Ninth Annual Colton Center Symposium

Advances in Autoimmunity

Friday, June 7, 2024
2:30 – 5:00 pm
NYU Langone Health
Science Building 103

Hosts: Jose U. Scher, MD
Steven B. Abramson, MD

CAR T cell treatment in autoimmune disease
Georg Schett, MD (Keynote speaker), Friedrich-Alexander-Universität

Insights into biological mechanisms through data integration and machine learning
Aristotelis Tsrigos, PhD, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

The Search for Drivers and Therapeutic Targets in Pre-Rheumatoid Arthritis
V. Michael Holers, MD, University of Colorado School of Medicine

Heterogeneity of plasmacytoid DCs is associated with dysregulation in X-linked TLR locus in patients with systemic sclerosis
Franck Barrat, PhD, HSS Research Institute

Photo credit: Shruti Naik, PhD

For additional information:
yulmc.org/coltoncenter

Sponsored by:
The Judith & Stewart
Colton Center for
Autoimmunity
We are pleased to welcome you to our ninth annual Judith and Stewart Colton Symposium on Autoimmunity and recognize the special commitment of Judith and Stewart Colton to foster fundamental discoveries that translate into improved clinical care and health for families living with autoimmune disease.

The Coltons have been generous benefactors of NYU Langone, with ties that date back to the 1960s, when Judith’s uncle, a prominent surgeon, established a loan fund for medical students. The NYU Langone’s Judith and Stewart Colton Center for Autoimmunity is particularly close to their heart, which is now part of a wider Consortium, with Colton Centers at UPenn, Yale and Tel-Aviv University pursuing cutting-edge research in autoimmune disease.

The NYU Center’s researchers are furthering our understanding of immune system functions and how they are disrupted, so that we may more effectively treat and even prevent diseases like inflammatory arthritis, lupus, Crohn’s disease and multiple sclerosis.

The NYU Langone’s Colton center continues to grow and thrive, under the direction of Dr. Jose U. Scher. He joins the leadership team with Drs. Steve Abramson and Jill Buyon. The translational and pre-clinical grants awarded thus far have generated considerable progress in the field, leading to numerous high impact publications and prestigious external grant awards which accelerate the center’s mission to find solutions for autoimmune disease. In conjunction with the NYU Langone’s Technology Opportunities and Ventures (TOV), several of these projects are already moving along the pipeline toward the clinic. We thank you for joining us for the Annual Judith and Stewart Colton Symposium on Autoimmunity, and we are sure you will enjoy the inspiring science presented here today.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:30-2:35pm</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Steven Abramson, MD</td>
<td>NYU Grossman School of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:35-2:40pm</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Jose Scher, MD</td>
<td>NYU Grossman School of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:40-3:15pm</td>
<td>Cell therapy in autoimmune disease</td>
<td>Georg Schett, MD (Keynote speaker)</td>
<td>Friedrich-Alexander-Universität</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15-3:45pm</td>
<td>Insights into biological mechanisms through data integration and machine learning</td>
<td>Aristotelis Tsirigos, PhD</td>
<td>NYU Grossman School of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45-4:05pm</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:05-4:35pm</td>
<td>The Search for Drivers and Therapeutic Targets in Pre-Rheumatoid Arthritis</td>
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<td>University of Colorado School of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Franck Barrat, PhD</td>
<td>HSS Research Institute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Georg A. Schett, MD  
**Professor of Internal Medicine Head of Department**  
Department of Medicine 3 - Rheumatology and Immunology Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg Germany

Georg Schett is professor of Internal Medicine and since 2006 Head of the Department of Medicine 3 - Rheumatology and Immunology - of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany.

Prof. Schett graduated from the University of Innsbruck (Austria) in 1994. After his dissertation from medical school, he worked as scientist at the Institute of BioMedical Aging Research of the Austrian Academy of Science in Innsbruck. In 1996, he joined the Department of Medicine at the University of Vienna, where he completed his postgraduate training in Internal Medicine and subsequently in Rheumatology. In 2003 he was promoted to professor of Internal Medicine. Before taking up his position as chair of the Department of Medicine 3, he worked as a scientist in the United States for one year.

His scientific work focuses on creating a better understanding of the molecular basis of immune-inflammatory diseases with rapid translation into clinical practice. Initially, he investigated the immunology of atherosclerosis and focused on antibody-mediated endothelial cell damage. His research work led to the understanding of the phenomenon of LE-cells in 2007.

He was awarded the renowned START Award in 2002 and founded a research group for arthritis in Vienna. Prof. Schett is an ERC award winner and speaker of several DFG- and BMBF-funded joint projects. His work has been awarded numerous prizes, including the Carol-Nachman Prize. In March 2023, Prof. Schett received the 2023 “Funding Prize in the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Programme” awarded by the DFG. He has published over 1000 peer-reviewed articles.
Aristotelis Tsirigos, PhD
Professor, Department of Pathology, NYU School of Medicine
Co-director, Division of Precision Medicine
Director, Applied Bioinformatics Laboratories

Dr. Tsirigos is a Professor of Pathology at the NYU School of Medicine where he also serves as Co-director of Precision Medicine and as Director of the Applied Bioinformatics Laboratories. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Courant Institute of New York University in January 2006, and his B.S. from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece in 1998. Dr. Tsirigos has more than 18 years of experience in genomics and machine learning at NYU and IBM Research. He leads a team of 20+ computational biologists and data scientists and his research focus is primarily in cancer epigenetics, chromatin organization and AI-based diagnostics for cancer, cardiovascular and other diseases. Dr. Tsirigos has co-authored 150+ studies in peer-reviewed journals, including high-impact studies in cancer epigenetics, chromatin organization, high-throughput single-cell transcriptomic analyses and precision diagnostics using deep learning.
V. Michael Holers, MD  
Smyth Professor of Rheumatology  
Faculty Ventures Director, CU Innovations  
Division of Rheumatology  
University of Colorado School of Medicine  
Anschutz Medical Campus

Dr. Michael Holers is the Smyth Professor of Rheumatology at the University of Colorado and the Director of Faculty Ventures for CU Innovations. He attended Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis and further trained at Barnes Hospital, the University of Colorado and Washington University. Dr. Holers was recruited from his faculty position at Washington University to Colorado, where he served as Rheumatology Division Head from 2000-2021. Dr. Holers leads a research group focused on the fundamental biology, disease-related roles and therapeutic development within the complement system. In addition, he co-founded and has led SERA (Studies of the Etiologies of Rheumatoid Arthritis), a consortium wherein innovative studies of the pathogenesis of preclinical rheumatoid arthritis as well as prevention trials have been performed by a network of independent scientists. Dr. Holers has >450 publications and been elected to ASCI and AAP.

Franck Barrat, PhD  
Michael R. Bloomberg Chair in Autoimmune Diseases  
Hospital for Special Surgery  
Professor of Microbiology and Immunology  
Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University

Dr. Barrat holds the Michael R. Bloomberg Chair at the Hospital for Special Surgery and is Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York. Prof. Barrat’s research is centered on how nucleic acids sensing by innate receptors contributes to diseases such as lupus and scleroderma, two complex and incapacitating disorders for which there are currently no cures or broadly effective treatments. Dr. Barrat’s expertise is in the function and regulation of type I IFN production by plasmacytoid dendritic cells in disease settings and his scientific approach combines the use of mouse models and human studies, with the ultimate goal to apply this work for the benefit of patients.