



## President's Message

### Bob Clark, President

What a terrific SLB Annual Meeting we had in Verona! The University of Verona was a unique venue for us in comparison with the usual hotel setting and it was energizing to be on a university campus mixing with students and faculty on a daily basis. Moreover, the city of Verona offered a beautiful and exciting backdrop featuring great walking tours, ancient architectural marvels, delicious Italian cuisine, those wonderful wines, and so much else. We could have done with less rain, especially the drenchings that some of us received during ill-advised late evening walks back to our hotels, but there were warm sunny days as well.

Marco Cassatella did a truly extraordinary job of organizing the meeting, working very effectively with the Neutrophil Group's Patrick McDonald. The science was outstanding. Bill Nauseef set the tone at the opening session with his inspiring Bonazinga Lecture. As a neutrophil guy myself, I found this to be among the best SLB meetings in recent memory. Attendance and participation were strong, as was underscored by our reaching the 400+ level of registered participants. SLB staff, led very effectively by Jennifer Holland, did a great job of keeping things organized and on schedule, in spite of having to jump in occasionally to remedy an evolving crisis of one sort or another.

A particular highlight for me, as well as many others, was the presence at the meeting of Filippo Rossi from the University of Geneva. Truly a giant in the field of leukocyte biology, Filippo is best known for his pioneering characterization of the neutrophil respiratory burst enzyme as an NADPH oxidase. He contributed extensively to the scientific foundations of our field throughout his long and productive career. The opportunity to renew our friendship after a number of years was particularly rewarding.

The Society is clearly thriving across many areas. Membership is at its highest level in at least a decade. SLB finances are strong, thanks in substantial part to the success of the JLB, and our investment portfolio is growing significantly. The sprucing up of the SLB website has added such features as a new-member welcome slide show, more living history videos, and the posting of monthly JLB authors. The Members in Transition and Training Group continues to be very active, including the sponsorship of another successful poster flash talk session in Verona.

As for the future, the exciting program for the 2017 meeting in Vancouver is nearing completion under the expert organizational leadership of Liwu Li and Lionel Ivashkiv. In addition to the strong science, get ready for the 50th Anniversary Harbor Cruise, which promises to be a very enjoyable and memorable event. And lastly, plans for the 2018 meeting are moving along, with David Underhill and Darren Lee in charge of the scientific program. The venue, likely a site in the Southwestern US, will be finalized in early 2017.



## Message from the Editors

by Vijaya Iragavarapu-Charyulu and Amanda Brown

Welcome to the last issue of iSLB for this year. There are a lot of exciting things to read about in this issue. First of all, we highlight the events of the joint meeting of Society for Leukocyte Biology with Neutrophil Society held in Verona Italy. Please see Katherine Martin's summary of this educational, yet fun meeting.



Along the same vein, we have pictures and bios of the Presidential Award recipients and the travel award winners. A must read article is about gender balance at scientific conferences. This is very interesting, as discussed at the Women & Diversity session on, "Cultural differences in the career advancement experience", such opportunities

are critically important for professional development. A couple of other must read articles include the one about career transition into industry by David Doua, and the PISA2016 Summary by Andrew Lewis.

Our Editor in Chief, Luis Montaner, in his article describes the survey results. A very cute cartoon by Sabrina Burgener on receiving an SLB Presidential Award is a must see. Juhi Bagitkar actually found her current position after winning the 2010 Presidential Student Award onsite at the SLB Meeting with Mary Dinauer.

Please read the "Councilor Corner" for a brief look at the members and their interests. We welcome two new Junior Editors, Katherine Martin and Irina Miralda, who along with Stephania, wrote the Junior Editors notes. We thank Cortney Armstrong who as a Junior Editor, contributed greatly to the success of the newsletter. Please read

# SLB 2016 Awards

## Marie T. Bonazinga Award



William M. Nauseef, M.D.  
University of Iowa

## G. Jeanette Thorbecke Award



Roxane Tussiwand, Ph.D.,  
University of Basel

## Women and Diversity Paper of the Year



Elzbieta Kolaczowska, Ph.D.,  
Jagiellonian University

## Dolph Adams Award



Minsoo Kim, Ph.D.,  
University of Rochester

### *Editors Note, continued*

Cortney's experience as a Junior Editor and what it meant for her. Most of all we thank Jennifer Holland, without whose help it would be hard to put this together! We hope that you enjoy this great issue of the iSLB newsletter.

awards to attend the meeting. This year the SLB provided 43 travel awards. As junior members of the Society, we would like to express our gratitude to the SLB organizers (Jen and Kendra), the abstract selection and travel award committees and to the council for their constant support and commitment to the society and our careers.



## Junior Editors Note

*by Stephania Libreros, Cortney Armstrong,  
Katherine Martin and Irina Miralda*

As junior editors, Cortney Armstrong and I (Stephania Libreros) are very grateful for the constant support of trainees within the matters of the society. In the past two years, we focused our efforts on increasing awareness on how trainees can get involved in various types of committees and groups within the society. As we are the future of the society, it is our pleasure to welcome our two new junior editors, Irina Miralda from University of Louisville and Katherine Martin from Cochin Institute.



As trainees, the annual meetings give us the opportunity to learn about cutting edge research, as well as attend unique workshops designed to help us excel in our careers. One of the goals of SLB is to foster junior members' career development not only by providing workshops such as the MTTG "Career Beyond the Bench" and the poster flash talks, but by providing travel

In this issue we include an article from David Nobuhiro Douda entitled "My path in becoming an industry scientist," highlights of the travel award winners, and provide biographies of the 2016 Presidential Award recipients.

On behalf of the SLB newsletter team, we would like to thank Cortney Armstrong for all her hard work, efforts and time for the past two years where she has helped create an enjoyable newsletter for SLB members. We are excited that Cortney has joined the Professional Development committee as a liaison to help plan career development activities within the society.

My name is Irina Miralda and I am a second year PhD student at the University of Louisville. I became a member of SLB in 2013, and it is an honor to join the newsletter team and tangibly contribute to a society that has already given me so much. At each of the three SLB meetings I've attended, I have been blown away by the workshops, plenaries, and concurrent sessions and leave the conference recharged to go back into the lab. By actively investing in the younger generations of the society through travel awards, junior editor positions and the MTTG group, the SLB continues to provide new scientists with the support system,

## Junior Editors Note, continued

encouragement and confidence required to succeed in the increasingly challenging and competitive environment of academia.

During my time in the position as junior editor, I would like to personally focus on making this publication a more interactive experience for our readers. One way I have already begun to achieve this goal is through the creation of the welcome prezzi, an interactive presentation introducing our newest SLB members and I hope to be able to present more content in a similar interactive format.

My name is Katherine Martin and I am an Australian postdoc working in Paris at the Cochin Institute. While I only recently became a member of the SLB in 2015, I have already had such a wonderful experience with the society, which places a genuine emphasis on supporting and nurturing young researchers. Thanks to an SLB travel award, I was able to attend the 49th Annual Meeting and "Neutrophil 2016" in Verona. This conference was jammed packed with cutting edge research, interesting workshops held by both the MTTG and W&D group as well as lively scientific discussion during coffee breaks. As the SLB is a global scientific community linking the best leukocyte biologists from all over the world, during my time with the newsletter I aim to represent a European and Australasian perspective and will bring you interesting highlights, articles and scientific profiles from researches all around the globe.

Once again we would like to say how excited we are to be taking the reins as junior editors and contributing back to the society in any way possible. We are grateful for the example set by the departing junior editor, Cortney Armstrong, and we want to sincerely thank her for all the time and effort.

## EMDS Travel Awardees

The 30th edition of the annual European Macrophage and Dendritic Cell Society (EMDS) meeting took place from September 21st-23rd, 2016 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Three Amsterdam top institutes – the VU University Medical Center/Cancer Center Amsterdam, the University of Amsterdam/Academic Medical Center and Sanquin – joined forces to organize this exciting meeting, in which basic aspects of APC function, and many clinical aspects of APC dysfunction in chronic inflammatory disorders and cancer were addressed as well as the possibility to target dendritic cells and/or macrophages in therapeutic strategies. Over 200 participants from 13 European and Asian countries participated in the meeting, many of which

## Thank you to outgoing SLB Treasurer Mary Dinauer



shared their data in either an oral presentation or during the guided poster walks.

Two young researchers received a travel award, granted by The Society of Leucocyte Biology, which helped them to attend this meeting.



### Melanie Pieber - Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

'The 30th EMDS conference was my first conference as a PhD student and I think my supervisor could not have chosen anything better. I really liked the small size of the conference that made it possible to listen to all the great talks without having to choose and hurry from one lecture to the next. I myself work with Glioblastomas, trying to characterize tumor growth and hopefully finding a target relevant for future therapy – combining basic research and medically applied research so to say. Therefore, the program was perfectly designed to cover all my interests, ranging from basic science, animal studies, and translational and clinical studies. The organizers couldn't have done a better job. The conference by itself was already a special experience for me, and being awarded a travel grant from SLB made it even more special'.



### Xianne Penny - WSC lab, Singapore Immunology Network, Singapore

'Being a first-time attendee of the EMDS conference, a smaller conference than I am used to, but with the same high-level quality of work and intellectual stimulation that I expect, I am just simply amazed. I heard some really provocative talks, which challenged some of our cherished paradigms in immunology and was very happy to engage in scientific discussion with like-minded colleagues. I enjoyed very much the guided poster walks, which I have never had before, but this should be a definite must-have for all conferences. Thank you very much again for the travel award'.

### What goes great with Pizza n' Pubs: Hokies!

Over the summer of 2016, Virginia Tech's SLB-sponsored "Pizza n' Pubs" journal club was very successful. We held three meetings and discussed five separate papers that included a range of immunology topics that spanned the interest of the variety of attendees.

We covered landmark studies ranging from novel inflammasome signaling pathways to the role of IFN- $\gamma$  signaling in autism. In addition to these studies, we also included discussions of state-of-the-art methods to improve our research programs, including a paper presented on methods to assess single cells using microfluidic systems.

Participants included six PIs and an average of 16 students affiliated with four different departments on campus. The success of this summer journal club would not have been possible without the support of SLB and this wonderful program. We look forward to participating again next year!



### iSLB Junior Editor Send-Off

SLB has been a very enriching society to be a member of and I have had many rewarding experiences since joining the society in 2013. At all the meetings I have attended, I tried to stay as involved as possible, applying for travel awards, submitting an abstract and signing up for all the workshops (they are free!). The size of the meeting, the networking opportunities and the workshops offered are definite benefits! There are a variety of resourceful workshops offered that can help with navigating the world of science, learning the tips and tricks of being a student/mentor/post-doctoral fellow and also planning for your future career. I really enjoyed the interactions I have not only with other students, but also with those important members of the field, whose names you read about in papers. It is nice to be a member of a society where at a meeting; you are not just a number, but an important member that can discuss your work among colleagues. Even as a graduate student, I feel comfortable speaking with the most senior scientists in their field, due to the welcoming nature of the society.

When I first received the e-mail looking for a volunteer to fill the position of iSLB editor, I knew that this was the perfect opportunity to get more involved with SLB! What better way to give back to the society that has given me so much in only a year? I joined the Publications Committee in December 2014 as a junior editor of the iSLB along with Stephania Libreros. I really enjoyed serving on the Publications Committee and participating as a junior editor of iSLB. It was clear from the very first meeting that my opinion was valued. As a junior editor, I was fully involved with contributing ideas for articles contained in the iSLB and took the lead on conducting interviews as well. Working alongside with iSLB junior editor Stephania and editors, Drs. Vijaya Iragavarapu and Amanda Brown, and with the help of Jennifer Holland, we have had great discussions about the future of SLB and how to get more junior members involved. The Publications Committee and the society as a whole, are eager to get more students and post-doctoral fellows involved, for a fresh perspective. I would like to thank the Publications Committee and the society for giving me the opportunity to serve as junior editor for the iSLB. It has been a wonderful experience, and I know it will only help me to serve in my new role on the Professional Development Committee (PDC), where I will serve as a liaison between Members in Transition and Training Group (MTTG) and the PDC, to ensure career development activities are available to scientists at all levels.

Being a junior editor of the iSLB has been a very rewarding experience! I welcome all trainees to challenge

# SLB 2016 Presidential Awards

Congratulations to the 2016 Presidential Awardees and click [HERE](#) to read more about them.

## Finalists: Student Category



Laura Healy,  
Oregon Health &  
Science University



Lauren Kinkead, Ph.D.,  
University of Iowa  
Carver College of  
Medicine



Sabrina Sofia Burgener,  
University of Bern

## Finalists: Junior Faculty/Post-Doc Category



Juhi Bagaitkar, Ph.D.,  
Washington University  
in St. Louis



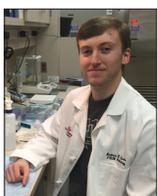
Meraj Khan, Ph.D.,  
The Hospital for  
Sick Children



Niels Heemskerk,  
VU University Medical  
Center

### *iSLB Junior Editor Send-Off, continued*

yourself and take the first step to get involved in the numerous activities organized by SLB. Your involvement in SLB will not only advance the society, but will have a tremendous benefit to your development as a scientist. I've learned that you get out of the society what you put in. In the words of Wayne Gretzky, "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."



### **PISA 2016 Summary (Pathobiology for Investigators, Students, and Academicians)**

*Andrew Lewis - Baylor College of Medicine*

This month I had the opportunity to attend the 2016 PISA Meeting in Houston, TX through a scholarship from the Society of Leukocyte Biology. The meeting was a great opportunity as a graduate student to learn about diverse types of research in my subject area and related areas. The meeting brought many researchers from around the Texas Medical Center but also from around other parts of the country and even international groups. Interactive poster sessions and lectures from distinguished speakers provided a diverse array of information and an opportunity to network with researchers from other institutions. There was also an informative session on the ins and outs of publishing your work in today's ever-changing environment of academic journals.

With my work in Dr. Daniel Lacorazza's lab focusing on mechanisms in the hematopoietic malignancy acute myeloid leukemia, researchers studying novel cancer therapeutic approaches and immune cell signaling particularly stood out to me. One talk from Dr. Raghu Kalluri in which he presented some exciting data on the biology and therapeutic potential of exosomes was a particularly interesting novel approach. He described exosomes as extracellular vesicles or "garbage bags" released by all cell types, with cancer cells exhibiting an even higher propensity for their release. The finding that exosomes could contain genomic DNA, mRNA, lipid, and protein prompted the development of a mutational screening approach and later a therapeutic approach in which exosomes loaded with inhibitory RNA molecules could be delivered to tumors. These exosomes even displayed much greater half-life in vivo than their engineered counterpart the liposome, due to the presence of the cell surface molecule CD47 ("don't-eat-me" signal) and thus greater anti-tumoral effect and reduced phagocytosis by resident macrophages.

Overall, the opportunity to attend this meeting added to my knowledge in a number of fields, stimulated my thinking in creative experimental design, and motivated me to continue to pursue discoveries through the scientific process after seeing the promising findings presented by the researchers at PISA 2016.

# SLB 2016 Travel Awards Winners

Congratulations to the 2016 Travel Awardees and click [HERE](#) to read more about them.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  <b>Bethany Biron Girard,</b><br>Brown University   |  <b>Rebecca McCullough,</b><br>Cleveland Clinic                      |  <b>Irina Ushach,</b><br>University of California Irvine         |
|  <b>Abigail Cannon,</b><br>Loyola University Chicago  |  <b>Niya Morris,</b><br>Loyola University                            |  <b>Chairut Vareechon,</b><br>Case Western Reserve University    |
|  <b>Carmelo Carmona-Rivera,</b><br>National Institute of Arthritis and<br>Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases |  <b>Philip Owens,</b><br>Vanderbilt University                       |  <b>Alessandro Venosa,</b><br>Rutgers University                 |
|  <b>Pierre Cunin,</b><br>Brigham and Women's Hospital   |  <b>Joanna Pocock,</b><br>University of Cambridge                    |  <b>Zachary Wilson,</b><br>Brown University                      |
|  <b>Brenda Curtis,</b><br>University of Colorado Denver   |  <b>Cameron Postnikoff,</b> University of<br>Alabama at Birmingham   |  <b>Hadley Witt,</b> Brown University /<br>Rhode Island Hospital |
|  <b>Osric Forrest,</b><br>Emory University  |  <b>Atiqur Rahman,</b><br>University of Sheffield                    |  <b>Dingyi Yang,</b><br>University of Sheffield                  |
|  <b>Adam Hammer,</b> Loyola University<br>Chicago Health Sciences Division                                  |  <b>Shrestha Sanjeeb,</b><br>Hallym University                       |  <b>Dae-goon Yoo,</b><br>Washington University in St. Louis      |
|  <b>Marieke Heineke,</b><br>VUmc  |  <b>Carlos Sanz Garcia,</b><br>Cleveland Clinic Foundation         |  <b>Yao Zhang,</b><br>Virginia Tech                            |
|  <b>Brian Hsu,</b> Goodman Cancer<br>Research Center  |  <b>Kirti Sawant,</b> University of<br>Texas Medical Branch        |  <b>Jiali Zhu,</b><br>Rhode Island Hospital                    |
|  <b>Christina Lee,</b><br>Virginia Polytechnic Institute<br>and State University                          |  <b>Tatiane Soares de Lima,</b><br>University of California Irvine |   |
|  <b>Katharine Lodge,</b><br>University of Cambridge   |  <b>ZhiMin Song,</b><br>University Paris-sud                       |   |
|  <b>Monika Majchrzak-Górecka,</b><br>Jagiellonian University  |  <b>Julia Svedova,</b><br>University of Connecticut Health         |   |
|  <b>Alex Marki,</b> La Jolla Institute<br>for Allergy and Immunology                                      |  <b>Jared Taylor,</b><br>University of Florida                     |   |
|  <b>Katherine Martin,</b><br>INSERM   |  <b>Nicole Toepfner,</b><br>University of Cambridge                |   |

## SIICA Travel Award Winners

Maria Rosaria Galdiero,  
University of Naples Federico II

Andrea Ponzetta, Humanitas Clinical and  
Research Center

## The way to the SLB Student Presidential Award



1

After the application for the SLB Student Presidential Award all the thoughts surrounded the normal life of a PhD-student  
– Updating new iPhone 6



2

Suddenly an incoming e-mail with the award notification. This feeling is still indescribable and I was not able to share it  
– iPhone 6 still needs 15 minutes to finish its update



3

The day of the presentation – my stomach rides a roller coaster.  
No food, no drinks.



5

The main award for me was to speak and meet all the experts of the field.



4

Finally, it was time to stand up and present my work  
– nervousness was gone  
– pleasure arrived

I would like to encourage all PhD students to apply for such great opportunities! We are all putting a lot of effort into our projects and there is nothing better than to present your project to other scientists in the field. Discussing new ideas and approaches is very rewarding and drives your motivation. I would especially like to thank Ali Hashemi Gheinani for drawing these amazing comics and my supervisor, Charaf Benarafa, who allows me to work in such an interesting research field. See you all in Vancouver! **Sabrina**

## Representation of Women Scientists at Scientific Conferences

Submitted by Amanda Brown

A recent article in the New York Times ([www.nytimes.com/2016/09/06/science/gender-bias-scientific-conferences.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/06/science/gender-bias-scientific-conferences.html?_r=0)) by Apoorva Mandavilli drew attention to the fact that at many scientific conferences, qualified women researchers are not reflected in the invited speaker list at levels commensurate with their level of representation in a given field. In order to draw awareness to the issue, Dr. Yael Niv and colleagues developed a website which analyzes and posts the gender ratios of neuroscience related conferences. Interestingly, the conference that led to Dr. Niv starting the website was one in which all of the invited speakers were male and the meeting was in fact organized by women. The latter is an example of implicit or unconscious bias—something that we do automatically without any awareness. If you are interested in this topic more information is available at: [www.implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/education.html](http://www.implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/education.html).

How is the SLB doing in regards to gender ratios at our annual meetings? SLB has long focused on equity in this regard. At the 2016 meeting, 43% of all speakers were female and 56% of award winners were female. These numbers are typical of SLB events and the society is committed to these continued efforts.

## Attention 2016 Abstract Submitters

All SLB members who submitted an abstract for the recent meeting in Verona are welcome to submit a PDF version of their poster for display on the SLB 2016 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](mailto:slb@faseb.org)**

## Halloween 2016



*SLB Councilor Silvia Uriarte's Lab does it again with their Halloween spirit. This year's theme "Villians"*



### Councilor Corner

Get to know the SLB Council through these quarterly introductions to the SLB leaders. Look for a coming multimedia presentation on the website to introduce all of your SLB leaders.

SLB Councilor, Claire Doerschuk is based in North Carolina working at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Her work focuses on leukocytes in pulmonary disease, particularly pneumonia, lung diseases induced by tobacco products, acute lung injury and lung fibrosis. She is particularly interested in how neutrophils and macrophages are recruited to the lungs and how they function.

Claire enjoys her role in SLB because of the many opportunities SLB provides to share information and ideas with other scientists interested in the wide ranging

functions of leukocytes and the warm and enabling culture SLB creates for those interested in leukocyte biology. In her spare time, Claire enjoys classical music and reading about secular and sacred music and church history.

Feel free to email Claire at [cmd@med.unc.edu](mailto:cmd@med.unc.edu) with your ideas for SLB or to connect regarding your research interests.

## Niels Heemskerk Awardee

*By Niels Heemskerk*

It was a great pleasure and honour to be awarded the 1st place JrFac SLB presidential award during The Society for Leukocyte Biology's 49th Annual Meeting/NEUTROPHIL 2016, which was held in Verona from September 15-17, 2016.

I want to thank all of you for the appreciation and interest in our work (Heemskerk et al. *Nature Communications* 2016). We recently also wrote a short review article in the journal *Small GTPases*, entitled 'Leukocyte transendothelial migration: A local affair'. The article discusses what factors determine the so called 'hotspots for transmigration' and what defines the use of the transcellular route over the paracellular route. We also address the mechanisms that limit vascular leakage during leukocyte diapedesis.

Currently I am working on a new project in the lab of Marjolein van Egmond, VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam. The project is focused on the question whether we can boost anti-cancer immunity with antibody therapy, hereby training the immune system to recognize and eliminate cancerous cells. Intravital imaging plays an important role in answering this question. This technique allows us to examine immune cell dynamics within solid liver metastases during antibody treatment in vivo, which will help us to predict how the human immune system will react to the novel antibody therapy formats we are currently testing in the lab.

To wrap up, the city of Verona was a superb venue for a great and interesting meeting. The organizers did a great job with introducing the Whova app which was very useful during the meeting. We also visited various monumental places and the food was amazing. To celebrate the presidential award we went to L'osteria Alcova del Frate. I encourage everyone to visit this place since the food served in this restaurant was extremely delicious. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again during the 50th annual meeting in Vancouver, which I am sure will be another great experience.

# Do not be one of the 65% that do not know these facts!

JLB is central to our Society's ability to maintain our activities, support our junior colleagues and our yearly meetings. There are two items that you must know if you are a SLB member:

## A) Submit to JLB, you keep profits.

Recent '15 survey results showed that more than half of the SLB membership is not aware of the connection between JLB revenue and SLB operations (57% unaware). If you submit your science to JLB, it will pay you back by way of any revenue the journal makes is reinvested in you and our colleagues.

## B) Cite JLB, to surge SLB.

A recent '15 survey showed that about two thirds of SLB members are unaware of the need to consider citing JLB and how this connects to supporting SLB. 65% responded they "do not" look to cite JLB when warranted. Impact factor is determined by what gets cited within 2 years of publication. If you do not cite JLB when warranted, we all pay the consequences as our journal does not do as well as it deserves. If you are a SLB member you benefit from JLB and as such look to cite our recent content.



## Highlights of the 49th Annual Meeting in Verona, Italy

By Katherine Martin

If the beautiful scenery, amazing food and abundance of gelato stops weren't enough reasons to visit Verona, the joint SLB Annual Meeting and "Neutrophil 2016" sure was. Scientists from around the globe converged on the University of Verona for a program jam-packed with cutting edge leukocyte biology research with a particular focus on the beloved neutrophil. It was an early start for all Thursday morning, with two concurrent sessions kicking off what was to be an excellent meeting. One session focused on technologies enabling leukocyte biology research, and the second covered aspects of aging and immunity. Next up were the poster flash talks, a dynamic and interesting session which involved five minute talks previewing highlights of selected abstracts from the two upcoming poster sessions. Not only did this give many young scientists the chance to present their work, but the session was also chaired by postdoctoral fellows, giving them invaluable experience not often possible at larger meetings. These opportunities as well as the 43 travel grants awarded to junior researchers (see profiles of recipients here) are just two of the many ways the society demonstrates the values it places on the younger generation and actively promotes their development.

Directly following the flash talks were the SLB presidential awards where Juhi Bagaitkar, Meraj Khan and Niels Hemmskerk all delivered outstanding presentations in the junior faculty/postdoc category while Laura Healy,

Lauren Kinkead and Sabrina Burgener presented their excellent research in the student category (see profiles of the nominees here). These presentations left us in no doubt that the future of leukocyte biology research is bright and all were deserved recipients of their selections. Later during the Senior Award presentations, the G. Jeannette Thorbacke awardee Roxane Tussiwand gave us a nice break from neutrophils and presented her insights into the instrumental role of dendritic cells in balancing immunity and tissue integrity. Minsoo Kim, the recipient of the Dolph O Adams award, spoke about her research on neutrophils and influenza-specific CD8 T cells in the airway. Lastly, Elzbieta Kolaczowska was awarded the W&D Paper of the Year for her review entitled "Neutrophil recruitment and function in health and inflammation", a review article that has been cited over 500 times in just over 3 years. The opening reception held Thursday night was well attended and allowed everyone to enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a glass or two of prosecco while catching up with old friends and meeting some new ones too. This, along with the coffee breaks, were a great way for delegates to talk about science in an informal setting and it saw many lively discussions and hopefully some fruitful collaborations in the future. After the reception, the keynote speaker and Bonazinga award winner, William Nauseef gave us even more reasons to love neutrophils including the uniqueness of myeloperoxidase and the wonder of the phagosome. On a personal note, he reminded everyone never to forget where we came from and gave us an insight into all the different past and present people who had influenced his career. The first day ended with a workshop organised by the MTTG entitled, "Careers beyond the bench," with lots of ideas and advice for students and young researchers on career paths.

## Meeting Highlights, continued

The second day of the conference had something for everyone with sessions not just on neutrophils but other areas of leukocyte biology as well. The first plenary session covered the expanding world of leukocyte subsets including a presentation on the heterogeneity of mononuclear phagocytes in disease and the role of innate lymphoid cells. The second plenary session explored the emerging topics of metabolism and signalling in immunity where Luke O'Neil presented his latest data on metabolic reprogramming during innate immunity and Mauro Perretti detailed his research on the role of microvesicles in immune modulation. The lunch break and first of two sessions provided attendees with the opportunity to discuss research and ideas at length, and gave junior scientists the chance to meet some of the leaders in their field. With over 200 posters on display during the two sessions, whether you had a specific plan of attack or you ambled around till a poster took your fancy, it is safe to say everyone got a lot out of these sessions.

The afternoon saw more presentations on a range of topics including cytokines in inflammation, the effect of intensive exercise on innate immune responses, neutrophil migration through vessel walls and even a research project which explored neutrophil dysfunction which occurs during the first hour of traumatic injury, a project which no doubt must have had many logistical hurdles to surmount during sample collection. The day rounded off with the SLB women and diversity workshop which examined cultural differences in career advancement and featured Barbara Walzog, who gave practical advice on how she overcame

hurdles in her own career. Her take home message to junior researchers was that while there are many well documented difficulties in establishing a career in academia, the key factor to her success was a dogged determination to simply “do science” and adopting this attitude would help us to achieve similar successes.

The final day of the congress did not fail to deliver with sessions covering functional genomics and proteomics of various leukocyte populations, the role of neutrophils in the effective resolution of inflammation, neutrophils in health and disease and a session exploring effector functions of leukocytes. The day concluded with two plenary sessions where we learned about the mechanisms of NET formation from Arturo Zychlinsky, the first researcher to describe this phenomena and we also heard from the president-elect Lee-Ann Allen about her research on neutrophil plasticity in *H. pylori* infections. Last, but certainly not least, the congress wrapped up with a wonderful session on the role of neutrophils and other leukocytes in the tumour microenvironment.

A huge thank you to Marco Cassatella and Patrick McDonald, the organisers of this excellent meeting as well as our executive director Jennifer Holland and meeting manager Kendra LaDuca. Lastly, thanks to all the people who volunteered their time and effort to ensure that the conference went off without a hitch. Hopefully we will see you at all at the 50th Anniversary Meeting entitled “Leukocyte Memory: Health and Disease” to be held in Vancouver in 2017!

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the recap video from the 2016 Conference



## SLB Forums

SLB has an online forum where we welcome members to start a discussion. See the forums page [HERE](#) and consider commenting on posts such as the one below. This is a great way to connect with SLB members with interests like yours all over the world. It takes more than one person to have a conversation, so chime in today!

“Hey SLBers, there’s been a lot of activity in the area of anti-aging in recent years. J. Craig Venter has launched Human Longevity, Google with Calico, along with several others. The FDA has approved clinical testing of metformin for anti-aging outcomes. Since inflammation is a key component of aging (inflammaging as coined by Francheschi et al back in 2000), I’d love to discuss any work people are doing in this area. In particular, I’m interested in mitigation of inflammaging through nutrition, natural products in order to promote healthy aging.”



The Members in Transition and Training Group (MTTG) held their second session at the joint 49th SLB annual meeting and Neutrophil 2016. The theme of the session was ‘Careers beyond the bench’.

The session featured three accomplished speakers, Louis B Justement, Ph.D. (Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham), Carrie Peters, Ph.D. (Principal Scientist, StemCell Technologies) and Camille Zenobia, Ph.D. (Research Scientist, Colgate Palmolive). The session was also well attended by graduate students, postdocs and other junior members of SLB that interacted with the panelists and asked questions.

Juhi Bagaitkar Ph.D. (Washington University, St. Louis) chaired the session, introduced the speakers and stated the goals, mission and future plans of MTTG. It was emphasized that the MTTG was created by trainee members of the SLB with the generous support of SLB and is actively seeking new members to help with some of the administrative and organizational activities of MTTG.

The panelists discussed various non-academic career tracks for trainees after their graduate degrees transitioning to careers in federal government relating to science and policy, scientific foundations, industry and also academia. After a ten-minute talk by each speaker, the

trainees asked questions and there was discussion for the latter half of the session. Trainees asked about key steps and time lines to be followed while making these career transitions and also online resources available to them. Panelists shared their experience and advised on how to discuss with their current advisors on making the career shift relating to pursuing opportunities in industry, drug development and even start ups. While Dr. Justement gave valuable suggestions on successful navigation to a path in academia, Dr. Peters and Dr. Zenobia spoke about their experience in industry, especially how to seek out opportunities in academia, diversifying experience and resume building.

At the end of the session, the attendees were asked to give feed-back about the session, and recommendations were sought for the future activities to be undertaken by MTTG. In addition, MTTG council liaisons, Dr. Silvia Uriarte (University of Louisville) and Dr. Bruce Levy (Professor of Medicine of Pulmonary and Critical Care at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School) also attended the session and shared their experiences in academia as well. Altogether it was a successful session. Please look us up the SLB website and join us on LinkedIn. We are also actively looking for new members to join us.



# Special Opportunity with new updated schedule!

Be a part of a Special JLB Dedicated SLB Meeting Issue. Below is for the 2016 meeting, check back for updates on the coming 2017 meeting opportunities.

The Journal of Leukocyte Biology will publish a cluster of articles related to the SLB 2016 meeting, both review papers (“overviews”) and original investigations. The articles will be either invited or volunteered by the meeting participants, and all will be peer-reviewed according to the high standards of the JLB.

All participants may submit their work for the dedicated issue according to the following schedule:



Invitations will be sent by October 1, 2016

Responses due by October 15, 2016

First submissions are due by January 15, 2017

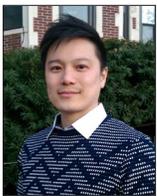
Review of articles to be completed by March 15, 2017

Revised papers will be due by April 20, 2017

Revised articles to be reviewed by June 1, 2017

ACCEPT BY JUNE 1, 2017 to publish in print September 2017

Do you have an upcoming meeting in 2017, 2018 or beyond and would like JLB to partner with you? Contact us to discuss the possibilities of JLB supporting your meeting and appearing as a meeting cluster issue of the journal.



## My Path in Becoming an Industry Scientist

By David Nobuhiro Douda

Transitioning to industry is arguably one of the most mysterious processes to many with a science degree. With the increase in the number of PhD graduates without a proportional increase in academic positions, the industry option is becoming one of the mainstream career paths today. There are in fact many such paths that one with a science degree can embark on. Those include a career in biotech or pharmaceutical companies, intellectual property/law, consulting, and scientific writing/editing, just to name a few. No matter which path one decides to take, there are a few basic steps to undertake, in order to be properly equipped prior to and throughout the transition.

What takes most precedence in the preparation step is information gathering. This can be done in numerous ways. When I began the process, I first went to the seminars conducted by the postdoc/graduate office and student organizations. In those seminars, there were invited speakers who went on to different career paths from the academic setting. They described in detail their own careers and how they prepared for the transition. In essence, seminars are the best resource to obtain tips as

well as answers to questions/concerns from those who were once in your shoes. What helped me the most was that I attended as many of such seminars that I could find. It did not matter whether I had an absolute interest in the career being discussed. Learning about the many different career paths enabled me to make an informed decision. Too many of us limit ourselves by excluding potentially compelling careers before fully educating ourselves about them. Additionally, I found it useful to always bring my business cards to those seminars. Upon adjournment, I approached the speaker and exchanged business cards with them. This way, they would be able to recall who I was if I subsequently contacted them to ask follow-up questions at a later time. It also made it significantly easier to connect to them through LinkedIn. I highly recommend establishing a connection with the professionals through LinkedIn as soon as you meet with them, while you are still fresh in their memory.

Another great source for information is networking and informational interviews. I found networking workshops considerably useful, along with workshops for improving communications skills in general. They gave me highly applicable tools in asking appropriate questions and holding meaningful conversations. Once I felt equipped, the first source I approached for informational interviews were my former colleagues who went on to pursue alternative careers. Familiarity with them made it easy to talk to them

while attaining valuable experience in interviewing skills. Through them, I was also referred to others who aided me in identifying and discovering more about various careers. Furthermore, I met a number of people through local biotech networking events. Such events tend to be social in nature, so it was an excellent place to inquire about their career choices and experiences from numerous individuals in a single event.

Upon gathering the necessary information, I became certain that I wanted to embark on a career as a scientist in the biotech/pharmaceutical industry. In all honesty, this is what I thought I would be doing from the beginning, but I felt reassured to be making an informed decision. This led to the next task of making a professionally suitable resume. It had been a long time since I wrote any resume. Consequently, it took longer than expected for it to be polished and look the way it does now. I had my resume critiqued by countless people in addition to attending a myriad of workshops. Once I had my resume ready, I began the process of formally applying to positions, which initially felt like trial and error. I catered my resume for each individual position, highlighting specific skillsets required for the job. Through this process the resume gradually evolved into the final refined template that it is today. One aspect that struck me the most during the application process was that most positions, if not all, would indicate “industry experience preferred”. This, to me, felt much akin to the time when I was applying for my first job in high school. How can I have industry experience without first getting hired? In hindsight, the preference/requirement for industry experience is definitely an asset and is there for a number of good reasons; however, there are certainly positions that don’t necessarily depend upon such experience. Hence, do not be discouraged by this element. You may have an expertise or experiences that far outweigh the requirement for prior industry experience.

In regards to job interviews, it may involve phone interviews, skype interviews, or an on-site interview. The questions, I believe, can be divided into two broad categories. One is the scientific/skills related questions, and the others were soft skills and questions pertaining to myself. What necessitated much preparation were the soft skills/personality type questions. Again, workshops/seminars and online resources were helpful in preparation, anticipation, and construction of answers for those. Looking through the examples assisted me in reflecting a lot about myself. On various occasions, the questions required me to deliver and expand on specific examples that display

certain skillsets. It would have been challenging to present precise examples that best describe my personality in such short time, if it wasn’t for my groundwork.

Following the strenuous learning curve and subsequently managing through the process, I now work as a scientist in the immuno-oncology group in a biotech company. What I enjoy the most is the component of daily learning. My academic background is in immunology, and I am now learning to become an immuno-oncologist. It is indeed an evolving and exciting field. Because the company is a small to mid-size biotech, there is ample exposure to multitudes of diverse aspects of drug research and development. Such exposure may not be possible for those working in larger companies, and as such, I believe it is a great learning environment for me as a novice in the industry. Concerning daily activities, one facet I feel that is rather different from the academic environment is that it is extremely matrixed. I interact with various professionals from different levels, disciplines and specialties and rely on them to make progress on our projects as a team. During my academic training, I was the project lead, project manager, and the assay staff. Of course there were collaborations within and out of the lab, but it was nowhere near the amount of interaction that encompasses/ensues my project/career path now.

Before I began the “transition” process from academia to industry, the process was quite daunting because it was filled with uncertainty. Thankfully, as mentioned above, I obtained ample help along the way. Between the seminars/workshops and many individuals who generously offered their personal time to coach me, I was able to attain a step-by-step instruction on how to best prepare for this process. This considerably alleviated my anxiety. Initially, I felt shy asking others for help, especially in one-on-one settings; however, every person I approached had welcomed my request, and did not hesitate in the least in providing the help I required. Many expressed that they were simply “paying it forward”, and that they understand the difficulty and complexity involving the adjustment and learning that ensues surrounding the transition process. If I were to give one piece of advice to those who are considering transitioning to industry, it would be, please don’t hesitate to ask for help early on. It will make your life considerably easier.



**Society for  
Leukocyte  
Biology**

*50th Annual Meeting*

**October 5-7, 2017**

The Westin Bayfront  
Vancouver, BC Canada



**LEUKOCYTE MEMORY: HEALTH AND DISEASE**

# SAVE THE DATE!

## **PROGRAM CHAIRS**

Lionel Ivashkiv, Hospital for Special Surgery  
Liwu Li, Virginia Tech

## **PLENARY TOPICS**

Memory of Tissue Location and Micro-environment  
Epigenetic Mechanisms of Memory in Innate Immune  
Cell Activation  
Epigenetic Memory in Lymphocytes  
Leukocyte Memory in Chronic Disease  
Leukocyte Memory in Infection and Injury

## **CONCURRENT TOPICS**

Microbiome in leukocyte memory  
Systems analyses of leukocyte memory  
Leukocyte Memory and Drug Development  
Systems biology of adaptive immune memory  
Metabolism in leukocyte memory  
Leukocyte memory in autoimmune disease  
Engineering analyses of leukocyte memory  
Best of Journal of Leukocyte Biology

## **INVITED SPEAKERS**

Ido Amit  
Yasmine Belkaid  
Danica Chen  
Mashkoo Choudhry  
Hogler Eltzschig  
Andrew Gewirtz  
Chris Glass  
Ajanda Goldrath sDaniel Irimia  
Lionel Ivashkiv  
Lewis Lanier  
Liwu Li  
Gioacchino Natoli  
Mihai Netea  
John O'Shea  
Virginia Pascual  
Gwendalyn Randolph  
Ellen Rothenberg  
Carla Rothlin  
Matthew Sleeman  
Ira Tabas