downtown area, just a short walk from the University of Verona Congress Center. SLB has secured several hotel options for attendees – each one with unique features, great prices and close proximity to the Congress Center. The SLB website will supply details about each hotel so that SLB attendees can select the best option for their budget and walking comfort. All hotels provide breakfast each morning. The city of Verona is hosting many large scale events during the time of the SLB meeting so it is crucial that you reserve a hotel room early. Book your hotel room early and start planning your time in Verona!
SLB’s Ilhem Messaoudi was featured in an ad in the Washington Post!

SLB Councilor, Silvia Uriarte and her lab are always the winners in our Halloween costume contests!
The Society For Leukocyte Biology’s 49th Annual Meeting and “Neutrophil 2016”

September 15-17, 2016  ■  University of Verona Congress Center  ■  Verona, Italy

PROGRAM CHAIRS
Marco A. Cassatella (University of Verona)
Patrick P. McDonald (Université de Sherbrooke)

2016 KEYNOTE AND BONAZINGA AWARDEE
William M. Nauseef, University of Iowa

PLENARY TOPICS
Metabolism and Immunity
The Expanding World of Leukocytes Subsets
Leukocytes in Host-Pathogen Interactions
Leukocytes in the Tumor Microenvironment

CONCURRENT SESSION TOPICS
Soluble Mediators
Neutrophil Trafficking and Effector Functions
Cytokines in Inflammation and Immunity
Emerging Topics and Methodologies in Neutrophil Biology
Receptors and Signaling
Neutrophils in Immunity
Functional Genomics
Neutrophil Differentiation and Neutrophil-mediated Inflammation Resolution

INVITED SPEAKERS
Judith Allen  ■  Giuseppe Matarrese
Lee-Ann H. Allen  ■  Peter Murray
Flavia Bazzoni  ■  Gioacchino Natoli
Yasmine Belkaid  ■  Sergei Nedospasov
Triantafyllos Chavakis  ■  Sussan Nourshargh
Marco Colonna  ■  Luke O’Neil
Evgeniy Eruslanov  ■  Mia Philippson
Zvika Granot  ■  Patrizia Scapini
Muzifah Haniffa  ■  Giorgio Trinchieri
Minsoo Kim  ■  Veronique Witko-Sarsat
Clifford Lowell  ■  Arturo Zychlinsky
Alberto Mantovani

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