

Thursday, September 25, 2025

(Rev. 7/28/2025)

8:30 – 1:00 pm **Registration – Glessner Foyer (main level)**

All Presentations – West Ballrooms (2nd floor)

- 9:30 – 9:35 am **Welcome and Introduction of New Students**
Dario Vignali, PhD
Distinguished Professor and Chair
Dept. of Immunology
- 9:40 – 10:10 am **John Alcorn, PhD.**
Professor, Dept. of Pediatrics and Immunology; Vice Chair of Basic Research
B cell deficiency induces cytotoxic memory CD8+ T cells during influenza-associated bacterial pneumonia
- 10:15 – 10:30 am **Aaron Yang**
2024 Graduate Student (4+) Poster Winner
Dept. of Pediatrics/Poholek Lab
Understanding the role of CTCF and 3D chromatin in regulation of T cell exhaustion
- 10:35 – 10:50 am **Nicholas Pease, PhD**
2024 Postdoc Poster Winner
Dept. of Immunology/Singh Lab
Cell cycle-coupled transcriptional network orchestrates human B cell fate bifurcation
- 10:55 – 11:25 am **Rebecca Elsner, PhD**
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Immunology
Regulation of the Extrafollicular Immune Response – Cellular Interactions, Affinity and Tolerance
- 11:30 – 12:30 pm **Poster Session (odd numbered abstracts)**
Allegheny and Shenandoah Meeting Rooms and Glessner Stage (main level)
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm **Lunch – Glessner and Glessner Lawn (main level)**
- 1:30 – 2:30 pm **Poster Session Continued (odd numbered abstracts)**
- 2:35 – 2:50 pm **Group Photograph – Lobby Entrance**
****In case of inclement weather, photo will be taken at 11:50 on Friday morning prior to the poster session.***
- 2:55 – 3:00 pm **Sponsor Elevator Talk - Immudex**
- 3:00 – 4:00 pm **Keynote Speaker**
Marion Pepper, PhD
Dept. of Immunology, University of Washington
CD4+ T cell Heterogeneity in the Tissue

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| 4:00 – 7:00 pm | <i>Free time to enjoy Oglebay facilities and interact with colleagues Room Check-in at 4:00 (main level front lobby)</i> |
| 7:00 – 9:00 pm | <i>Dinner – Glessner (main level) *cash bar – no wine service</i> 7:00 – cash bar opens 7:30 – dinner served |
| 9:00 – 10:00 pm | <i>Trivia Social - Glessner (main level) *cash bar – no drink tickets</i> |
| 10:00 – 11:00 pm | <i>“Fire Pit/Pool” Social - Indoor Pool/Lawn Fire Pit (2nd floor) *cash bar – no drink tickets</i> |

Friday, September 26, 2025

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| 8:00 – 9:00 am | <i>Breakfast – Glessner (main level) Check-out by 11:00 am</i> |
| 9:00 – 9:30 pm | State of the Department Address Dario Vignali, PhD Distinguished Professor and Chair Dept. of Immunology |
| 9:35 – 10:05 am | Jing Li, PhD Assistant Professor, Dept. of Immunology; Member, Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center <i>Immunosuppression mediated by regulatory CD8+ T cells in tumors</i> |
| 10:10 – 10:50 am | Elevator Pitch Session – 10 3-minute talks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk #1 • Talk #2 • Talk #3 • Talk #4 • Talk #5 • Talk #6 • Talk #7 • Talk #8 • Talk #9 • Talk #10 |
| 10:55 – 11:25 am | Amanda Poholek, PhD Assistant Professor, Dept. of Immunology <i>Blimp-1 regulation of type 2 immunity</i> |
| 11:30 – 11:45 am | TBD Oral Presentation from Selected Abstracts Title and Dept Talk Title |
| 11:50 – 12:50 pm | <i>Poster Session (even numbered abstracts) Allegheny and Shenandoah Meeting Rooms and Glessner Stage (main level)</i> |

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| 12:50 – 1:35 pm | <i>Lunch – Glessner and Glessner Lawn (main level)</i> |
| 1:35 – 2:35 pm | <i>Poster Session (even numbered abstracts) Allegheny and Shenandoah Meeting Rooms and Glessner Stage (main level)</i> |
| 2:40 – 2:55 pm | TBD Oral Presentation from Selected Abstracts Title and Dept Talk Title |
| 3:00 – 3:30 pm | Jing Hong Wang, MD, PhD Professor, Dept. of Medicine, Div. of Hematology and Oncology, and Dept. of Immunology <i>Determinants underlying the divergent outcomes of immune checkpoint inhibitors in head and neck cancers</i> |
| 3:35 – 4:05 pm | Heth Turnquist, PhD Professor, Dept. of Surgery; Deputy Science Director, Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute <i>Elucidating the role of immune cell-mediated repair in heart transplantation outcomes</i> |
| 4:05 – 4:20 pm | <i>Closing Comments/Poster Award Presentations Glessner</i> |
| 4:20 pm | Departure at your convenience |

Acknowledgements:

The Department of Immunology would like to thank
the following vendors for their support and
participation in this year's retreat:

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**Please visit their display tables located in the Allegheny and
Shenandoah Meeting Rooms and Glessner hallway (main level).**

A special thank you to the retreat committee:

Robert Binder, PhD
Anthony Cillo, PhD
Jishnu Das, PhD
Roberta Erickson
Jodi Russo
Daniella Schwartz, MD

Sarah Bradley – Cillo Lab
Kelsey Ertwine – Overacre Lab
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Jessica Jana – Overacre Lab
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Drew Wilfahrt – Delgoffe Lab

Cover page artwork used to create this year's poster by Sarah Bradley.