



❁ Welcome to the Fall 2024 Newsletter, FOCIS Members! ❁

We are thrilled to bring you the latest edition of the FOCIS Newsletter, packed with exciting updates and news. First and foremost, we are pleased to announce that the call for abstracts for FOCIS 2025 is now open. This is an excellent opportunity for our members to showcase their research at the FOCIS 2025 Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

In addition, we are excited to share that we have introduced new membership benefits designed to enhance your experience and support your professional growth. These include access to the Research & Education Virtual Symposia, FOCIS Podcast Episodes, and a Journal Club (more information on this coming soon).

In this issue, we are also delighted to feature a spotlight interview with one of our newest FCE Directors - Dr. Mariana Maccioni. Learn about her groundbreaking work, her insights on the future of our field, and her advice for early-career professionals.

Lastly, you will find the latest news and updates from other FOCIS FCEs, research collaborations, and upcoming events. We strive to share with you activities and developments within the immunology community.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and inspiring. As always, we appreciate your continued support and dedication to FOCIS.

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FOCIS 2025 Annual Meeting

The abstract submission portal for the [FOCIS 2025 Annual Meeting](#) is now open! Contribute to the scientific program by submitting your latest research to share and connect with a diverse audience of immunology experts, clinicians, and scientists from around the globe.

The abstract submission deadline is **January 15, 2025**.

The meeting will be held June 24-27, 2025, at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. Registration and hotel blocks will open later this Fall!

2025 ABSTRACT TOPICS

Submissions Due: January 15, 2025

25 YEARS OF FOCIS

FOCIS

2025

JUNE 24-27
BOSTON
MASSACHUSETTS

➤ Allergy: Asthma, Food Allergy, Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disease, Eczema ➤ Autoimmune Diseases: Rheumatologic Diseases, General Autoimmunity, Diabetes and Other Autoimmune Endocrine Diseases, Autoimmune Hematologic Diseases, Autoimmune Skin Disease, Uveitis ➤ Autoinflammatory Diseases: Eye, Skin, GI Tract, Systemic ➤ Basic Science of Immunology - Adaptive Immunity: B Cells, Crosstalk, Signaling, T Cells ➤ Basic Science of Immunology - Innate Immunity: Crosstalk, Cytokines/Chemokines, Innate Cells, Signaling ➤ Immuno-engineering and Cellular Therapies: Biospecifics, CAR-T and NK Cells, Gene Therapy, Nanoparticles, TCR T Cells, TILs, Regulatory T Cells, Regulatory APC, Organoid Models ➤ Immuno-oncology: Checkpoint Therapy, Immune Monitoring, Vaccines ➤ Immunogenetics: Epigenetics, Immunodeficiency: Primary or Acquired, Immune Dysregulation Disorders	➤ Immunology Across the Ages: Immunology of Aging, Newborn Immunology, Inflammaging ➤ Immunometabolism ➤ Infectious Diseases: Vaccines, Host-pathogen Responses, COVID-19, Post-infection Outcomes, Treatment ➤ Mucosal Immunology: Microbiome, Immunology of the Gastrointestinal Tract, IBD ➤ Neuroimmunology ➤ Reproductive Immunology: Maternal/Fetal Immunology, Immunology of Pregnancy Loss ➤ Stem Cell and Organ Transplantation: GvHD, Rejection, Biologics ➤ Systems Immunology: Molecular Networks, Cell-cell Interactomes, Multi-OMIC Tools, AI in Imaging, Structural Immunology, Correlates of Immunity, Single Cell
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Submit Abstract

NEW Membership Benefits

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news about the new benefits that are part of your FOCIS membership:

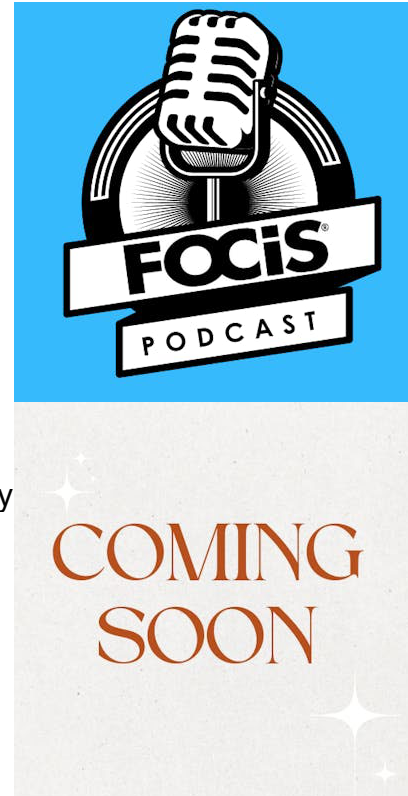
Research & Education Virtual Symposia

FOCIS recently hosted two highly informative virtual symposia, and we have plans for more in 2025. As a FOCIS member, you can register for these events at no cost. All registered members will have access to recordings after the live events.



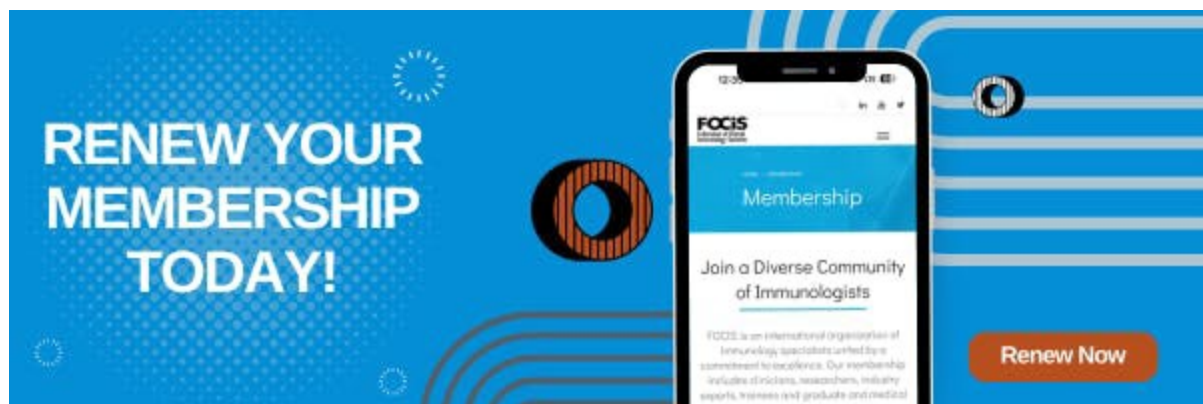
FOCIS Podcast

The FOCIS podcast is an excellent resource for staying up-to-date on the latest developments in immunology. Episodes feature advice on entering the field, reasons why FOCIS membership is valuable, and scientific insights from leading experts. New episodes will be released monthly, with [the first one debuting just last week featuring Dr. Ignacio Anegón](#). The next episode is scheduled for end of November.



Journal Club - *Coming Soon*

In the coming months, FOCIS will launch a new Journal Club. This initiative will provide members the opportunity to learn about recent publications directly from the authors themselves. More details on this exciting new benefit will be shared soon.



2024 Research & Education Virtual Symposia

FOCIS held two [Research and Education Virtual Symposia](#) in 2024. These symposia are a brand-new educational collaboration initiative coordinated by the FOCIS FCE, Membership, and Education Committees to offer more year-round educational opportunities for everyone around the world and are free of charge to all FOCIS Members.

The first symposium, hosted by Northwestern University on September 26th, was a tremendous success.

This was followed by another engaging symposium on October 25th, co-hosted by the University of Nairobi and the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

We thank all the organizers for outstanding work to make these symposia a resounding success.



FOCIS is thrilled to continue this new educational collaboration initiative and looks forward to hosting more virtual symposia in 2025. Thank you to all who attended and participated!

“Excellent talks with great professionals” *“Interesting and comprehensive”*

“Short talks with interesting topics” *“Loved the new and diverse topics”*

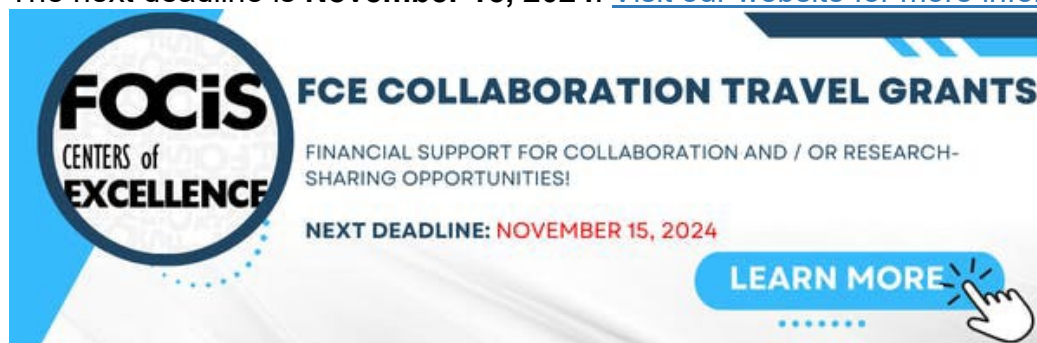
“High quality of research presented. Enjoyed learning from my own chair at home and not having to travel.”

“Some of the topics align with what we are doing, especially the human immunology which was good. Excellent speakers and really interesting research”.

FCE Collaboration Travel Grant Deadline

In an effort to further expand the FCE network and elevate FOCIS's presence globally, FOCIS is pleased to offer a travel grant opportunity available exclusively to FCEs: **the FCE Collaboration Travel Grant**.

The next deadline is **November 15, 2024**. [Visit our website for more information!](#)



Exciting News from the FOCIS FCE Community



Stay up to date with the latest news and updates from our FCEs!

FCE Spotlight Interview

A blue rectangular graphic with the text "FCE Spotlight" in white. In the top left corner is the FOCIS logo. Below the text is a photograph of Dr. Mariana Maccioni, a woman with curly brown hair, smiling. Below the photo, the text "Mariana Maccioni, PhD" and "Center for Advanced Immuno-monitoring and Translational Immunology" is displayed in white.

Get to Know FCE Director Dr. Mariana Maccioni Center for Advanced Immuno-monitoring and Translational (CAITI).

FOCIS interviewed Dr. Maccioni about her career path, proudest achievements, and involvement with FOCIS.

Read excerpts from that interview below and [listen to the full interview and read the transcript, here.](#)

How did you first get involved in immunology?

It's a pleasure to be here. I started with immunology because I studied clinical biochemistry at the National University of Cordoba. Cordoba is a large city at the center of Argentina. It is very well known because of its university. It's one of the oldest universities in South America. And in the nineties, we were all very excited about immunology. We all wanted to cure cancer and cure HIV. I took one of the fundamental immunology classes, and I had a great teacher, Dr. Clelia M Riera, who was really a pioneer woman in science. She really encouraged us to do what we wanted and to study science. She was a great teacher, a great mentor, and as a pre-graduate student, I really enjoyed immunology. At the same moment in our school, the curricula were changing and the authorities started to make a new orientation in immunology. There were new classes and courses in advanced

immunology, clinical immunology, and so on. I took them all and I was very enthusiastic. It was a new field, and it was very, very challenging.
[Read the full article here>>](#)

Tell us about the research you're most proud of.

I'm not sure if I can talk about one specific project that I am prouder of than others. When I started my research as a PhD student, I started working in autoimmune prostatitis in an experimental model of autoimmune prostatitis. I didn't like that model. It was in rats. Everybody was moving into mice, and I was still in this old model, but I could identify the major auto antigen in that model, a protein called prostatein. I am proud now when I look back to this because this discovery set out a basis for describing autoimmune components in inflammatory prostatitis in humans, something that was unknown at that moment, and a new line of research started in my institute regarding inflammatory diseases in the prostate gland in human beings.
[Read the full article here>>](#)

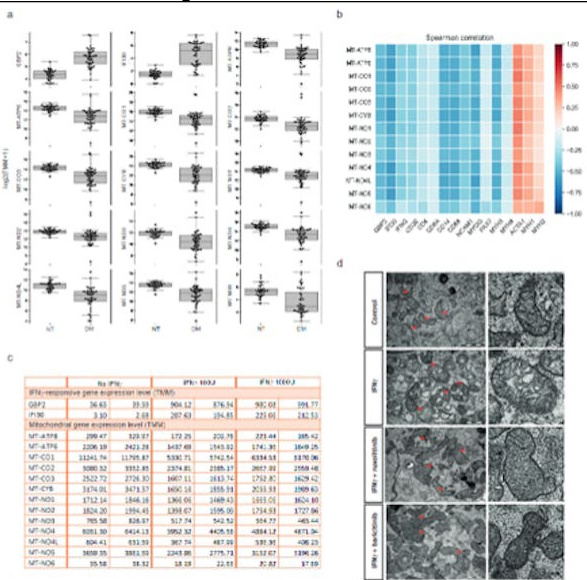
[Access the Full Interview Here](#)

FOCIS FCE News

FOCIS FCE: PAN'THER

A recent publication by the PAN'THER FCE members: IFN γ causes mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative stress in myositis.

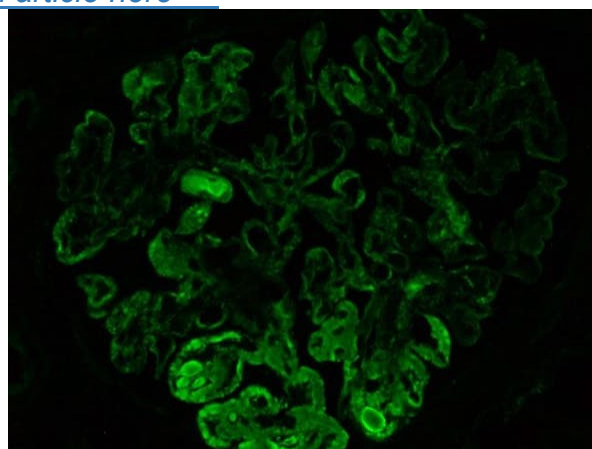
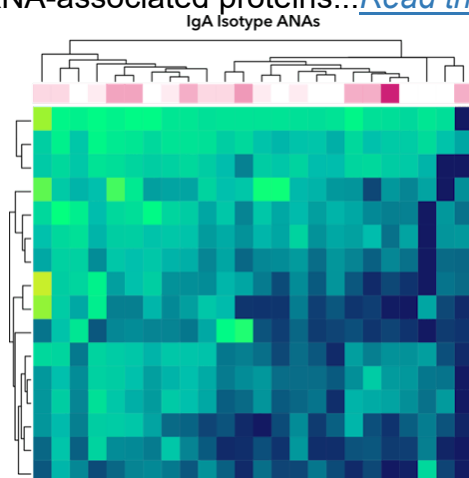
Myositis are autoimmune and inflammatory disorders leading to skeletal muscle weakness causing long-term disability. Type I and II interferon signatures have been identified in the human disease. In our recent publication (Abad et al, Nat Commun. 2024, 15:5403), we demonstrated that muscle pathology in Icos-/- NOD mice, which spontaneously develop IFN γ -driven myositis mimicking human disease, is associated with severe mitochondrial pathology...
[Read the full article here >>](#)



FOCIS FCE: Benaroya Research Institute

IgA Autoantibodies Synergize With IgG To Increase Inflammatory Responses in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus.

In a recent article published in Science Translational Medicine, a team of Benaroya Research Institute (BRI) scientists led by Hayley Waterman, PhD, and Jessica Hamerman, PhD, demonstrate that IgA autoantibodies play a significant role in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) development. They found that IgA autoantibodies bind to and activate plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDCs), thereby triggering the release of the cytokine interferon (IFN) alpha, important in SLE development and progression. SLE is an autoimmune disease in which autoreactive antinuclear antibodies recognize antigens such as double-stranded DNA and DNA- or RNA-associated proteins...[Read the full article here >>](#)

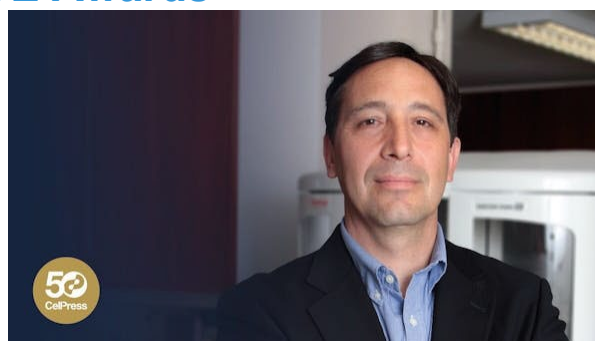


[Read the Full Articles Here](#)

FOCIS FCE Awards

Congratulations to FOCIS FCE Director & Education Committee Co-Chair Dr. Alexis Kalergis on being selected as one of Cell Press's 50th Anniversary Inspiring Scientists [#50ScientistsThatInspire!](#)

[Read the full article here>>](#)



FOCIS FCE Activities & Events

As part of its training and scientific dissemination activities, the FOCIS Center of Excellence (FCE) PAn'THER headed by **Olivier Boyer** and **Catalina Abad** held its second international symposium on September 26, 2024, at the Faculty of Health of Rouen Normandy University, France. The event, organized by **Jérémie Martinet**, brought together around a hundred people to discuss autoimmunity and cellular immunotherapy of cancer. Speakers were **Ignacio**

Anegon* (Inserm, Nantes, **President of FOCIS**), **Yves Allenbach** (AP-HP, Paris), **Marie-Agnès Dragon-Durey** (AP-HP, Paris), **Monica Guzman*** (Weill Cornell Medicine, New York), **Andrew Mammen*** (NIH, Bethesda), **Daniel Schäfer** (Miltényi, Bergisch Gladbach), **Werner Stenzel*** (Charité, Berlin), **Melody Caillot** (CHB cancer center, Rouen) and PAN'THER FCE members (**Jérémie Martinet**, **Olivier Boyer**). The meeting provided an opportunity for rich and intense exchanges, much appreciated by local, national, and European participants. Two trainees were awarded the international jury poster prize (**Lydia Ziane Chaouche**, Lille; **Laurenne El Fhaily**, Rouen) and two participants received a surprise prize by drawing lots.

The organizers would like to thank the IRIB, Rouen Faculty of Health, Campus Santé, INSERM, and the sponsors for their support in making this meeting a success. An advanced FOCIS course is scheduled for October 20-24, 2025.



**Members of PAN'THER FCE scientific advisory board*



Psoriasis (PsOPsA) Hub

Launched in 2022, the [PsOPsA Hub](#) is an open-access online resource created in collaboration with FOCIS, dedicated to providing independent, balanced, credible, and up-to-date medical education on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

Please check out a few recently published articles:



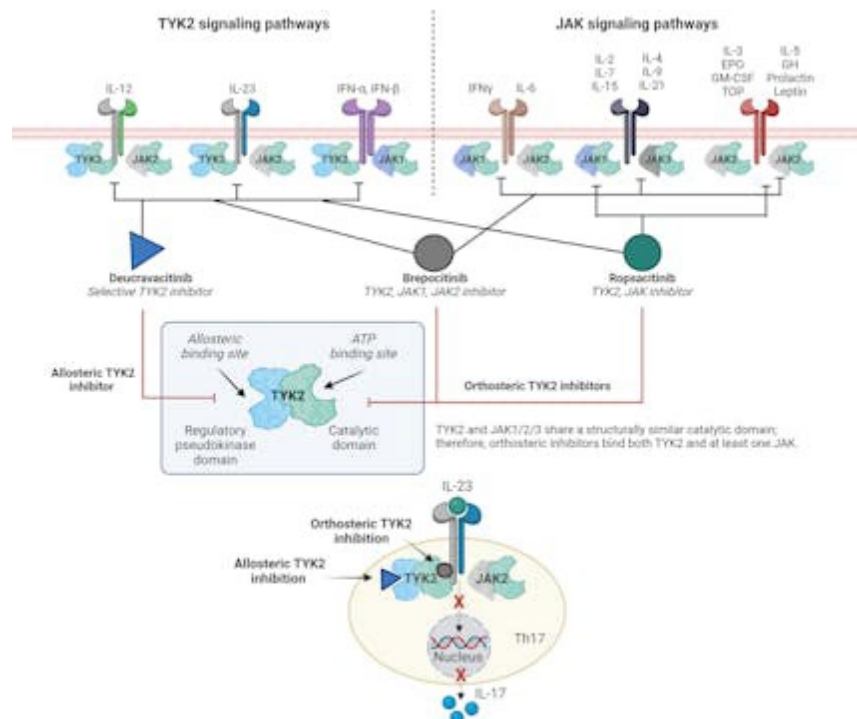
How does deucravacitinib fit into the treatment landscape for plaque psoriasis?

The Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Hub was pleased to speak with Paolo Gisondi, University Hospital of Verona, Verona, IT. [Watch the video here>>](#)



Targeted therapy for psoriasis: A focus on tyrosine kinase 2 inhibitors

After reading, you'll be able to state key data from clinical trials of tyrosine kinase 2 inhibitors in psoriasis and describe their mechanism of action. [Read the full article here>>](#)



Visit the PsOPsA Hub

Science Immunology



FOCIS publishes exceptional and interesting immunological research articles in every *Science Immunology* issue. The free articles are published under the 'Editors' Choice' article category. Browse and read the recent Editors' Choice articles linked below.

Science Immunology is a monthly, online-only, peer-reviewed research journal designed to facilitate understanding of the immune system by showcasing innovative advances in the expanding field of immunology. It draws from studies in all organisms and model systems, including humans.

Editor's Choice Articles

VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 99 | SEPT 2024

Pre-vax metabolic clues: Cracking the code to a better dengue vaccine

By Fahima Akther, David R. Martinez

Multi-omic analysis deciphers the impact of cell-intrinsic and systemic metabolomes on dengue vaccination immunogenicity.

When a double negative is not a positive: Autoantibodies against IL-10 in patients with inflammatory bowel disease

By Colleen M. Noviello

IL-10 autoantibodies are detected in two patients with severe inflammatory bowel disease.

VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 100 | OCT 2024

Dendritic cells in a pinch: Migration during homeostasis

By Eli C. Olson, Stephanie C. Eisenbarth

Dendritic cells sense confinement in the environment to induce migration in the absence of typical inflammatory stimuli.

Tricky Ts play possum to propagate autoimmune disease

By Anjali J. Panicker, Kevin C. O'Connor

Patients with autoimmune disease have exhausted antigen-specific T cells that remain capable of B cell support.

FOCIS Upcoming Community Events



The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer's 39th Annual Meeting and Pre-Conference Programs (SITC 2024)

Wednesday, November 6 – Sunday, November 10, 2024 | Houston, Texas, or Virtually

Advance the science and discover the latest breakthroughs while networking with international leaders at SITC 2024. Learn more: <https://www.sitcancer.org/2024/home>



**APAAACI 2024
CONGRESS**

12-15 DECEMBER 2024

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

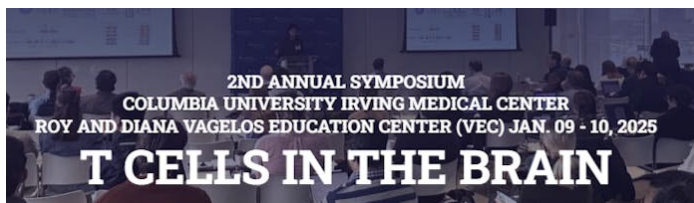


APAAACI 2024 Congress

Thursday, December 12 - Sunday, December 15, 2024 | Shangri La Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Attend the FOCIS-APAAACI Symposium titled "New perspectives in immunodiagnosis and immunotherapy" at the APAAACI 2024 Congress on December 14, 2024. Join leading experts for this cutting-edge collaboration.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



T Cells in the Brain 2025 (TCB2025)

Thursday, January 9 - Friday, January 10, 2025 | Roy and Diana Vagelos Education Center, New York, USA

[Click here to learn more.](#)



19th International Congress of Immunology
August 17–22, 2025 | Vienna Austria

supported by  OCAI
Austrian Society for
Allergology and Immunology

IUIS 2025 - 19th International Congress of Immunology

Sunday, August 17 - Friday, August 22, 2025 | Vienna, Austria

[Click here to learn more.](#)

FOCIS Related Events

FOCIS Career Opportunities

Assistant/Associate Member at Benaroya Research Institute

Seattle, Washington

[View Now>>](#)

Chief, Division of Basic and Clinical Immunology

Irvine, California

[View Now>>](#)



Senior Scientist in Immuno-Inflammation

Nantes, France

[View Now>>](#)

Editor-in-Chief, Clinical & Experimental Immunology

London, England

[View Now>>](#)

Bioassay Manager

San Diego, California

[View Now>>](#)

Postdoctoral Fellowship

Nashville, Tennessee

[View Now>>](#)

Use the [FOCIS Career Center](#) to post job openings, find potential candidates, search for openings, and subscribe to new posting notifications. To submit an opening, [click here](#). FOCIS members may post job openings for free!

Thank you for reading and supporting FOCIS as we advance immunology together!



 C. Garrison Fathman Fellows Fund

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- Annual Meeting Fund
- Research Fund

