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CTVD Membership Update

For those of you who have been with us since the inception of CTVD, we are so thankful for your continued involvement; and fortunate to have you as part of the team. For those of you who are new to CTVD, welcome! We currently have 54 member institutions, with over 225 individual members, and are still growing.

Annual CTVD Meeting

4th Annual CTVD Meeting
June 20 - 22, 2018
Seattle, Washington



The 4th CTVD Annual Meeting will be held at the Gates Foundation in Seattle, WA June 20-22, 2018! Research Community members only will meet on June 20 and the general meeting will convene June 21-22. We look forward to this opportunity to discuss recent advances in the field of TB Vaccine discovery and consider strategies for moving the field forward. Additional details, and registration information, will be forthcoming. To view presentations from the 2017 annual meeting, please visit <https://portal.ctvd.co/ctvdmeetings>

Recent BMGF News

As many of you are already aware, we have some upcoming changes to our TB program at the Gates Foundation. Gilla Kaplan has decided to retire and will be stepping down from her role as Director on April 2, 2018, concluding her planned five-year tenure in the position. Emilio Emini has generously agreed to take on Gilla's role as Director of the TB Program in addition to his current responsibilities as Director of the HIV Program. Emilio's decades of expertise in infectious diseases and in product development make him an excellent choice to lead our TB team to effectively deliver existing tools and successfully move promising new candidates through the development cycle to reach patients.

Transitions like these inevitably create questions about the foundation's strategic direction and our commitment to existing initiatives. These questions are understandable, but the foundation remains fully committed to sustaining our investment in TB. To this end, we are more committed than ever to the Collaboration for TB Vaccine Discovery (CTVD).

The CTVD will continue in its mission to foster innovation, cooperation, and collaboration in the up-stream TB vaccine discovery space. We have some exciting new communication platforms that we will be unveiling in the next few months. Our advisory committee will be meeting soon and we are looking forward to making 2018 a successful year for CTVD. We hope to see all of you at the annual CTVD meeting, which will be held at the foundation June 20-22. Please mark your calendars and know that we will be sending you detailed information on this convening in the next few months.

Additionally, our CTVD program manager, Ksenia Koon, has recently accepted a position at the University of Washington as program manager of their Tuberculosis Research and Training Center (TRTC). From this position, Ksenia will continue to support the CTVD efforts at the foundation as before. Please note Ksenia's new email address: kkoon@ctvd.co

We would also like to introduce you to Mitchel Chitwood, who is replacing Jade Staley as program assistant assigned to CTVD.

Many of you interacted with Jade for your reimbursements and other administrative details having to do with CTVD. Mitchel can be reached at Mitchel.Chitwood@gatesfoundation.org

New Michelson Prizes for Young Investigators in Immunology and Vaccine Research

We are sharing an exciting new development – the establishment of [The Michelson Prizes for Human Immunology and Vaccine Research](#), which will award \$150,000 prizes to two young investigators pursuing transformative research in immunology and vaccine science.

This \$20 million initiative, generously funded by [The Michelson Medical Research Foundation \(MMRF\)](#) and administered by the [Human Vaccines Project](#), will support young investigators anywhere in the world who are applying innovative research concepts and disruptive technologies to significantly advance the development of future vaccines and therapies to defeat major global diseases.

The Michelson Prizes support the missions of both MMRF and the Human Vaccines Project, with the ultimate goal of broadening our understanding of the immune system to give the scientific community new tools to prevent and control disease, potentially saving millions of lives around the world.

MMRF will award two \$150,000 prizes to young investigators under the age of 35. Applicants need to show how they are going beyond conventional approaches in their field and clearly articulate how their contribution will have a lasting impact on human immunology and vaccine research. We are encouraging applications from early career scientists across a wide array of disciplines, including biomedicine, bioengineering, artificial intelligence/machine learning and nanotechnology.

Proposals will be reviewed and winners selected by a distinguished committee of internationally recognized scientists. Prizes will be awarded in June 2018 as part of a scientific conference on the Convergence of Human Immunology and Vaccine Research, hosted at [The Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience at the University of Southern California](#).

The pre-application deadline is fast approaching – **February 12**. Learn more about the Prizes [here](#) and feel free to reach out with any questions to MichelsonPrizes@HumanVaccinesProject.org.

Good Participator Practice Guidelines for TB Vaccine Research

Aeras and AVAC were proud to launch the [Good Participatory Practice Guidelines for TB Vaccine Research](#) (GPP-TB VACC) during the 48th Union World Conference on Lung Health this October. The GPP-TB VACC guidelines provide researchers with a framework for meaningfully engaging key community stakeholders at all stages of clinical trials, and enable community stakeholders to actively participate in TB vaccine research and advocacy efforts. Going forward, Aeras is committed to implementing GPP on all its clinical trials, in collaboration with all clinical trial sites, as well as further expanding their TB Vaccine Community Engagement Network as a resource for stakeholders in all TB Vaccine trials. With these efforts, Aeras and AVAC hope to help foster the main principles outlined in the GPP-TB VACC—respect, mutual understanding, transparency, accountability, and integrity—in all TB vaccine research.

CTVD Portal

Have you missed previously recorded CTVD Virtual Forums or Meetings? Want to view documents from your Research Community? Access to the secure portal is available to CTVD members whose institution has signed the DMSA (data and materials sharing agreement). There is an expectation that data arising from CTVD services and GH-VAP services be shared in a manner consistent with the Data Sharing Principles. Visit the CTVD Portal, located in the upper right-hand corner of the CTVD home page, <https://www.ctvd.co>, to access all this information and more. Forgot your logon? Contact Ksenia Koon (kkoon@ctvd.co), CTVD Manager, for help.

Upcoming Virtual Forums

The CTVD holds monthly virtual forms aimed at keeping our members informed of exciting advances in the field. If you have ideas for topics/speakers for upcoming virtual forums, please send them our way! Note the upcoming virtual forum presenters and dates. All forums are held at 8am pacific time. Login details will be sent to CTVD members prior to each forum.

Thursday, March 1, 2018—Elisa Nemes
Thursday, March 22, 2018—Jeffrey Ulmer
Thursday, May 24, 2018—Sebastien Gagneaux

To view the most recent webinar, visit CTVD portal, located in the upper right-hand corner of the CTVD home page, at <https://www.ctvd.co>.

Research Community Update

CTVD currently has six research communities. These research communities are involved in identifying and mapping critical research priorities for TB vaccine discovery and development. Each community is mandated with discussing the issues at hand and devising priority areas to address. We, at the Gates Foundation, champion these research communities and investigate

avenues to fund these priorities. If you have questions about any of the research communities, please ask one of the co-chairs.

Aerosol and Mucosal Vaccination: Aurelio Bonavia | Steffen Stenger

B-cells and Antibodies: Bryan Charleston | Steve Porcelli

Conventional T cells: Helen Fletcher | Kevin Urdahl

Donor-Unrestricted T Cells: Dave Lewinsohn | Branch Moody

Non-Human Primates: Tricia Darrah | Dominick Laddy

Whole Cell TB Vaccines: Olivier Neyrolles | Roland Brosch

Early Career Scientist Award

Today's early career scientists are essential to ensure that the field remains innovative, scientifically robust, and to infuse new ways of approaches to tackle the scientific challenges in order to develop a TB vaccine. The CTVD has implemented a process, the CTVD Early Career Scientist Award, to recognize the efforts of early career scientists who have made significant contributions to research in TB host-pathogen biology, immunology, and vaccinology. The Early Career Scientist award carries with it a travel grant to attend a TB-related conference. This award will cover expenses related to registration and travel (air flight, lodging, and meals).

All nominations must be submitted electronically via the link below. Nominations will not be accepted by email or by post. Please submit your nominations today!

<https://www.ctvd.co/Pages/EarlyCareerScientistAward.aspx>

Congratulations to our most recent Early Career Scientist Awardee!

Early Career Scientist Award - November 2017



Adam Penn-Nicholson, Ph.D.

University of Cape Town, South Africa

Expertise: Human immunology, biomarkers, interferons, pathology

Adam is a Research Officer at the South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI) at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He is an immunologist by training, with experience in the management of immunology of several clinical trials to test novel TB vaccine candidates, including ID93, M72 and MTBVAC. Adam received his PhD from Case Western Reserve University, in 2008, focussing on preclinical development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and HIV. Some of his research at SATVI has led to the identification, validation and qualification of blood-based biomarkers to predict TB disease risk, and towards a better understanding of the biology involved in progression from latent *M. tuberculosis* infection to active TB disease. The transcriptomic biomarker is now being tested in a "screen-and-treat" strategy to evaluate the use of targeted preventive therapy in high risk individuals, and to assess both diagnostic and prognostic performance of the correlate of TB disease risk.

Visiting Scientist Program

The Visiting Scientist Program (VSP) enables scientists from different CTVD member institutions to embrace new scientific concepts and gain experience in novel technologies with an overarching goal of promoting the exchange of ideas, expertise, and experiences. Through the VSP, scientists from CTVD member institutions from around the world are invited, as visiting scientists, to spend from 1 week to a maximum of 3 weeks and participate in established research studies in a laboratory of a CTVD member institution of their choice. Visiting scientists and the host scientists will jointly develop a coordinated agenda and training schedule, which is tailored to address their area of expertise and/or the specific techniques, instruments or innovations they want to learn.



Congratulations to our most recent Visiting Scientists awardee! In November 2017, **Madeleine Jennewein** (from Dr. Galit Alter's lab at Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard) visited the laboratories of Dr. Elisa Nemes at The South African TB Vaccine Initiative at Cape Town University. Dr. Jennewein shared three assays that were developed to analyze antibody functionality in the context of TB infection.

Please visit <https://www.ctvd.co/Pages/VisitingScientistProgram.aspx> for more information and to apply!

CTVD Advisory Council

The CTVD Advisory Council is comprised of the co-chairs from each of the six research communities, plus a representative from Aeras and TBVI. The Advisory Council meets semi-annually and guides the direction of CTVD.

GH-VAP

The Global Health Vaccine Accelerator Platform (GH-VAP) program provides investigators with access to several specialized research platforms to accelerate vaccine discovery and translation across infectious disease areas. To learn more, visit GH-VAP at <https://www.ghvap.org>

Publications of Interest

Do you have an article that you think the CTVD community would enjoy reading? If so, please let us know. We welcome your contributions of publications of interest for upcoming newsletters and our website.

Feedback

If you have questions or comments, please contact the CTVD program manager at kkoon@ctvd.co

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