



THE AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
IMMUNOLOGISTS

AAI NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

Read the CEO's end-of-
year message, page 4

PLAN AHEAD FOR

IMMUNOLOGY2024™

MAY 3 – 7, 2024

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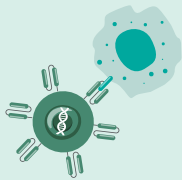
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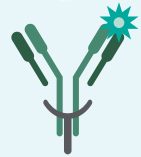
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Do you have a story or story idea for a future issue of the *AAI Newsletter*? Wish to receive AAI alerts? Send us an email! Interested in the latest news from AAI? Keep in touch through our social media channels. Follow us on social media and keep abreast of daily developments in the world of immunology.

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A Year of Momentum: AAI's Journey in 2023



Dear AAI Members,

As I approach the end of my first year as your CEO, I am excited to share some of AAI's recent transformative accomplishments. Each endeavor described here (and so many more for which there is not room to report) has contributed to the association's growth, responsiveness, and commitment to its members, setting the stage for a promising future.

As the field of immunology takes its rightful place in the center of society's largest health issues, AAI has an important role to play in ensuring that immunology is widely understood and applied responsibly for the sake of a healthier world. AAI is committed to this and to being a welcoming home for the community of immunologists who are doing this essential work. The steps we have taken toward these aims have been substantial, and I look forward to seeing the bright future to which they will lead us.

Strategic Planning. One of the pivotal highlights of the year has been the ongoing strategic planning process, a collaborative effort exemplified by a survey that was sent to more than 25,000 individuals this summer. The overwhelming response to the survey is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our members. Impressively, 34 percent of current members and 10 percent of nonmembers actively participated, providing invaluable perspectives that have informed our strategic decisions.

Along with the survey results, the involvement of all standing committees was instrumental in preparing the Council with the insights it needed to align AAI's strategic priorities with the wants and needs of our dynamic community. This inclusive approach ensured that the strategic plan would truly reflect the aspirations and expectations of those we serve.

Nominations and Volunteer Portal. Our commitment to member engagement is further evidenced by the changes we have made to the nominations process. Opening committee and Council nominations to our membership this fall provided members the explicit opportunity to recommend their colleagues for consideration for the slate. The eagerly awaited volunteer portal, set to open around the time of publication of this newsletter issue, is yet another avenue through which members can express their interest in getting

involved and contributing actively to our association's mission. As we move forward, I encourage you to explore the opportunities for committee service at volunteer.aai.org.

Public Awareness. November also featured the highly anticipated launch of our website for the public, www.ImmunologyExplained.org, the result of Council's commitment to AAI's externally facing mission to raise awareness of the field of immunology. A culmination of extensive efforts by the Public Communications Committee and AAI staff, this platform is designed to foster a deeper understanding of the connection between immunology and health by demonstrating the relationship between immunological discoveries and diagnostics, prevention, or treatments. We are working with AAI member social media champions and partner organizations to amplify our campaign by featuring message-specific content, provided by AAI, on their own channels and with their audiences. We have had a tremendous response from the membership already, and we are seeking to continue to expand our champion pool. If you would like to sign up to become an AAI Campaign Champion, visit www.aai.org/champion.

Operational Enhancements. A strategic staff restructuring has brought fresh perspectives to the team of association professionals who support AAI's members through the execution of top-notch programs and customer service. This restructure positions us to pursue the organization's strategic priorities; it has included both new hires and experienced AAI staff members taking on new roles. I am pleased to report that our financials remain robust, and staff are diligently working with the Finance Committee and Council to develop policies to ensure the responsible stewardship of our resources while reinvesting in the organization.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, let us also look ahead with optimism and a shared sense of purpose. The collaboration, dedication, and innovative spirit within AAI are truly remarkable. Together, we are shaping a future in which immunology is recognized as the dynamic field that it is, essential to health and well-being.

I wish you all a joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year.

With deepest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loretta L. Doan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Loretta L. Doan, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Gwen Fortune-Blakely Named Chief Membership and Engagement Officer of The American Association of Immunologists

Fortune-Blakely begins her tenure November 13



Gwen Fortune-Blakely, M.B.A., CAE, joined the AAI staff on November 13 as its new chief membership and engagement officer. Her impressive career spans more than 20 years and is marked by a consistent record of transforming organizations with a demonstrated ability to define vision; develop winning strategies; and create structures that galvanize teams toward

increasing awareness, enhancing engagement, and achieving sustainable growth.

“I am thrilled to welcome Gwen Fortune-Blakeley to AAI as our chief membership and engagement officer,” said AAI Chief Executive Officer Loretta L. Doan, Ph.D. “With her proven track record of enhancing brands and the member experience by building enterprise-wide marketing functions, inspiring and energizing teams through shared vision, and using a data-driven approach to improve outcomes, Gwen brings exactly the right mix of knowledge, experience, and expertise to integrate and synergize AAI’s communications, marketing, and membership engagement efforts. We look forward to the positive impact her leadership will have on AAI and the field of immunology.”

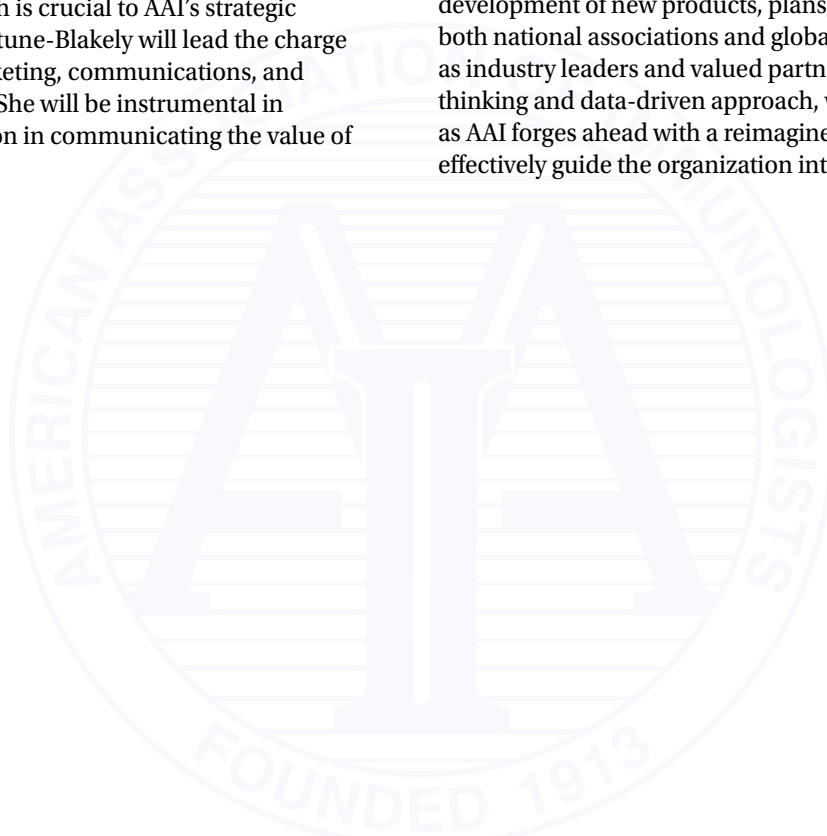
In this pivotal role, which is crucial to AAI’s strategic organizational plan, Fortune-Blakely will lead the charge in enhancing AAI’s marketing, communications, and membership strategies. She will be instrumental in fostering greater cohesion in communicating the value of

AAI’s work and mission, both internally and externally, to deepen engagement with AAI’s membership, extend the organization’s reach into adjacent and emerging fields, support revenue growth, and promote the essential role of immunologists in society.

Fortune-Blakely was most recently the vice president of external relations and marketing for the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC), where she served as a key member of the BPC executive team, entrusted with leading the development of enterprise strategies that played a pivotal role in building the BPC brand and expanding relationships with policy makers, industry leaders, and funders.

Other previous roles include serving as director of enterprise-wide marketing and sales at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, developing and driving the execution of enterprise strategy to strengthen engagement levels with members and increase awareness of the association’s value, products, and service offerings; as senior director of brand strategy and marketing integration for Marriott International, where she was responsible for the development of an integrated marketing communications plan for core Marriott brands; and as a senior brand manager at the Coca-Cola Company, where she was responsible for growing the Sprite brand in greater Europe.

Fortune-Blakeley’s vast experience with spearheading the development of new products, plans, and programs, enabling both national associations and global corporations to evolve as industry leaders and valued partners, as well as her strategic thinking and data-driven approach, will be indispensable as AAI forges ahead with a reimagined mission that will effectively guide the organization into the next decade.



The American Association of Immunologists



A Special Message to AAI Voting Members: 2024 AAI Election to Launch in January

Members encouraged to submit recommendations for nominees

Dear AAI Voting Member:

We are pleased to announce a new, earlier schedule for next year's AAI Election. The election will launch in mid-January and run for six weeks. This means the voting period for the 2024 AAI Election will fall earlier than in prior elections, when balloting typically occurred in March-April. One important result of this permanent change will be to facilitate announcing the newly elected officers, councilor, and committee members at the annual meeting.

The field of immunology is thriving, and it is an exciting time to be a scientist in this essential discipline.

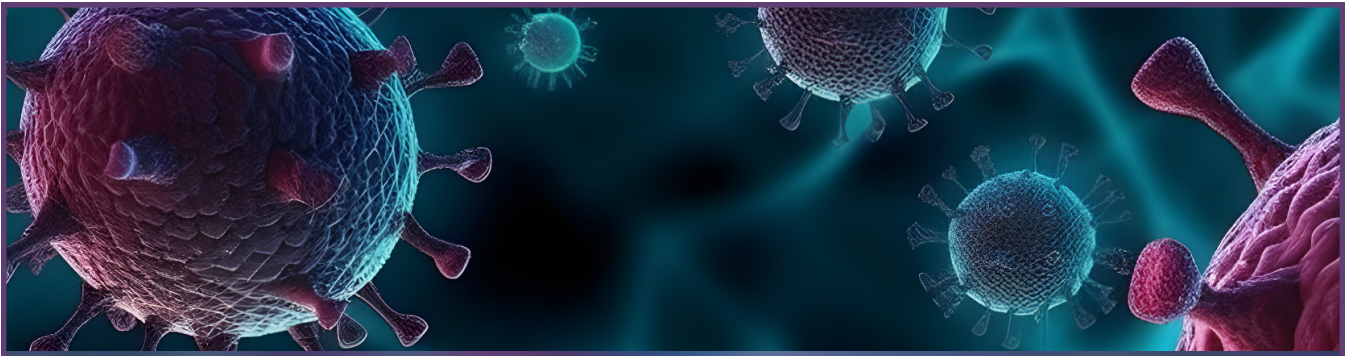
In these pivotal times, AAI relies more than ever on strong and visionary leaders to guide the association as it navigates and effects change. New for this year—we will solicit suggestions from the membership for individuals to be considered for the ballot. Nominee recommendations come from many sources, and the Nominating Committee considers all suggestions in the context of the organization's overall needs, its commitment to representing the diversity of the field, and its strategic priorities. Look for future alerts with instructions on how to submit recommendations of nominees for next year's open seats.

We look forward to your participation in the 2024 AAI Election process. As always, we gratefully acknowledge your role in determining those who will lead AAI into its future.

Sincerely,

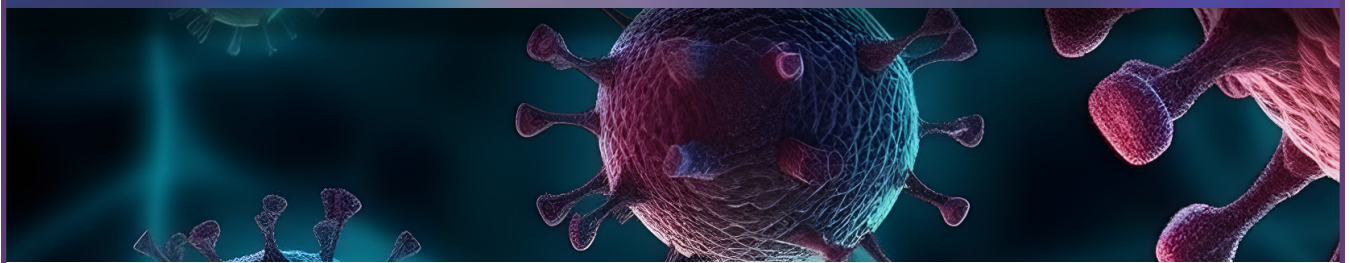
Loretta L. Doan, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Questions? Contact AAI at (301) 634-7178 or infoaai@aai.org.



IMMUNOLOGY EXPLAINED

An AAI public awareness campaign



AAI Launches Public Awareness Campaign!

The American Association of Immunologists, Inc., (AAI) has launched a new public awareness campaign, *Immunology Explained*.

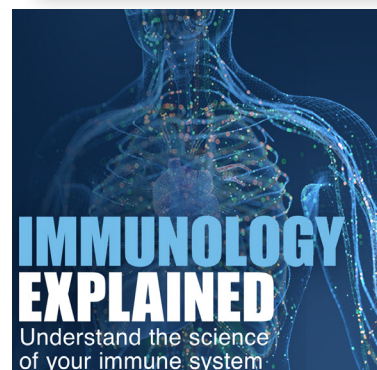
Immunology Explained was created to:

- give the public a trusted source of information about immunology
- help people better understand how their immune system works and its crucial link to every aspect of health
- equip them with information so they can make educated decisions related to health for themselves and their families.

AAI members, we need your help! Spread the AAI message and participate in educating the public by becoming an AAI Campaign Champion. For details, visit aai.org/Champion.



Visit immunologyexplained.org for more information.



Short-Term Funding Bills Enacted to Avert Shutdown

On November 16, President Biden signed a continuing resolution (CR) into law, averting a possible federal government shutdown. The CR, which was approved earlier that week by the Senate (87–11) and the House (336–95), maintains funding at fiscal year (FY) 2023 levels. Unlike most CRs, however, it is two-tiered, extending funding appropriated by four of the annual appropriations bills through January 19, 2024, and extending funding by the other eight annual appropriations bills through February 2, 2024. Prior to the enactment of this short-term funding bill, Congress approved a CR that funded federal government operations from October 1, 2023, through November 17, 2023.

Funding for federal agencies and programs supported by the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, which includes the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is extended through February 2. Under the CR, funding for NIH remains flat at ~\$47.5 billion.

Congress has yet to approve any of its 12 annual appropriations bills, necessitating the enactment of these CRs. While the latest spending bill temporarily keeps the federal government open, sharp political divisions and significant disagreements over spending levels persist on Capitol Hill. As a result, approving full-year spending bills for FY 2024 remains an uphill climb.

Although a CR is much less damaging to federal agencies like NIH than a government shutdown, it still creates a great deal of uncertainty. Under a CR, NIH Institutes and Centers set conservative paylines, often issue noncompeting research grant awards at a reduced level (generally 90 percent of the previously committed level), and are unable to start new activities that were not funded in the previous fiscal year.

AAI Participates in Rally for Medical Research Capitol Hill Day

AAI participated in the 11th annual Rally for Medical Research Capitol Hill Day (“Rally Hill Day”) in September. Rally Hill Day brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including academic researchers, those working in industry, and patients, to advocate for the shared goal of increasing NIH funding. This year’s Rally Hill Day featured more than 250 participants from 35 states. AAI has co-sponsored the event and sent representatives every year since its inception.

AAI member Rebecca Pompano, Ph.D. (AAI ’14), an associate professor at the University of Virginia, traveled to DC to meet with the Virginia congressional delegation. She was joined in these meetings by AAI Director of Government Affairs Jake Schumacher and a number of other advocates from her state.

Although the NIH “asks” were well received, congressional offices did offer many notes of caution about the challenges of providing increased NIH funding this year.

A reception to celebrate medical research was held the day before Rally Hill Day. It featured remarks by Senator (and 2013 AAI Public Service Awardee) Dick Durbin (D-IL) and NIH Acting Deputy Director Tara Schwetz, Ph.D., who graciously spoke with Dr. Pompano, Schumacher, and other reception attendees after her presentation.



Dr. Rebecca Pompano chats with Dr. Tara Schwetz at the Rally Hill Day reception.

Dr. Bertagnolli Confirmed as New NIH Director

AAI issues statement and sends letter of support



NIH Director
Dr. Monica Bertagnolli

On November 9, Monica Bertagnolli, M.D., was sworn in as the 17th director of NIH. Dr. Bertagnolli is the first surgeon and just the second woman to serve in the role. She replaces Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D., who had temporarily led the agency since the departure of Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., in December 2021.

Dr. Bertagnolli’s nomination was confirmed by the Senate on November 17 on a bipartisan vote of 62–36. That followed action by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, which advanced her nomination (by a vote of 15–6) in October. Before that vote, the committee held a confirmation hearing to learn about Dr. Bertagnolli and question her about her vision for the future of NIH. AAI sent a letter to Senate HELP Committee Chair Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Ranking Member Bill Cassidy (R-LA) in advance of the hearing strongly supporting Dr. Bertagnolli’s nomination.

Following President Biden's May 2023 announcement of his intent to nominate Dr. Bertagnolli, then-AAI President Mark M. Davis, Ph.D. (AAI '88), issued the following statement:

"AAI is delighted that President Biden has announced his intent to nominate Dr. Monica Bertagnolli to be the next director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In her short tenure as head of the National Cancer Institute, and before that as a professor, surgical oncologist, and physician-scientist whose research included tumor immunology, Dr. Bertagnolli has demonstrated leadership, vision, understanding, and compassion. AAI enthusiastically supports her nomination and is confident that she will be able to lead NIH, the broader biomedical workforce, and the American people into the future—with all the amazing scientific possibilities that lie ahead."

AAI congratulates Dr. Bertagnolli and looks forward to continuing to work with her in this important new role.

Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo Begins Tenure as NIAID Director



NIAID Director
Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo

On August 2, NIH announced that acting agency head Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D., had appointed Jeanne Marrazzo, M.D., M.P.H., to serve as the next Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). AAI President Akiko Iwasaki, Ph.D. (AAI '00), sent Dr. Marrazzo a congratulatory letter on behalf of AAI, offering AAI's assistance in advancing NIAID priorities, "including funding a

robust portfolio of immunological research, continuing to better understand, prevent, and treat COVID-19 and Long COVID, preparing for future pandemics, and strengthening global health." Dr. Marrazzo officially stepped into the role of NIAID Director, taking over for Acting Director Hugh Auchincloss, M.D. (AAI '83), in late September.

Dr. Marrazzo most recently served as the Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her research "focused on the human microbiome, especially as it relates to female reproductive tract infections and hormonal contraception; prevention

of HIV infection using biomedical interventions, including preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and microbicides; and the pathogenesis and management of bacterial vaginosis (BV), sexually transmitted diseases in HIV-infected persons, and management of antibiotic resistance in gonorrhea."

AAI looks forward to working with Dr. Marrazzo to advance the field of immunology, and biomedical research more broadly, in the coming years.

NIH Announces Upcoming Changes to Peer Review

NIH recently announced changes that it is implementing to simplify the peer review process (see <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-24-010.html>). The impetus for these changes, which will take effect for grant applications received on or after January 25, 2025, is a desire to put more weight on the quality of the science while deemphasizing the reputation of institutions and investigators.

The primary change is the consolidation of the five currently scored criteria of significance, innovation, approach, investigator, and environment, into three factors: 1) Importance of the Research (previously "significance" and "innovation"); 2) Rigor and Feasibility (previously "approach"); and 3) Expertise and Resources (previously "investigator" and "environment"). The first two factors will be scored, while the third will be "evaluated for sufficiency only," and will not be scored.

NIH proposed this revised peer review framework earlier this year and sought feedback from stakeholders through a Request for Information. In its March comments, AAI expressed support for this effort to reduce implicit bias and guide reviewers to evaluate investigators and their environments in the context of the science, rather than on reputations or preconceived notions. The AAI comments (see <https://shorturl.at/ckDLQ>) also thanked NIH for seeking stakeholder feedback and urged the agency to develop a clear and well-organized implementation plan, as well as timely and adequate training for all involved.

NIH has said that many more details are still to come, including a timeline, information about trainings, and data analysis metrics that will be used to evaluate the changes.

Become an AAI Public Policy Fellow and Visit Capitol Hill with AAI!



The AAI Public Policy Fellows Program (PPFP) provides early career researchers (within 15 years of their terminal degrees) with the opportunity to participate in the public policy and advocacy activities of AAI. Become an advocate for biomedical research, for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and for your profession . . . there has never been a more important time for you to speak up and speak out!

PPFP participants meet monthly with AAI public affairs staff and select members of the AAI Committee on Public Affairs to learn about the role of the President, Congress, and the NIH in determining and implementing the policies that affect biomedical research. AAI also teaches Fellows how to advocate for, and help shape, the policies that guide their careers, and engages them in special projects, including developing and refining resources for Capitol Hill visits. Through the PPFP, you can do all of this without leaving your job, and you will “graduate” ready to take on whatever lies ahead!

The fellowship year culminates in a trip to Washington, DC, to visit your Congressional representatives to describe your science, discuss the importance of immunology, and make your best case for increased funding for NIH!



Apply by January 18, 2024

Visit www.aai.org/Public-Affairs/PPFP for details.

**For more information or to apply, contact Director of Government Affairs
Jake Schumacher (jschumacher@aai.org).**

“The Public Policy Fellows Program (PPFP) is a fun, impactful experience that I wish I could do twice! Walking on Capitol Hill and meeting my representative and senators is an experience I will never forget! NIH support in Congress is not universal. The PPFP offers researchers a chance to show Congress the importance of scientific research. Until the PPFP, I had no idea how empowering and impactful visiting my representative and senators on Capitol Hill could be. The PPFP gave me the confidence and knowledge to become a successful advocate. I firmly believe that all scientists should join this program and learn how to become successful advocates. If scientists don’t advocate for funding, we can’t complain when research funding doesn’t increase.”

— **Nicholas Hess, Ph.D. (2019–2020 PPFP), Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Madison, WI**



“The PPFP offers fellows a bit of everything: interactions with fellow scientists, insight as to how science is funded, and an opportunity to play an important role in helping our elected officials better understand the importance of scientific research. Through the PPFP, I gained skills and now work more closely with my state’s elected officials to move forward science-backed legislation to improve vaccination rates in our community.”

— **Stephanie James, Ph.D., M.B.A. (2012–2013 PPFP), Associate Professor, Rueckert-Hartmann College of Health Professions, Denver, CO**

“The PPFP exposed me to health science policy and helped me appreciate the intricate process that governs biomedical science research funding. The opportunity to connect with like-minded folks across U.S. institutions and with my federal government representatives was a valuable experience. Moving forward, I feel better equipped to be a positive advocate for American biomedical science policy and to enact positive change on a local and national level. Jake, Lauren, and the AAI Committee on Public Affairs were excellent mentors and colleagues throughout the process.”

— **Cody C. McHale, Ph.D. (2021–2022 PPFP), Assistant Professor of Medicine, Levine Cancer Institute Atrium Health, Charlotte, NC**



“The PPFP was a great experience to learn about public policy and connect with talented scientists nationwide. The day on Capitol Hill was genuinely fun—a rush of adrenaline talking with Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and an unexpected ride on the Capitol subway system! When interviewing for a senior management role in academia, I successfully harnessed my PPFP experience to demonstrate the importance of concise communication (distilling complex research into key points) to advocate for change.”

— **Srin Ranasinghe, Ph.D. (2016–2017 PPFP), Associate Director, Center for Immuno-Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA**

“The PPFP changed how I understood the biomedical enterprise by providing insight into how policymakers and STEM advocates engage with each other to improve training and public health. On a tactical level, it was very rewarding to have learned skills through the PPFP that enabled me to effectively work closely with other trainees to help advocate for NIH funding.”

— **Caleph B. Wilson, Ph.D. (2011–2012 PPFP), Director, Axion Biosystems, New York, NY**



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Bogunovic Awarded the 2023 ICIS-Luminex John R. Kettman Award for Excellence in Cytokine & Interferon Research



Dusan Bogunovic, Ph.D. (AAI '22), received the 2023 ICIS-Luminex John R. Kettman Award for Excellence in Cytokine & Interferon Research in recognition of his seminal discoveries in the field of cytokine biology and his remarkable international reputation as an immunologist and geneticist with a focus on inborn disorders of the immune system.

Dr. Bogunovic is an associate professor at the Precision Immunology Institute, Mindich Child Health and Development Institute, Icahn Genomics Institute, and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS). He also serves as a director of the Center for Inborn Errors of Immunity at ISMMS. His lab aims to improve understanding of the human immune system by studying rare auto-inflammatory syndromes, developing broad spectrum antiviral therapeutics, and understanding the immune system in Down syndrome. For more information about his research, visit labs.icahn.mssm.edu/bogunoviclab.

Read the full announcement at www.cytokinesociety.org/dusan-bogunovic-2023-mid-career-award.

Yount Named the 2023 ICIS Mentorship Award Winner



Jacob S. Yount, Ph.D. (AAI '14), received the 2023 ICIS Mentorship Award. The ICIS Mentorship Award recognizes ICIS members who have made significant contributions to the career development of trainees through outstanding mentoring. This award is based on the training experiences and success of the

nominee's mentees rather than the mentor's personal career achievements.

Dr. Yount is an associate professor at Ohio State University College of Medicine. The Yount laboratory aims to understand and combat human respiratory and cardiac viral diseases, with a focus on influenza virus and SARS-CoV-2 infections. For more information about his research, visit www.sites.google.com/view/yountlab/home.

Read the full announcement at www.cytokinesociety.org/jacob-s-yount-is-the-2023-icis-mentorship-award-winner.

Kasper Wins 2023 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research



Dennis L. Kasper, M.D. (AAI '74), received the 2023 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research. This award recognizes scientists whose research has advanced the study and understanding of the microbiome, bacteria, and how they communicate in the body.

Dr. Kasper is a professor at Harvard Medical School and senior physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital. His research integrates microbiology, immunology, structural carbohydrate/lipid chemistry, biochemistry, and genetics. For more information about his research, visit kasperlab.hms.harvard.edu/people/dennis-l-kasper.

Read the full announcement at www.albanymed.org/albany/albany-prize/2023-winners.

Jaffee Receives the 2024 Richard V. Smalley Memorial Award



Elizabeth M. Jaffee, M.D., FAACR (AAI '97), has received the 2024 Richard V. Smalley Memorial Award.

Dr. Jaffee is the Dana and Albert "Cubby" Broccoli professor in oncology and deputy director of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University, as well as inaugural director of the Convergence

Institute and associate director of the Bloomberg Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy. She is also a professor of pathology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, co-director of the Skip Viragh Center for Pancreas Cancer Clinical Research and Patient Care, and deputy director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. Her research includes the development of innovative approaches to antigen discovery and the identification of two novel pancreatic cancer proteins that are promising targets for immunotherapy, mesothelin, and Annexin A2. For more information about her research, visit www.hopkinsmedicine.org/profiles/details/elizabeth-jaffee.

Read the full announcement at www.sitcancer.org/aboutsitc/awards/jaffee-award.

Three AAI Members Elected to the National Academy of Medicine

The following AAI members were elected in 2023 to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), which recognizes those who are the top of their field, reflecting the height of professional achievement and commitment to service. AAI congratulates them on this honor!

Read the full announcement at www.nam.edu/national-academy-of-medicine-elects-100-new-members-2023.



Darrell J. Irvine,
Ph.D.
(AAI '02)



Timothy A. Springer, Ph.D.,
DFAAI (AAI '79)



Jedd D. Wolchok,
M.D., Ph.D.
(AAI '12)

IMMUNOLOGY2024™

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF IMMUNOLOGISTS



IMPORTANT DATES

REGISTRATION

Registration Opens Now Open
Early Registration Discount Ends April 4, 2024

HOUSING

Discounted Housing Reservations Now Open
Discounted Hotel Rates End April 10, 2024

IMMUNOLOGY2024™ attendees receive deep discounts on hotels in the official AAI room block. Reserve yours now at immunology2024.aai.org. Book now, pay later!



MCCORMICK PLACE | MAY 3–7, 2024 | CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

APPLY TODAY:

FASEB's New Diversity Programs

FASEB is further advancing its diversity and inclusivity efforts by launching the FASEB Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) Program, the first-of-its-kind to provide a suite of diversity and inclusivity programs for working scientists throughout the life sciences.

To enhance diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion in the life sciences, FASEB's new programs for working scientists throughout the life sciences include:



FASEB CARES

Career Advancement and Research Excellence Support

provides financial support to alleviate financial burdens associated with caregiving, enabling FASEB society members to continue their scientific training, professional development, and career progression.



FASEB FRIENDS

Fostering Recruitment, Innovation, Engagement, and Diversity in Sciences

is an ongoing outreach initiative that strives to increase diversity among FASEB and its member societies by promoting career advancement of the biological and biomedical research workforce from historically excluded communities.



FASEB LEAD

Leadership Engagement and Appreciation of Differences

is a reverse mentoring program that pairs senior-level professionals with junior-level mentors to gain different perspectives of individual, group, and cultural views within the workplace and the scientific research communities.

LEARN MORE: www.faseb.org/diversity



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

AAI Outreach Program Update

The AAI Outreach Program provides career development opportunities for young investigators by supporting podium and poster presentation awards at member-organized immunology meetings throughout the United States and internationally. The program most recently provided sponsorship at the conferences highlighted in this section.

International Eosinophil Society (IES) Biennial Symposium

The 12th Biennial Symposium of the International Eosinophil Society (IES) was held July 11–15, 2023, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. AAI supported 10 Young Investigator Awards at the IES meeting for podium and poster presentations.

The awardees for podium presentations were:

- Dominique Gatti, graduate student, University of Victoria, Canada
- Immaculeta Osuji, graduate student, University of Cincinnati
- Annalise Psaila, graduate student, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- Elizavetta Razvarina, graduate student, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- Natalie Rhone, graduate student, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- Hiroki Tomizawa, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow, Akita University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan

The awardees for poster presentations were:

- Seung Kim, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

- Inge Jacobs, graduate student, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Julien Catherine, graduate student, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium
- Rodaba Rahim, graduate student, IRTA fellow, NIH, NIAID

FASEB Summer Research Conference on Autoimmunity

The 24th FASEB Summer Research Conference on Autoimmunity was held July 30–August 4, 2023, in Southbridge, MA. AAI supported 10 awardees for podium presentations at the conference.

The awardees for podium presentations were:

- Judith Ashouri-Sinha, M.D., assistant professor, University of California, San Francisco
- Jishnu Das, Ph.D. (AAI '20), assistant professor, University of Pittsburgh
- Diana Dou, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow, Stanford University
- Kyleigh Petersen, Ph.D. (AAI '23), postdoctoral fellow, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
- Timsse Raj, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany



AAI Young Investigator Awardees at the International Eosinophil Society (IES) Biennial Symposium with other IES awardees.

OUTREACH

- John Ray, Ph.D. (AAI '22), assistant professor, Benaroya Research Institute
- Arja Ray, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow, University of California, San Francisco
- Victoria Rael, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow, UC Berkeley
- Brian Stadinski, Ph.D., assistant professor, University of Massachusetts Medical School
- Christine Wardell, Ph.D. (AAI '22), assistant professor, The University of British Columbia, Canada

Colorado Immunology Conference (CIC)

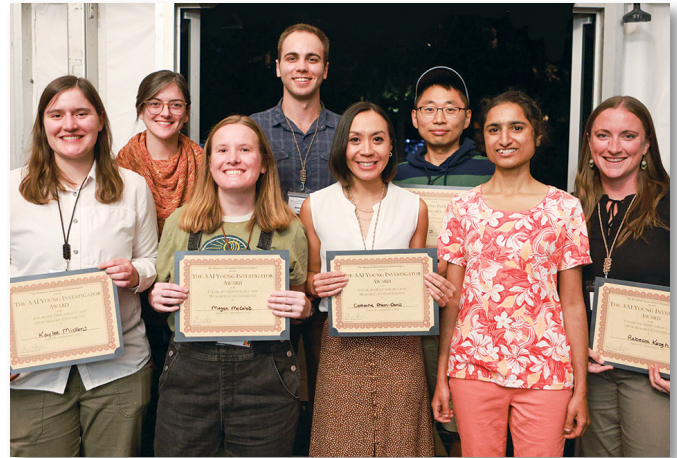
The 22nd Annual Colorado Immunology and Microbiology Conference was held August 30–September 1, 2023, in Vail, CO. AAI supported 10 Young Investigator Awards for poster presentations at the meeting.

All of the awardees were from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Congratulations to:

- Flavia Costa, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow
- Catherine Danis, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow
- Marina Good, graduate student
- Wei Ji, Ph.D. (AAI '23), postdoctoral fellow
- Amita Kashyap, (AAI '22), graduate student
- Rebecca Keogh, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow
- Joshua Kirsch, graduate student
- Cormac Lucas, graduate student
- Megan McCaleb, graduate student
- Kaylee Mickens, graduate student



AAI Young Investigator Awardees at the FASEB Summer Research Conference on Autoimmunity are pictured (top row from left) Petersen, Stadinski, Dou, Rael, A. Ray, J. Ray, Das; and (bottom row from left) Montserrat Anguera (meeting co-organizer), Ashouri-Sinha, and Wardell. Raj is not pictured.



AAI Young Investigator Awardees at the 22nd Annual Colorado Immunology and Microbiology Conference

Connect with AAI!

Want to hear the latest from The American Association of Immunologists? You can find AAI on social media:



@ImmunologyAAI



@AAIImmunology



[linkedin.com/company/the-american-association-of-immunologists/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-american-association-of-immunologists/)

If you'd like to join the AAI email list, please email infoaai@aai.org.

AAI use of any social media site/platform does not constitute AAI endorsement or approval of the opinions expressed by the owners, founders, CEOs, leadership, or other users of these sites/platforms.



You have the power.

Your membership in the American Association of Immunologists helps advance the field—and your career.

Being a part of AAI enables you to take an active role in helping to shape the future of immunology and attain your professional goals. You'll stand with members representing immunological research concerns on Capitol Hill. Plus, you gain access to:

- The best and brightest minds today.
- The world's largest annual all-immunology meeting.
- *The Journal of Immunology*, the preeminent peer-reviewed journal in the field, and *ImmunoHorizons*, the open-access, fully peer-reviewed AAI journal.
- Many occasions and opportunities to present your research.
- Awards/fellowships/grants to support talented scientists in every career stage.

To learn more about how your professional life is enriched by membership in AAI, call 301.634.7195 or visit www.aai.org today.





AAI Programs to Benefit Your Lab's Current or Future Research

AAI Careers in Immunology Fellowship

KEY DATES	APPLICATIONS OPEN	APPLICATIONS CLOSE
	JANUARY 15	MARCH 15

These fellowships provide AAI member PIs with one year of salary support for a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow in their labs. Member PIs in good standing with less than \$250,000 (excluding PI's salary) in annual direct costs are eligible to apply.

Selection is based on the potential of the trainee, merit of the project, quality of the training environment, and financial need.

Direct inquiries to fellowships@aai.org.

AAI Travel for Techniques Award Program

AWARDS CYCLE	APPLICATIONS OPEN	APPLICATIONS CLOSE
WINTER	DECEMBER 15	FEBRUARY 15
SPRING	APRIL 15	JUNE 15
FALL	AUGUST 15	OCTOBER 15

The Travel for Techniques Award is given to member PIs, reimbursing up to \$1,500 in expenses for travel to learn a new technique. Member PIs in good standing with less than \$250,000 (excluding PI's salary) in annual direct costs are eligible to apply.

Direct inquiries to awards@aai.org.

If the application deadline falls on a weekend day or a federal holiday, applications will be due on the next regular business day.

The American Association of Immunologists provides robust support for scientists through an array of fellowships, career awards, and travel grants. For complete details, visit www.aai.org/awards.

AAI Education Committee Highlight: Teaching Tools

The Immunology Teaching Interest Group (ITIG) was created by the AAI Education Committee as an informal group comprised of past speakers and attendees of the ITIG sessions, including current immunology educators spanning a range of institutions and levels. It serves as a resource for novel teaching tools and practices that can be implemented in courses to enhance immunology education. Because of the great interest in this topic, the AAI Newsletter features “Teaching Tools” articles highlighting ITIG presentations.

The Creation and Use of Analogies as an Effective Tool for Teaching Immunology Concepts



Aimee Pugh-Bernard, Ph.D. (AAI '18)
Assistant Professor, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, School of Medicine, Aurora, CO

Learning complex immunological concepts is challenging for many students. They often are overwhelmed by jargon, complex concepts, and detail associated with each immunological process. Using existing knowledge of the familiar can help build associations toward learning content. To facilitate the first step toward grasping complex concepts, I have developed and incorporated a wide range of analogies into my teaching. The use of analogies while teaching immunology allows the unknown to become familiar and acts as an aid toward deeper understanding.

Analogies were used as a teaching tool in immunology courses offered at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, including dental, medical, physician assistant, and graduate studies. Analogies were used during every class session to introduce, explain, and enhance the learning and retention of a wide variety of complex immunological concepts. Examples of analogies used include describing opsonins as “chocolate sprinkles” that make pathogens “tastier” to phagocytic cells, neutrophils as the “first responders” to damage and infection, and phagocytic cells as the “clean-up crew” of the immune system.

During each class session, students were encouraged to actively participate through the creation of their own analogies to enhance their learning and comprehension. To extend the use of this teaching tool beyond the classroom, students were further encouraged to develop a collection of analogies to communicate complex scientific concepts to the general public and/or medical treatments to future patients. One impressive example of a student-generated analogy is, “Adjuvants are like your morning cup of coffee—your body

could get activated on its own, but the coffee really amps you up like an adjuvant does to a vaccine.”

Results from an anonymous survey (n=155) revealed that the majority of respondents found analogies to be highly effective for a variety of purposes. While finding analogies useful for understanding and retaining information presented during classes, students also reported that analogies could be used:

- as an important tool for communicating with patients about complex medical conditions and associated treatment options
- as a tool for communicating scientific research and discoveries to nonscientists
- by immunology students to both enhance their learning of the content and provide them with a solid foundation from which to build and augment complex concepts with increased detail and added complexity.

The incorporation of analogies into the learning process can be used in any immunology classroom, from undergraduate to graduate or professional students. The use of analogies in my immunology classrooms across the medical campus enhanced the comprehension of complex concepts and served as a model for effective science communication while speaking to the general public about scientific discoveries and advancements and/or future patients about medical conditions and/or associated treatments.

Our role as immunology educators has become more challenging since the COVID-19 pandemic. Although misinformation, disinformation, and conspiracy theories are not new, the rate at which the public consumes them has increased. As immunology educators, our goal has always been to help our students understand immunology. I would like to recommend an additional goal; that we also strive to use our classrooms as a space to train the next generation of scientists and healthcare professionals to communicate immunology to the nonscientist general public in a way that is relatable and easy to understand. I have found that a well-crafted analogy is the perfect teaching and science communication tool for the mission!

Summer Opportunity for High School Science Teachers

AAI HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM IN IMMUNOLOGY

Looking for creative ways to bring the excitement of discovery to your classroom? Participate in the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) High School Teachers Summer Research Program. You'll enjoy hands-on experience in cutting-edge research, using the latest tools and techniques. And you'll take home a number of new lab exercises for use in your classes.

This national program supports high school science teachers' participation in a 4–6 week summer research experience in the laboratories of AAI members. If you are selected,

- AAI will locate an AAI member in your area to serve as your mentor for the summer.
- You will receive a stipend for working in the laboratory of your AAI mentor.
- An educational consultant will assist you with the development of an innovative curriculum to be shared nationally.
- You will be supported to attend a national professional meeting to present your experiences, and
- Prior to starting in the lab, you will be supported in attending the 3-day AAI Introductory Course in Immunology, Part I, held in July in Los Angeles, California. There, you'll learn the basic principles of the discipline. (www.aai.org/IntroCourse).



Apply today for this exciting professional development opportunity! Applications are due March 15.

Complete details and application forms can be found at:

www.aai.org/HSTProgram

Contact **Mary T. Litzinger, Ph.D.**, with any questions: mlitzinger@aai.org or **301.634.7820**.



AAI is a professional association dedicated to advancing the discipline of immunology and representing the interests of scientists engaged in research in the field. AAI sponsors the High School Teachers Summer Research Program in Immunology in an effort to cultivate the next generation of talented investigators and enhance public understanding of the critical nature of basic research to human health.

Curricula from past program participants are available to other teachers through an archive maintained on the AAI website.

Find ideas for incorporating the excitement of immunology into your classroom!

Recent topics include:

- *A Bioinformatics Approach to Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and Autoimmunity*
- *Exploring the Link Between Regulatory T Cells and Tumor Growth: A Lesson in the Immune System and Cancer*
- *How Can Students Combine Computational Biology Tools with a Laboratory Model to Analyze Changes in the Human Gut Microbiome?*
- *Vaccines and Herd Immunity*

Take advantage of this free educational resource!

To view the complete teaching material archive, visit www.aai.org/HSTArchive.

The American Association of Immunologists



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(301) 634-7178
www.aai.org

Lessons from the Annual Meeting Roundtables

Each year at The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) annual meeting, the Committee on the Status of Women, the Education Committee, and the Minority Affairs Committee offer roundtable sessions that give early career immunologists an opportunity to speak with experienced immunologists and other science professionals about a wide range of career topics—everything from what it is like to work in a particular job setting to how to address challenges in advancing one's career. The advice shared in these mini-mentoring sessions is invaluable. The AAI Newsletter has invited mentors from these sessions to share their knowledge with our readership.

International Opportunities in Immunology



Henrique Borges da Silva
Assistant Professor, Department of Immunology, Mayo Clinic Arizona

During IMMUNOLOGY2022™, I was invited together with my colleagues Weishan Huang (Louisiana State University), Damian Maseda (University of Pennsylvania), and Jacques Robert (University of Rochester), to act as

table leaders for the Careers in Science Roundtables. This was an outstanding and already traditional AAI initiative offering young trainees an opportunity to chat with professionals about many aspects of their career development. I was lucky to have attended this session at IMMUNOLOGY2014™ when I was still a young doctoral student from Brazil. Because of this experience, I was eager to contribute to the discussion, but from the other side of the table.

When the organizers approached me with a suggested topic, I was initially surprised to be selected to co-lead the “International Opportunities” discussion. The usual goal of this topic is to offer students and trainees in the United States an overview of overseas research opportunities. The first thing that crossed my mind was, “well, my career trajectory is kind of *the opposite*.” I trained overseas and moved to the United States, like many researchers around the world do. But upon reflection, it occurred to me that this selection made perfect sense: I *do know* quite a bit about how research is conducted overseas. I had been trained in Brazil and spent part of my Ph.D. program in Portugal. Moreover, many young international researchers attend the AAI annual meetings, and many of them are planning to move to the United States to continue their careers—so they understandably have many questions about how things work here. This is pretty much the same position I was in back in 2014!

At IMMUNOLOGY2022™, I co-led a table with Dr. Huang. Six young trainees joined us, and initially they were quite shy (or they were hungry and wanted to eat their boxed lunches).

Soon enough, questions started to arise from this very diverse group of trainees. Three were students from the United States who wanted to know more about research opportunities in Australia. As luck would have it, I had emailed an Australian friend that is currently a postdoc in the United States earlier that week, asking her to explain *everything* related to Australian immunology career paths. The information she shared with me was still fresh in my mind.

Australia is a very interesting country when it comes to science career development. It offers great opportunities for postdoctoral research (in many ways better than the United States), but the career progression into independence is a little harder. As we discussed these details at the table, the conversation evolved into a more general discussion about the hot topic of the day: “What should I look for in an international postdoc position?” Hey, postdocs still exist! This topic also caught the attention of the other three young researchers at our table. They were all international students planning to apply for postdoctoral positions in the United States. (Judging by the amount of job postings I had seen during the conference, I was surprised they were not hired *during* our roundtable session.)

What to look for in an international postdoc position is not an easy question, and there is no “boilerplate” answer to it, but Weishan and I believed it was the most important question for all of the young researchers at our table. It ultimately depends on many factors including which research subfield (and labs) you are passionate about and which other life factors are important to you. The discussion revolved around these factors for quite some time, and from that we developed the following important points to be taken into consideration:

1. Regardless of where you are going, immigration support is crucial—both from the institution and from your potential mentor.
2. Pay attention to country-specific rules and “normal” career paths. Research institutions and career progression are structured very differently. Be aware of what your options are for fellowships and career development grants. Compare, for example, the United States, Australia, and

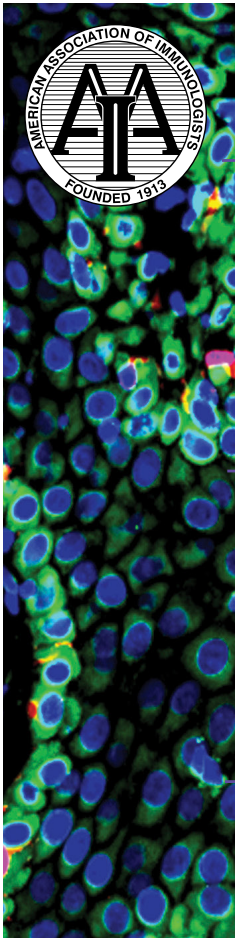
the Netherlands. In the United States, an international postdoc will not be eligible for any NIH fellowships except for the K99/R00 mechanism; however, many U.S. private institutes offer fellowships with no citizenship restrictions whatsoever. So look for all options!

3. Negotiate your salary if possible! Many trainees moving to the United States from other countries are not accustomed to negotiating anything, and may even be frowned upon by a trainee's culture. Conversely, Americans moving overseas should research whether it is appropriate to negotiate salary in the country they are considering.
4. When interviewing for a lab, do not only consider the research. You will be, in most cases, quite lonely and isolated at the beginning of an international postdoc. It is a difficult choice for many to leave their home country to advance their knowledge and scientific career. Therefore, pay attention to the lab dynamics! Are the trainees *happy* (or happy enough)? Is the environment healthy? *Always* chat with current and past lab members if possible. Is the mentor supportive of international trainees? Will you have flexibility to visit your home country, if needed or wanted? Is the city and area welcoming? Those are some factors everyone should have in mind.

Overall, I think the roundtables discussion on International Opportunities was enlightening for our table attendees. Choosing a career path and a lab is, after all, a personal decision, and many of the factors we advised them to think about depend on one's comfort level.

This is well-illustrated by my journey and Weishan's. One of the students asked each of us about our respective trajectories in science. We shared our own experiences and concluded that while each path was very distinct, we are each very happy in our scientific careers!

There is no linear path to success. One person can choose to be under the same mentor for 10+ years and be a prolific scientist. Another can be in a mentored position for five years before reaching independence. And another person can be in multiple mentored positions and only then reach success. There is nothing wrong with any of these paths. The most important thing, perhaps, is to be open to new opportunities that arise, while trying to balance this with staying true to original plans and goals. This is true for everyone, but especially for researchers working abroad. Altogether, this was a great experience, and I look forward to serving as a table leader in the future.



2024 AAI Courses in Immunology

Introductory Course in Immunology

July 9–14, 2024

UCLA Luskin Conference Center
Los Angeles, California

Advanced Course in Immunology

July 28–August 2, 2024

The Westin Copley Place
Boston, Massachusetts

Visit www.aai.org/ImmunologyCourses
for more information.



PLAN AHEAD FOR

IMMUNOLOGY2024™



INFORMATION TO HELP YOU PLAN YOUR
ATTENDANCE AT IMMUNOLOGY2024™

Mark your calendar—IMMUNOLOGY2024™ will be held
May 3–7 in Chicago, IL. The 107th AAI annual meeting
will feature incredible science in the Windy City!

[IMMUNOLOGY2024.AAI.ORG](https://immunology2024.aai.org)

Plan Ahead for IMMUNOLOGY2024™

Website

Visit immunology2024.aai.org to explore the scientific program, abstract submission and abstract-driven sessions, career advancement sessions, and events. You will also find information about travel awards, social events, registration, discounted hotel accommodations, and visiting Chicago. If you missed the **IMMUNOLOGY2024™** Call for Abstracts, you can download, print, or email it from this site.

Dates and Location

IMMUNOLOGY2024™ will be held May 3–7, 2024, at McCormick Place, West Hall, in Chicago, IL. Temperatures in May average 66 degrees for highs and 53 for lows, offering visitors beautiful spring days to enjoy the River Walk, Navy Pier, the 606, and the city's many other outdoor attractions. For information on sights, things to do, and places to dine, visit www.choosechicago.com.

Other important dates:

December 5, 2023

Abstract Submission (opened October 17) Closes
Travel Awards and Grants Applications Due

December 12, 2023

Registration Opens

April 4, 2024

Early Registration Discount Ends

April 12, 2024

Discounted Hotel Rates End

Scientific Program



The **President's Address** by AAI President **Akiko Iwasaki, Ph.D. (AAI '00)**, officially starts the meeting on Friday evening, May 3. Dr. Iwasaki's talk is entitled "Learning Immunology from Viral Infections." The 2024 AAI Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented during this event, and the 2024 Distinguished Fellows of AAI will be recognized.

On Day 4 of the meeting (Monday), Iwasaki will chair the **President's Symposium**, "The Immune System in Homeostasis and Disease." This session will feature leaders in the field, including **Yasmine Belkaid, Ph.D. (AAI '13)**, **Susan M. Kaeck, Ph.D. (AAI '04)**, **Marc K. Jenkins, Ph.D. ('88)**, and **Diane J. Mathis, Ph.D. (AAI '99)**. The 2024 AAI Excellence in Mentoring Award will also be presented during this event.

Each full day of the meeting concludes with a **Distinguished Lecture** presented by one of three outstanding scientists: **Christopher A. Hunter, Ph.D. (AAI '96)**, **Marco Colonna, M.D. (AAI '02)**, and **Shannon J. Turley, Ph.D. (AAI '05)**.

Career awards presentations and lectures are always an important part of our program. In addition to the awards already mentioned, we will also recognize the recipients of the AAI ASPIRE Awards, AAI-BD Biosciences Investigator Award, AAI-BioLegend Herzenberg Award, AAI Distinguished Service Award, the new AAI Lancefield Mid-Career Achievement Award, AAI-Steinman Award for Human Immunology Research, the AAI-Thermo Fisher Meritorious Career Award, and the AAI Vanguard Award and Lecture.

Eight Major Symposia, each featuring seven speakers, will address topics of immediate interest—and for the first time this year, AAI member graduate students and postdoctoral fellows have the opportunity to be selected to present in these symposia. Sessions organized by NIH institutes/centers, guest societies from around the world representing multiple subdisciplines, and many AAI committees will present intriguing research. This dynamic lineup of exciting science and more can be viewed at immunology2024.aai.org.

Abstracts

The most interactive part of any scientific meeting is the presentation of unpublished data in the form of abstracts. Select abstracts will be presented in podium presentations (Block Symposia and Major Symposia), and all abstracts will be featured in Poster Sessions in the Exhibit Hall. Poster Sessions will be scheduled twice daily during dedicated times, unopposed by any other sessions.

Abstract submission opened on October 17, 2023, and will close on December 5, 2023. To submit an abstract, visit immunology2024.aai.org/abstracts.

New this year!

- Abstract submission dates are earlier than usual
- Regular abstract submission is free for AAI members (late-breaking abstract submission is not)
- AAI trainee members (graduate students and postdoctoral fellows only) can submit for selection to present in Major Symposia. To be considered, the trainee must be the first author of the abstract; a current AAI member at the time of abstract submission; and, if selected in March, a member through December 31, 2024.

Abstract topic categories include:

- Antigen Processing and Presentation
- Basic Autoimmunity
- Cellular Adhesion, Migration, and Inflammation
- Corporate Science
- Cytokines and Chemokines and their Receptors
- Hematopoiesis and Immune System Development
- Immediate Hypersensitivity, Asthma, and Allergic Responses
- Immune Mechanisms of Human Disease
- Immune Response Regulation: Cellular Mechanisms
- Immune Response Regulation: Molecular Mechanisms
- Immunology Education
- Innate Immune Responses and Host Defense: Cellular Mechanisms
- Innate Immune Responses and Host Defense: Molecular Mechanisms
- Lymphocyte Differentiation and Peripheral Maintenance
- Microbial, Parasitic, and Fungal Immunology
- Mucosal and Regional Immunology
- Technological Innovations in Immunology
- Therapeutic Approaches to Autoimmunity
- Transplantation Immunology
- Tumor Immunology
- Vaccines and Immunotherapy
- Veterinary and Comparative Immunology
- Viral Immunology



Committee-Sponsored Sessions and Events

AAI Committees host symposia, workshops, lectures, and events that address the most recent advances in their specialty areas of immunology research, as well as issues in public policy and career development. The following are being planned for **IMMUNOLOGY2024™**:

Clinical Immunology Committee

- Special Topics in Clinical Immunology

Committee on Public Affairs

- Committee on Public Affairs special session

Committee on the Status of Women

- Careers in Science Lecture and Roundtables
- AAI Lancefield Mid-Career Achievement Award and Lecture

Education Committee

- Careers in Biotech: Panel Discussion and Networking
- Immunology Teaching Interest Group
- Sip and Learn: Speed Networking with Immunology Educators (co-sponsored with *ImmunoHorizons*)

Membership Committee

- New Member Reception (*by invitation only*)

Minority Affairs Committee

- Careers Roundtables and Speed Networking Session
- MAC Social Hour (*by invitation only*)
- AAI Vanguard Award and Lecture

Program Committee

- Back to School: A Review of Four Fast-Moving Fields

Publications Committee

- Spotlight on AAI Journals
- How to Review a Manuscript

Public Communications Committee

- How to Give an Effective Media Interview

Veterinary Immunology Committee

- Technologies that Enhance the Application of Non-traditional Animal Models for Improved Translational Research

Career Development

In addition to the latest scientific advances in the field, **IMMUNOLOGY2024™** will offer professional development sessions for scientists at every career stage. Two perennially popular sessions are the **Careers in Science Lecture and Roundtables** (sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Women) and the **Careers Roundtables and Speed Networking Session** (sponsored by the AAI Minority Affairs Committee). These interactive sessions feature experienced scientists ready to answer your career questions and lead discussions on many career-oriented topics. These are ticketed events; you will be able to purchase tickets during the online registration process. *(This year, attendance to the Careers in Science Lecture will be open to all; registration will be required only for the Roundtables portion of the event.)*



Other sessions and resources include:

- How to Convert Your CV into a Résumé
- Interviewing for a Job
- How to Have a Successful Postdoctoral Experience
- Jobs Board (for employers and job hunters)



Travel Awards

Travel award and grant applications opened October 17, 2023, and will close December 5, 2023.

The following awards assist successful applicants with travel support to attend the meeting:

- Lefrançois-BioLegend Award
- Chambers-Thermo Fisher Scientific Award
- Lustgarten-Thermo Fisher Scientific Award
- Pfizer-Showell Travel Award
- AAI Undergraduate Faculty Travel Grant
- AAI Early Career Faculty Travel Grant
- AAI Laboratory Travel Grant
- AAI Trainee Abstract Award
- AAI Trainee Poster Award
- AAI-Thermo Fisher Trainee Achievement Award
- AAI Minority Scientist Travel Award

Nearly 700 AAI members received AAI travel awards in 2023! To be eligible for these awards, individuals must be members of AAI at the time of abstract submission and through December 31, 2024. If you are not already a member, join AAI before you submit your abstract to be eligible for a travel award. If you are already a member for 2023, be sure to renew your membership for 2024 to remain eligible. To renew or become an AAI member, visit www.aai.org/membership/join.

Learn more by visiting immunology2024.aai.org/awards.

Registration and Housing

Registration opens December 12, 2023. To register now and access the early registration rates before they increase on April 5, 2024, go to immunology2024.aai.org/register.

Make your hotel reservations now to take advantage of specially discounted hotel rates for meeting attendees (discounted rates end on April 12, 2024). Rooms are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. To get the best price and selection, reserve your room early: immunology2024.aai.org/hotels.

Additional Services

This year, AAI will be offering the following to attendees:

- shuttle bus transportation between the convention center and hotels
- on-site childcare.



Exhibit Hall

The **Exhibit Hall** at **IMMUNOLOGY2024™** will be open Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., and Monday from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Leading scientific companies and organizations will be showcasing their products and services. Learn who by viewing the interactive Exhibit Floor Plan at immunology2024.aai.org/exhibitors.

The Exhibit Hall will also feature:

- **AAI Member Lounge.** Rest and revive between sessions. Here you'll be able to recharge batteries (both yours and your devices) and engage with other members and AAI representatives.
- **The Passport to Prizes Raffle.** Get your **IMMUNOLOGY2024™** passport stamped by participating exhibitors and enter to win a \$250 gift card.
- **IMMUNOLOGY2024™ Poster Gallery.** See, hear, and learn what your colleagues have been working on as they share their new research in twice-daily poster sessions. Posters change daily.
- **Personal Brand Bar (tentative).** Invest in you with a visit to the Personal Brand Bar to update your professional headshot or get a makeover for your LinkedIn profile.

- **Romper Room (tentative).** Come and de-stress with some puppy love. Sit and feel the stress leave your body as puppies romp around and snuggle with you.

Social Events

Social events at the AAI annual meetings are always the ideal occasion to reunite with old friends and meet new colleagues!

Immediately following the President's Address on Friday, May 3, attendees will gather for the **Opening Night Reception: A Taste of Chicago** featuring stations of iconic foods for which the city is famous! Reunite with friends, make new acquaintances, and plan your week. One complimentary drink token is included in your registration. *Registered attendees aged 21 years or older only.*

On Monday, May 6, the **IMMUNOLOGY2024™ Gala** will be held at the unique and stunning Aon Grand Ballroom, part of the Navy Pier's original 1916 construction and reminiscent of an era of elegance and splendor! The venue embodies the magnificence of the past with a sweeping 80-foot domed ceiling and panoramic views reflecting the beauty of the Windy City.

Registration for the Gala and discounted adult and child tickets for the 200-foot-high Centennial Wheel, which offers 360-degree views of Chicago and Lake Michigan, will be available for purchase during the registration process. *Gala attendees must be 21 years of age or older.*



COVID-19 Policy

AAI will make known its meeting attendance COVID-19 policy, which will be based on available public health and scientific data, no later than April 1, 2024. The updated AAI COVID-19 policy will be available at immunology2024.aai.org. All meeting attendees will be required to comply with the AAI COVID-19 policy.

GRANTS AND AWARDS DEADLINES

AAI Grants and Awards

2023

December 5

AAI Travel Awards to IMMUNOLOGY2024™, Chicago, IL

- **Prize/Award:** Awards in 12 categories recognizing the promise and bolstering the professional development of investigators of all career stages through support for travel to the AAI annual meeting
- **Eligibility:** AAI members in good standing who meet specific conditions for each award (see program details at link below)
- **Details:** www.aai.org/Awards/Travel
- **Contact:** awards@aai.org

2024

January 18

AAI Public Policy Fellows Program

- **Prize/Award:** Up to 10 year-long fellowships through which participants explore how federal legislative action and agency activities impact the conduct and funding of biomedical research and how AAI works with and on behalf of AAI members for the best possible outcome. Participants travel to Washington, DC, for a two-day program on Capitol Hill and participate in AAI public affairs activities at the AAI annual meeting
- **Eligibility:** Early career AAI member researchers who are within 15 years of having received their terminal degree and are committed to a career in biomedical research and to learning about and participating in the public policy and legislative activities of AAI
- **Details:** www.aai.org/PPFP
- **Contact:** jschumacher@aai.org

February 15

AAI Travel for Techniques Awards Winter Cycle

- **Prize/Award:** Multiple awards providing up to \$1,500 each in reimbursement of travel expenses for a visit to another laboratory, specifically to learn a technique beneficial to the award applicant's research
- **Eligibility:** AAI regular and associate member scientists with independent research programs; awarded travel may be that of the applicant, applicant's trainee, or applicant's lab member (traveler must be an AAI member); award selection is based on the relevance of the technique to the applicant's program and financial need
- **Details:** www.aai.org/TravelforTechniques
- **Contact:** awards@aai.org

March 15

AAI Careers in Immunology Fellowships

- **Prize/Award:** Multiple awards in support of the laboratories of AAI member principal investigators (PIs), each providing one year's salary for a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow working in the PI's lab
- **Eligibility:** Any AAI member principal investigator with less than \$350,000 (excluding PI salary) in annual direct costs who seeks salary support for an AAI member trainee working in the PI's lab
- **Details:** www.aai.org/CIFP
- **Contact:** fellowships@aai.org

March 15

AAI High School Teachers Summer Research Program in Immunology

■ **Prize/Award:** Multiple awards providing high school science teachers with the opportunity to participate in a four- to six-week, hands-on summer research experience in the lab of an AAI member; program provides stipend, assistance from an educational consultant in developing an innovative classroom curriculum to be published by AAI on the program website, support to attend a national professional meeting to present program experiences, and support to attend the three-day AAI Introductory Course in Immunology, Part I, to learn the basic principles of the discipline

■ **Eligibility:** High school teachers seeking creative ways to bring the excitement of cutting-edge research and discovery to their classrooms while developing their ability to cultivate the next generation of talented biomedical investigators and enhance public understanding of the critical nexus between basic research and human health

■ **Details:** www.aai.org/HSTProgram

■ **Contact:** infoaai@aai.org

Non-AAI Grants and Awards

Visit the AAI website at www.aai.org/GrantsAwardsDeadlines for links to non-AAI grant and award program listings and deadlines.

GRIP

Grant Review for Immunologists Program

Get a GRIP: An AAI program designed to help new investigators prepare their NIH grant proposals

The AAI Grant Review for Immunologists Program (GRIP) offers new principal investigators (PIs) access to established PIs for guidance in preparing grant proposals as they embark on their independent careers. Early-career PIs (assistant professors or equivalents) are invited to submit their grants' "Specific Aims" pages to the GRIP coordinator who, with the assistance of a small volunteer subcommittee, will attempt to match each topic of the proposal with the research experience of an established PI. Matches will be made as quickly as possible to allow participants to meet upcoming NIH grant deadlines. Participation is open only to AAI regular members and is strictly voluntary. The program is not intended to supplant internal mentoring programs at applicants' institutions.

To apply, please send your CV and the grant's "Specific Aims" page to infoaai@aai.org. (please write "GRIP" in the subject line)

To volunteer as a mentor, please send your CV and a brief description of your grant-reviewing experience to infoaai@aai.org. (subject line "GRIP")



Program details at aai.org/Education/GRIP

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar for These Important Dates!

Dear readers, please note that the meetings listed on these pages were still scheduled at press time, but cancellations may occur. Please check an individual meeting's website to confirm that it is still scheduled.

2023

December 1–3

World Allergy Congress (WAC) 2023

Bangkok, Thailand

www.worldallergy.org/meetings

December 2–6

American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB): Cell Bio 2023—An ASCB | EMBO Meeting

Boston, MA

www.ascb.org/meetings-events/future-ascb-meetings

December 4–7 | Hybrid Meeting

British Society for Immunology Congress (BSI) 2023

Belfast, Northern Ireland

www.immunology.org/events/british-society-immunology-congress-2023

December 4–8

Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology (ASI) Annual Scientific Meeting

University of Auckland,
Auckland, New Zealand

www.asi2023.org

December 9–12

American Society of Hematology (ASH) 65th Annual Meeting and Exposition

San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA

www.hematology.org/meetings/annual-meeting

December 11–15

American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting 2023

San Francisco, CA

www.agu.org/Plan-for-a-Meeting/AGUMeetings

2024

January 16–17 | Hybrid Meeting

NCI-IOTN-SITC-AAI Workshop on Combining Immunotherapy with Radiotherapy: Opportunities and Challenges for Clinical Translation

NIH Natcher Conference Center, Bethesda, MD

<https://events.cancer.gov/nci/radioimmunotherapy>

January 19–23

Annual Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases

Chicago, IL

<https://crwad.org/save-the-date-for-crwad-2023>

February 10–14

Biophysical Society (BPS) Annual Meeting 2024

Pennsylvania Convention Center,
Philadelphia, PA

www.biophysics.org/upcoming-annual-meetings

February 22–24

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

Washington, D.C.

www.annualmeeting.aaaai.org/attendee/discovery-program

April 22–25

Canadian Society for Immunology (CSI) Annual Conference 2024

The Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta, Canada

www.csi-sci.ca/Scientific_Meeting.html

May 3–7

IMMUNOLOGY2024™ 107th AAI Annual Meeting

Chicago, Illinois

immunology2024.aaai.org

May 8–11

American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy (ASGCT) 27th Annual Meeting

Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD

<https://asgct.org/annual-meeting/future-annual-meetings>

June 1–5

American Transplant Congress (ATC) 2024

Pennsylvania Convention Center,
Philadelphia, PA

<https://atcmeeting.org>

July 6–10

International Congress of Mucosal Immunology (ICMI) 2024

Copenhagen, Denmark

www.socmucimm.org/meetings-events/upcoming-meetings-events

September 1–4

7th European Congress of Immunology (ECI): Conquering Challenges with Immunology

Dublin, Ireland

<https://eci2024.org>

September 2–6

19th European Meeting on Complement in Human Diseases

Lübeck, Germany

www.emchd2024.org

September 17–19

NEUTROPHIL 2024

München, Germany

<https://theneutrophil.com>

October 20–23

International Cytokine & Interferon Society (ICIS) Annual Meeting 2024

Seoul, Korea

<https://cytokinesociety.org/meetings/future-meetings>



October 21–25

American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) Annual Meeting 2024

Marriott Anaheim, Anaheim, CA

<https://2023.ashi-hla.org/future-meeting-dates>

October 23–27

American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (ASTMH) Annual Meeting

New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA

www.astmh.org/annual-meeting/past-meetings#Future%20Annual%20Meetings

October 31–November 2

Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS): The National Diversity in STEP Conference

Phoenix, AZ

www.sacnas.org/conference

November 3–6 | Hybrid Meeting

The Obesity Society: Obesity Week 2024

San Antonio, TX

<https://obesityweek.org/attend/future-dates>

November 5–9

American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting 2024

Denver, CO

www.ashg.org/meetings/future-past

November 6–10

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) Annual Meeting 2024

George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX

www.sitcancer.org/education/annualmeeting/archive

November 16–19

American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) 2024 Annual Meeting

Hyatt Regency Seattle, Seattle, WA

www.acvp.org/page/Future_Meetings

2025

May 3–7

**IMMUNOLOGY2025™
108th AAI Annual Meeting**

Honolulu, Hawai'i

www.aai.org/FutureMeetings

2026

April 15–19

**IMMUNOLOGY2026™
109th AAI Annual Meeting**

Boston, Massachusetts

www.aai.org/FutureMeetings

Future AAI Annual Meetings

Mark your calendar for the premier annual all-immunology event!



2024
IMMUNOLOGY2024™

May 3–7, 2024
Chicago, IL



2025
IMMUNOLOGY2025™

May 3–7, 2025
Honolulu, HI



2026
IMMUNOLOGY2026™

April 15–19, 2026
Boston, MA

The FP7000 Spectral Cell Sorter sets new standards for high parameter spectral cell sorting.

This leading-edge innovation from Sony integrates key core technologies in spectral cell analysis and system design to deliver a high-performance spectral cell sorter that is reliable and capable of supporting your high parameter applications.

Key features include:

- Configuration up to 6 lasers and 182 detectors support over 44 fluorescence parameters.
- 3 nozzle sizes – 70um, 100um and 130um for sorting a range of cell sizes.
- 6-way sorting capability at event rates of 25,000 events per second.

6
lasers

182
detectors

44
fluorescence
parameters

6-way
sorting

25,000
events per second



Learn how the FP7000 can meet the needs of your laboratory in supporting high-parameter research applications.

