



## 2026 Pre-Program

# Monday, September 14th

### Information Desk

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ballroom Foyer

### Special Interest Group Satellites (SIGs):

---

#### SIG 1: Immune Exhaustion, from Innate to Adaptive Immunity, and Rejuvenation (8:30am-11:30am)

Room: Ballroom A

Chair: Liwu Li

- **Targeting Chronic Inflammation and Immune Cell Exhaustion to Reduce Risk for Age-related Neurodegenerative Diseases**, Malu Tansey, *Indiana University School of Medicine*
- **Monocyte Exhaustion, Propagation and Rejuvenation Therapeutics**, Liwu Li, *Virginia Tech*
- **Immuno-exhaustion in the Lung Tumor Microenvironment**, Haitao Wen, *Ohio State University*
- **Title TBA**, Skip Garcia, *Scripps Institute*
- **It's All About Proteostasis: The Hidden Logic of T-Cell Exhaustion**, Zihai Li, *The Ohio State University*

---

#### SIG 2: Naturally Occurring Veterinary Diseases as Models for Human Diseases

(8:30am-11:30am)

Room: Ballroom C

Chair: Rosemary Bayless

Sponsored by [Veterinary and Comparative Clinical Immunology Society \(VCCIS\)](#)



- **Between Mice and (Wo)men: Leveraging Spontaneous Animal Diseases to Benefit Human and Veterinary Patients**, Rosemary Bayless, *North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine*
- **Barn Dust to Breathlessness: Macrophages as the Nexus of Equine Asthma**, Janet Beeler-Marfisi, *University of Guelph, Ontario Veterinary College*
- **What Baby Farm Animals Bring to the (S)Table: Translational Insights into mTB, RSV and Beyond**, Londa Berghaus, *University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine*
- **Beyond Hemostasis: Platelets, Neutrophils, and the Immunothrombotic Axis in Dogs and Cats**, Ronald Li, *North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine*
- **Dendritic Cell Modulation: The Foundation for Next-Generation Therapeutic Cancer Vaccines in Comparative Oncology**, Matthew Berry, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, College of Veterinary Medicine*

---

#### SIG Attendee Lunch (for SIG registrants only) (11:30am-12:30pm)

Ballroom B

---

**SIG 3: Where and When: Spatiotemporal Determinants of Neutrophil Function (12:30-3:30pm)**

Room: Ballroom A

Chair: Ronen Sumagin

- **Spatially Defined Neutrophil Programs Shape Intestinal Inflammatory Outcomes**, Ronen Sumagin, *Northwestern University*
- **Neutrophil Reprogramming and Bacterial Tolerance in Mucoobstructive Lung Disease**, Rabindra Tirouvanziam, *Emory University*
- **Temporal Labeling Reveals Prolonged Neutrophil Survival and Distinct Migration Patterns Following Cerebral I/R Injury**, Dave Sullivan, *Northwestern University*
- **The Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase CD45 promotes Neutrophil Transepithelial Migration, Antimicrobial Function and Colonic Mucosal Repair**, Jennifer Brazil, *University of Michigan*
- **Novel Mechanisms Regulating Neutrophil Recruitment and Heterogeneity in Sterile Inflammation**, Jaehyung (Gus) Cho, *Washington University School of Medicine*

---

**SIG 4: Beyond the Tumor Paradigm: The Expanding Biology of Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells**

(12:30-3:30pm)

Room: Ballroom C

Co-Chairs: Jordan Brauner and Katherine Blin

- **Metabolic Remodeling of Granulocytic Myeloid-derived Suppressor Cells (G-MDSCs) During *Staphylococcus aureus* Biofilm Infection**, Tammy Kielian, *University of Nebraska Medical Center*
- **Resolution of Post-Lung Transplant Injury by MDSCs via MerTK-dependent Efferocytosis**, Ashish Sharma, *University of Florida College of Medicine*
- **At the Crossroads with MDSCs: Identifying Senescent Myeloid Cells that Exacerbate Tuberculosis Pathology**, Somnath Shee, *School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University*
- **Myeloid Cell Control of the Immunopathogenesis of Malaria**, Tracey Lamb, *University of Utah*
- **The Double-Edged Nature of Myeloid Suppression in Persistent Coinfection**, Ankita Garg, *University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine*
- **Beyond Supportive Care: Targeting Myeloid-derived Suppressor Cells in Pediatric Critical Illness**, Katherine Blin, *Nationwide Children's*

---

**BREAK 3:30-3:45pm**

---

**SIG 5: Metabolic Control of Leukocyte Biology in the Tumor Microenvironment (3:45-6:45pm)**

Room: Ballroom A

Chair: Hind Rafei

- **Tumor-infiltrating Microbes and Their Impact on the Tumor Microenvironment**, Christopher Johnston, *The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*
  - **Macrophage Metabolic Barriers: Gatekeepers of Tumor Immune Evasion**, Stanley Huang, *The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center*
  - **Stromal and Fibroblast Metabolism as a Checkpoint for Anti-Tumor Immunity**, Ranjan Upadhyay, *The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*
  - **GARP-mediated TGF $\beta$  Activation Shapes Immunosuppression in the Tumor Microenvironment**, Maria Velegraki, *The Ohio State University Medical Center*
  - **NF- $\kappa$ B Transcriptional Programs Govern CAR T Cell Persistence and Potency**, Yingshi Chen, *Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)/University of Pennsylvania*
-

**SIG 6: Neuroinflammation Meets Metabolic Disease, T cell Circuits across Brain and Liver (3:45-6:45pm)**

*Room: Ballroom C*

**Chair:** Smita Iyer

- **T cells in MASLD-associated Neuroinflammation**, Smita Iyer, *University of Pittsburgh*
- **The Role of CD8+ T Cells in High-fat Diet-induced Memory Deficits in Aged Rats**, Ruth Barrientos, *The Ohio State University*
- **Sustained Neuroinflammation and Neurological Deficit after Mild TBI**, Dandan Sun, *University of Pittsburgh*
- **Title TBA**, Alexis Stranahan, *Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University*
- **Brain Endothelial Cell Metabolism in Neuroinflammation: Insights from Sepsis and Ischemic Stroke**, Candice Brown, *Indiana University School of Medicine*

---

**SLB Council Meeting Dinner (Part 1): 5-9 pm – Executive Boardroom– [By Invitation Only](#)**

59<sup>th</sup> Annual Society for Leukocyte Biology Meeting  
*Leukocytes, it's all about location*



## Tuesday, September 15th

### Information Desk

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Ballroom Foyer

**JLB Editorial Board Breakfast** 7:00am – 8:30 am – Executive Boardroom – **By Invitation Only**

### 7:00 – 8:00 am Networking Breakfast Ballroom

Hosted by the Engagement and Enrichment Committee, join fellow attendees for this opening breakfast event while discussing a variety of topics.

*Breakfast Buffet provided.*

### 8:00 am – 9:15 am Feature I:

#### Nervous System

#### Chairs:

Andrew Taylor and Michelle  
Visser

#### Location:

Ballroom

8:00 am

**Innate Immune Cells Regulate Brain and Behavioral Development**, Kathryn Lenz, *Ohio State University*

8:25 am

**Neuro-immune Niche that Underpins Touch**, Daniel Saban, *Duke University School of Medicine*

8:50 am

**Mast Cells: The Versatile Conductors of Allergy, Inflammation and Tissue Remodeling**, Theoharis Theoharides, *Nova Southeastern University*

### 9:15 am – 10:30 am Poster Session 1 Ballroom Foyer & Pavillion

Join fellow attendees for a refreshment while browsing the first set of posters.

### 10:30 am – 11:45 am Feature II:

#### Mucosal Tissues

#### Chairs:

TBD

#### Location:

Ballroom

10:30 am

**A Better Overall Understanding of IL-17 Receptor Signaling in the Oral Mucosa**, Heather Conti, *University of Toledo*

10:55 am

**Extracellular Vesicles: Regulators of Mucosal Immune Modulation**, Shannon Wallet, *University of Florida*

11:20 pm

**Type 3 Immunity in Mucosal Tissues**, Ivaylo Ivanov, *Columbia University*

**11:45 am – 12:45 pm Lunch** Ballroom Foyer & Pavilion

Join fellow attendees for some social time while enjoying lunch.

**12:45 – 2:15 pm Presidential  
Scholars**

**Chairs:**  
Anne Pereira & Cindy Leifer

**Location:**  
Ballroom

**Graduate Student Finalists**

12:45 pm

**Award Finalist TBD**

1:00 pm

**Award Finalist TBD**

1:15 pm

**Award Finalist TBD**

**Postdoctoral Finalists**

1:30 pm

**Award Finalist TBD**

1:45 pm

**Award Finalist TBD**

2:00 pm

**Award Finalist TBD**

**15 minute break**

**2:30 – 4:30 pm Excellence in  
Leukocyte Biology**

**Chairs:**  
Anne Pereira & Cindy Leifer

**Location:**  
Ballroom

**Early Career Finalists**

2:30 pm

**Award Finalist TBD**

2:50 pm

**Award Finalist TBD**

3:10 pm

**Award Finalist TBD**

**Mid-Career Finalists**

3:30 pm

**Award Finalist TBD**

3:50 pm

**Award Finalist TBD**

4:10 pm

**Award Finalist TBD**

**4:30 – 5:45 pm Poster Session 2** Ballroom Foyer & Pavilion

Join fellow attendees for a refreshment (cash bar) while you browse the second set of posters.

**5:45 – 6:45 pm SLB Legacy**

**Chair:**  
Elizabeth Kovacs

**Location:**  
Ballroom

**Keynote Lecture**

*SLB Legacy Awardee*

**Imaging Inflammation and its Resolution**, Anna Huttenlocher, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

**6:45 pm – 9:00 pm Opening Dinner Reception**, Ballroom Foyer & Pavilion

Join fellow attendees to celebrate coming together at this dinner reception. Mingle, network, and connect with new, and old, friends.

# Wednesday, September 16th

## Information Desk

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ballroom Foyer

### 7:30 am – 8:30 am Science at Sunrise

#### Breakfast and Sunrise Focus Session 1: Host Pathogen

7:30 am

**Cardiac Complications of Respiratory Virus Infections**, Jacob Yount, *Ohio State University*

7:54 am

**Selected talk**

8:06 am

**Selected talk**

8:18 am

**Selected talk**

### 8:30 am – 9:30 am Focus 2: Autoimmunity

8:30 am

**TLRs and MyD88 Activation in Sjogren's Disease**, Jill Kramer, *University at Buffalo*

8:54 am

**Selected talk**

9:06 am

**Selected talk**

9:18 am

**Selected talk**

## 15 minute break

### 9:45 am – 10:45 am Focus 3: Cancer

9:45 am

**Targeting the Tumor Microenvironment to Enhance CAR-based Immunotherapies in Solid Tumors**, Hind Rafei, *MD Anderson Cancer Center*

10:09 am

**Selected talk**

10:21 am

**Selected talk**

10:33 am

**Selected talk**

## 10:45 am – 11:45 pm Focus 4: Omics

10:45 am <b>Unique Spatial Organization Promotes Local Immunity at the Oral Barrier</b> , Drake Williams, <i>University of Minnesota</i>	11:09 am <b>Selected talk</b>	11:21 am <b>Selected talk</b>	11:33 am <b>Selected talk</b>
---	----------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

## 11:45 pm – 12:45 pm Lunch Ballroom Foyer & Pavilion

Join fellow attendees for some social time while enjoying lunch.

## 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm Focus 5: Inflammation

12:45 pm <b>Neutrophils, Inflammation and Resolution</b> , Carole Parent, <i>University of Michigan</i>	1:09 pm <b>Selected talk</b>	1:21 pm <b>Selected talk</b>	1:33 pm <b>Selected talk</b>
--	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------

## 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm Focus 6: Drug Therapies

1:45 pm <b>Understanding the Edges of Homeostasis</b> , Andrew Wang, <i>Yale University</i>	2:09 pm <b>Selected talk</b>	2:21 pm <b>Selected talk</b>	2:33 pm <b>Selected talk</b>
--	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------

## 15 minute break

## 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Focus 7: Aging

3:00 pm <b>Succinate: An Emerging Gerometabolite?</b> , Xin Li, <i>University of Virginia</i>	3:24 pm <b>Selected talk</b>	3:36 pm <b>Selected talk</b>	3:48 pm <b>Selected talk</b>
--	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Focus 8: Trauma Response**

4:00 pm

**Trauma  
Immunology: From  
Mechanisms to  
Modulation**, James  
Lederer, *BWH  
Harvard*

4:24 pm

**Selected talk**

4:36 pm

**Selected talk**

4:48 pm

**Selected talk**

**5:00 – 6:15 pm** **Poster Session 3** Ballroom Foyer & Pavillion

Join fellow attendees for a refreshment (cash bar) while you browse the third set of posters.

**6:30 – 8:30 pm Professional Development and MTTC Dinner Workshop**

Ballroom

**Pre-Registration required**

Join this workshop organized by the Professional Development and Members in Transition and Training Committees. A panel discussion will be followed by focused round table groups. Prior RSVP required.

# Thursday, September 17th

## Information Desk

8:00 am – 2:30 pm

Ballroom Foyer

### 7:30 – 8:00 am Breakfast

Ballroom Foyer

### 8:00 – 10:00 am Flash Talks

Ballroom

*Organized by the Members in Transition and Training Committee.*

Chair: TBD

**Topic TBA:** Co-Chair: TBA

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

**Topic TBA:** Co-Chair: TBA

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

**Topic TBA:** Co-Chair: TBA

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

**Topic TBA:** Co-Chair: TBA

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

**Topic TBA:** Co-Chair: TBA

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

Selected flash talk

### 10:00 – 11:15 am Feature III: Skin

**Chairs:**

TBD

**Location:**

Ballroom

10:00 am

**Early Life Immune-Microbe Crosstalk in Skin**, Tiffany Scharschmidt, *UCSF*

10:25 am

TBA

10:50 am

**Itchy Immunity via Myeloid IL-33**, De'Broski Herbert, *Tulane University*

## 11:15 am – 11:45 am Member Business Meeting & Award Presentations

Ballroom

Learn about the current status of SLB and JLB and congratulate award winners with the announcement of Presidential Scholars, Excellence in Leukocyte Biology, and onsite flash talk awards.

## 11:45 am – 1:00 pm **Poster Session IV** and Lunch sponsored by Biogen Pavilion

Join fellow attendees and browse posters during this final poster session while enjoying lunch. Flash Talk and Undergraduate Posters are presented.



### 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm Feature IV:

**Chairs:**

Andy Taylor and Michelle Visser

**Location:**

Ballroom

### Cyberspace – AI in Research

1:00 pm

**Decoding Immune Architecture with Spatial AI,**  
Kevin Byrd, *Virginia Commonwealth University*

1:25 pm

**Single-cell and Spatial Signatures of Type 1 Diabetes,** Todd Brusko,  
*University of Florida*

1:50 pm

**Systems Vaccinology,** Bali Pulendran, *Stanford University*

**SLB Council Meeting (Part 2): 3:00-6:00 pm pavilion - *By Invitation Only***