Submit your Late Breaking Abstract!

Still want to present your science in Berlin? Submit your abstract to the only meeting that focuses exclusively on the mucosal immune system. Late breaking abstract submission closes on Wednesday, April 15th. Submit today!

To submit your abstract, click here.
Lori Rathje, CAE, has been named Executive Director of the Society for Mucosal Immunology. Lori was previously Association Manager for SMI and served in that position since 2008.

“I am honored to serve as Executive Director of SMI, and to have the opportunity to work with such distinguished leaders to advance their mission.”

Lori has worked in the association management industry for the past ten years. Through her experience, she has developed a diverse skill set across all areas of association management. She is proficient in developing membership and marketing campaigns, drafting development plans and achieving funding goals. She is experienced in facilitating strategic planning, rebuilding and redesigning websites based on the latest industry standards, supporting and leading Boards of Directors and developing and managing organizational budgets. She has worked with association leadership to coordinate the development of more than 20 medical education programs, ranging in size from 100 to 1,000 participants. Lori has extensive knowledge and experience with Continuing Medical Education (CME) and adult learning principles. In addition to SMI, she is also the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association (WOTA) and the Ophthalmic Anesthesia Society (OAS). She achieved her Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential in 2014.

SMI has programmed a one day Mucosal Immunology School: Pillars in Immunology, which will take place on Tuesday, July 14, before ICMI 2015. The overall aim of this program is to facilitate a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of the immune system at mucosal surfaces. It will provide a broad overview of several core mucosal immunology topics and has been designed for graduate students and post-docs who have recently entered the field, as well as more experience researchers who are interested in a concise refresher course.

The faculty of this special educational event is comprised of outstanding international experts who have made seminal contributions to the field. In addition to delivering introductory lectures on relevant and emerging topics (including microbiota, and mucosal inflammatory diseases), the faculty will engage in interactive discussions on these topics with the participants in an informal setting.

**Scientific Lectures Include:**

- **Historical/General Overview**
  - Per Brandtzaeg, PhD
  - University of Oslo

- **The Mucosal Barrier**
  - Arthur Kaser, MD
  - University of Cambridge

- **Microbiota**
  - Charles Elson, MD
  - University of Alabama, Birmingham

- **Antigen Presentation**
  - Maria Rescigno, PhD
  - European Institute of Oncology

- **T Cells**
  - Nadine Cerf-Bensussan, MD, PhD
  - Université Paris Descartes

- **Mucosal Antibodies**
  - Jo Spencer, PhD
  - GKT Medical School

- **Innate Lymphoid Cells**
  - Chiara Romagnani, MD, PhD
  - German Rheumatism Research Center Berlin

- **Special Features of the Uniquely Vulnerable Lung**
  - Peter Openshaw, MD
  - Imperial College of London

- **Diseases at the Intestinal Surfaces**
  - Thomas MacDonald, PhD
  - Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry
Sidonia Fagarasan, MD, PhD, RIKEN University

Sidonia Fagarasan completed training in clinical medicine at Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy in 1990. She did residency and specialty in the Clinical Laboratory for Microbiology, Biochemistry and Hematology at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, and was appointed to Assistant Professor in 1995. It was during this clinical period in Romania that Dr. Fagarasan developed a fascination into the mechanisms governing intestinal immune homeostasis. In 1998, Dr. Fagarasan was invited to Japan as a Mombusho Visiting Researcher and earned PhD from Kyoto University Faculty of Medicine in 2000. In Kyoto she contributed to the discovery of Activated Induced Deaminase (AID) with Tasuku Honjo and colleagues. She subsequently demonstrated the critical role of AID in gut homeostasis. Since 2002, Dr. Fagarasan has been team leader of the Laboratory for Mucosal Immunity at the Research Centre for Allergy and Immunology (RCAI), RIKEN Yokohama, Japan. Dr. Fagarasan’s research primarily aims to elucidate mechanistic regulation and function of the mucosal antibody IgA in the gut.

Shimon Sakaguchi, MD, PhD

Shimon Sakaguchi is a Distinguished Professor at the World Premier International Research Initiative (WPI)-Immuno Frontier Research Center (IFReC) at Osaka University, Japan. He is an immunologist recognized for his work on the control of immune responses. He is known particularly for his discovery of regulatory T cells, an indispensable constituent of the immune system for the maintenance of immune self-tolerance and homeostasis. Sakaguchi was born in Japan in 1951, obtained an M.D. in 1976 and a Ph.D. in 1982 from Kyoto University, Japan, where he was trained as a pathologist and immunologist. After performing postdoctoral studies at Johns Hopkins University and Stanford University as a Lucille P. Markey Scholar, he served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Immunology at the Scripps Research Institute. He returned to Japan in 1991 and continued his immunology research at RIKEN Institute as an Investigator of the Japan Science and Technology Agency and subsequently as the Head of the Department of Immunopathology at Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology, Tokyo. From 1998 to 2011, he was a Professor and the Chairman of the Department of Experimental Pathology, Institute for Frontier Medical Sciences Kyoto University and served as the Director of the Institute for several years.

Arthur Kaser, MD, University of Cambridge

Arthur Kaser is a mucosal immunologist and clinically trained gastroenterologist. Arthur has qualified from Leopold Franzens University Innsbruck with an intercalated thesis on type I interferons, and received post-doctoral training in Innsbruck and as a Max Kade and Schroedinger Fellow at Harvard Medical School’s Brigham & Women’s Hospital at the Mucosal Immunology Laboratory. Arthur’s laboratory at the University of Cambridge, where he holds the Chair in Gastroenterology, studies mechanisms of inflammation at the host – microbiota interface that are affected by genetic variation conferring risk for inflammatory bowel disease. His laboratory has a particular interest in the biology of the intestinal epithelium and the role of the unfolded protein response and autophagy within these cells. Arthur also serves as a clinical investigator and is involved in the design and delivery of early and late phase clinical trials in inflammatory bowel disease.

Charles Elson, MD, University of Alabama, Birmingham

Dr. Elson received his MD from Washington University in St. Louis, trained in Internal Medicine at New York Hospital/Cornell, then did his Gastroenterology fellowship at the University of Chicago. After doing full-time research in immunology at National Institutes of Health, he joined the Faculty of the Division of Gastroenterology at the Medical College of Virginia. He moved to the University of Alabama at Birmingham to become Director of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and subsequently served as Vice-Chair for Research in the Department of Medicine. He holds the Basil I. Hirschowitz Chair in Gastroenterology and is an active consultant in immune-mediated intestinal disorders. The author of numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts, reviews, and book chapters, Dr. Elson has held major positions in national organizations, and has served on a number of advisory boards, including the Advisory Council of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. He has been elected to many professional societies in the field of academic medicine and has a long history of service to the Society for Mucosal Immunology for which he is a co-founder and past president.
February and March Featured Papers

February:
Role and Species-specific Expression of Colon T Cell Homing Receptor GPR15 in Colitis

Commensal Gram-positive Bacteria Initiates Colitis by Inducing Monocyte/Macrophage Mobilization
Nakanishi Y, Sato T, Ohteki T.

MyD88 Signaling in T Cells Directs IgA-Mediated Control of the Microbiota to Promote Health
Kubinak JL, Petersen C, Stephens WZ, Soto R, Bake E, O’Connell RM, Round JL.

Interleukin (IL)-21 Promotes Intestinal IgA Responses to Microbiota
Cao AT, Yao S, Gong B, Nurieva RI, Elson CO, Cong Y.

IgA Targets the Troublemakers
Stephens WZ, Round JL.

March:
Commensal-dendritic-cell Interaction Specifies a Unique Protective Skin Immune Signature
Nature 2015 Jan5. Doi: 10.1038/nature14052