2015 ADVANCES IN AUTOIMMUNITY Symposium

Sponsored by THE JUDITH & STEWART COLTON CENTER FOR AUTOIMMUNITY

Thursday, November 19, 2015 • 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM
Skirball 3rd Floor Seminar Room
Hosted by: Steven B. Abramson, MD; Jill P. Buyon, MD; Dan R. Littman, MD, PhD; Gregg Silverman, MD; Jose U. Scher, MD
It is a privilege to dedicate our first annual Judith and Stewart Colton Symposium on Autoimmunity to Judith and Stewart Colton and recognize their special commitment 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. Some of the couple’s previous gifts to the Medical Center have supported asthma research and the research of early-career physician scientists known as the Colton Scholars. The recently established Judith and Stewart Colton Center for Autoimmunity is particularly close to their heart.

The center’s researchers are furthering our understanding of immune system functions and how they are disrupted, for example, by gut microbes, so that we may more effectively treat and even prevent diseases like lupus, arthritis, Crohn’s disease and multiple sclerosis.

Judith and Stewart Colton’s philanthropic leadership extends to other institutions, including Tel Aviv University, where they have provided scholarship funds, endowed an eponymously named chair in Law and Security, and established the Colton Family Next Generation Technologies Institute.
William H. Robinson, M.D., PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine, Stanford School of Medicine

Dr. Robinson received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University, and completed his clinical training in internal medicine at UCSF. He returned to Stanford for rheumatology fellowship and postdoctoral training with Dr. Lawrence Steinman, and joined the Stanford faculty in 2003. Dr. Robinson is currently an Associate Professor in the Division of Immunology and Rheumatology at Stanford University. He is the PI of the NIH Stanford AMP Technology Center, Director of the Stanford Arthritis Initiative, and Co-Director of the Stanford-UCSF Arthritis Foundation Center of Excellence. Dr. Robinson co-founded the Stanford Human Immune Monitoring Center, serves on the editorial boards of several journals, and serves on the Board of Directors of the American College of Rheumatology's Rheumatology Research Foundation. He is an inventor on 21 patent applications, and technologies developed in his Stanford and VA laboratories have been licensed to nine companies in the biotechnology industry. He is the senior academic founder of Atreca, Inc., a biotechnology company developing therapeutic antibodies for cancer. Dr. Robinson was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Henry Kunkel Society in 2010. His laboratory works in the fields of B cell biology, autoimmunity and inflammation.

Christopher Buckley, DPhil, FRCP
Arthritis Research UK Professor of Rheumatology, MRC Centre for Immune Regulation
Clinical Director for Centre of Translational Inflammation Research, University of Birmingham

Professor Christopher Buckley obtained his first degree in Biochemistry (BA) from the University of Oxford in 1985. He subsequently undertook undergraduate training in Medicine at the Royal Free Hospital, London. Professor Buckley then pursued postgraduate training in General Medicine and Rheumatology at the Hammersmith Hospital, London and John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford. He gained his DPhil through a Wellcome Training Fellowship with Professor John Bell and Dr. David Simmons at the Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford. In 1996, funded by a Wellcome Clinician Scientist Fellowship, Professor Buckley joined the Department of Rheumatology in Birmingham University. In 2001 he was awarded an MRC Senior Clinical Fellowship and in October 2002 became Arthritis Research UK Professor of Rheumatology. In 2012 he was appointed Clinical Director of the Centre for Translational Inflammation Research and Director of the Birmingham NIHR Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility in Birmingham.

Lionel Ivashkiv, MD
Chief Scientific Officer, Hospital for Special Surgery
David H. Koch Chair in Arthritis and Tissue Degeneration
Professor, Medicine and Immunology, Weill Cornell Medical College

Lionel B. Ivashkiv received his undergraduate degree from Columbia College and medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He completed an Internal Medicine residency at Bellevue Hospital-NYU Medical Center and a Rheumatology Fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital-Harvard Medical School, where he also completed postdoctoral research training with Dr. Laurie Glimcher. Dr. Ivashkiv joined the faculty of Hospital for Special Surgery and Weill Cornell Medical College in 1992, where he is currently Chief Scientific Officer (HSS) and Professor of Medicine and Immunology. His research focuses on cytokine-mediated pathogenic mechanisms and regulation of inflammatory responses in the context of human autoimmune diseases.
Diane Mathis, PhD
Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Diane Mathis obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Rochester, and performed postdoctoral studies at the Laboratoire de Génétique Moléculaire des Eucaryotes (LGME) in Strasbourg, France and at Stanford University Medical Center. She returned to France at the end of 1983, establishing a laboratory at the LGME [later the Institut de Genetique et de Biologie Moleculaire et Cellulaire (IGBMC)] in Strasbourg, in conjunction with Dr. Christophe Benoist. The lab moved to the Joslin Diabetes Center, Boston, MA at the end of 1999. Through 2008, Dr. Mathis was a Professor of Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and an Associate Research Director and Head of the Section on Immunology and Immunogenetics at Joslin, where she held the William T. Young Chair in Diabetes Research. Dr. Mathis is currently a Professor in the Division of Immunology in the Department of Microbiology and Immunobiology at HMS, and holder of the Morton Grove-Rasmussen Chair in Immunohaematology. She is also a Principal Faculty Member at the Harvard Stem Cell Institute and an Associate Faculty Member of the Broad Institute. She presently serves on Scientific Advisory Boards of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Pew Foundation, Genentech, Fidelity Biosciences, MedImmune, and Pfizer as well as of several research institutes worldwide. She is co-founder of Tempero, a biotech start-up that aims to produce novel therapeutics in the autoimmunity/inflammation space. Dr. Mathis was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences in 2003, the German Academy in 2007, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012. The lab works in the fields of T cell differentiation, autoimmunity and inflammation. Dr. Mathis has trained close to 150 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

Thomas Tuschl, PhD
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor, Laboratory of RNA Molecular Biology, Rockefeller University

Dr. Tuschi is an HHMI Investigator, Professor and Head of the Laboratory of RNA Molecular Biology at The Rockefeller University. He received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Regensburg and the Max Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine in Göttingen, Germany. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Whitehead Institute, after which he served as Group Leader at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen. He has received numerous awards recognizing his contributions to understanding and exploiting small-RNA-guided gene regulation and is a member of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Dr. Tuschl is cofounder of Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, a Boston-based biotech company developing RNAi-based drugs, and a consultant to Regulus therapeutics, a California-based biotech company developing miRNA antagonists. His research interests lie in the dissection of posttranscriptional gene regulatory mechanisms and in the curation of the RNA and RNA-binding protein repertoire of human cells to capture dysregulation or mutation of these factors in human genetic disorders to ultimately develop new RNA diagnostic or RNA therapeutic approaches.