



◉ Welcome to the FOCIS Summer Newsletter ◉

We're excited to bring you the latest from across the FOCIS community—celebrating a season of scientific breakthroughs, global collaboration, and growth.

FOCIS 2025 welcomed over 800 researchers and clinicians from around the world—thank you to everyone who helped make it a success!

We're also pleased to welcome **two new Member Societies**, expanding our global network and commitment to advancing human health through immunology.

In this issue, you'll also find updates from our **FOCIS Centers of Excellence**, a preview of the upcoming **FOCIS Podcast Series**, and the launch of our new **Journal Club**.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to connect and engage—and thank you for being part of FOCIS!

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Introducing the 2025-2026 FOCIS Board of Directors & Steering Committee

The [Board of Directors](#) has full responsibility for the management, direction, and control of the business, policies, and affairs of the Federation – no small task for this dedicated team of 17 leaders!

We welcome new Board members, **Elena Hsieh**, serving in the newly created board seat specifically for a Member Society representative, **Natasha Crellin**, and **Megan Cooper**, who, along with **Antonio La Cava** as co-chair, will plan the 2026 Annual Meeting.

We have much gratitude for our out-going board members who have served FOCIS so well. Thank you to Larry Turka, Jane Grogan, Jordan Pober, Hans-Dieter Volk, Elaine Reed, and Stephanie Eisenbarth.

[Click here to read more about the board of directors>>](#)

The Steering Committee serves as the infrastructure by which Member Societies exercise their voting rights and other rights as Members of the Federation. The committee had ten seats, which are considered permanent, for those societies that helped to found FOCIS. There are also ten rotating seats to ensure that all Member Societies had the opportunity to participate in FOCIS leadership.

This year, we welcome the following Member Societies to the FOCIS Steering Committee:

- French Immunology Society
- Spanish Immunology Society
- The International Cytokine & Interferon Society

[Click here to read more about the steering committee>>](#)



Where is YOUR place in FOCIS?

There is a place to grow and contribute for each member of FOCIS. Participate in the way that fits you best– attend webinars, courses and of course the Annual Meeting. Apply for travel awards, submit abstracts, join committee work, serve as a leader! Need more information? Please reach out to any Board Member or Staff member.

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

FOCIS 2025 Annual Meeting Highlights

FOCIS 2025 brought together **829 attendees** at the Boston Marriott Copley Place for a dynamic week of translational immunology, innovation, and collaboration.

The meeting featured a robust scientific program, including **4 keynote sessions**, **6 plenary sessions**, **9 thematic sessions**, **6 oral abstract sessions**, and engaging industry and partner program sessions.

A total of **328 abstract posters** were presented and the exhibit hall hosted **20 booths**. Participation from **16 Member Societies** further enriched the meeting with diverse perspectives from around the world. Thank you to our generous sponsors for helping make this year's event a success!



FOCIS 2025 Award Winners

FOCIS is excited to celebrate the outstanding individuals selected for this year's awards. [Congratulations to all the nominees and awardees for their remarkable contributions and achievements!](#)



C. Garrison Fathman Fellows Fund (CGFFF) Award Recipient

Margaux Verdon, PhD Student
Nantes University, INSERM 1302 INCIT, Nantes, France

Abstract: "Human Microbiota-Reactive DP8a Regulatory T Cells Protect Against Transplantation-Related Disorder"

British Society for Immunology (BSI) Poster Prize Award Recipient

Yuki Masuo, MD
Kyoto University

Abstract: "Stem-like Peripheral Helper T Cells Seed Their Effector Counterpart in Rheumatoid Arthritis"

"This research shed light on the spatially and functionally distinct peripheral helper T cell subsets in rheumatoid arthritis and revealed insights into how these subsets contributed to pathogenesis within the inflamed tissues.



(The) FOCiS meeting offered a valuable platform for active discussions and connections with researchers across fields. I am grateful for the opportunity to present our work and truly honored to receive the award." - Yuki Masuo



Clinical Immunology Award Recipient

Erin Theisen, MD, PhD

Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Abstract: "Granzyme K Drives a New Pathway of Complement Activation That Contributes to Disease Pathology"

"FOCIS has been an excellent venue to share our exciting work on Granzyme K activating the complement cascade.

I am honored to have received an award regarding this work and look forward to understanding this pathway in more detail in the future." - Erin Theisen

All Award Winners

FOCIS Welcomes Two New Member Societies!

We are pleased to welcome two new Member Societies to FOCIS: **ImmunITA** and **International Myositis Society (iMyoS)**. Their addition strengthens our shared mission to advance interdisciplinary and translational immunology across diverse disease areas. We look forward to their contribution and collaboration!



Member Society Highlight: Join Us at the 19th IUIS Congress

A Global Stand for Science

In an era where the role of science is increasingly questioned, the [19th International Congress of Immunology](#) offers a vital space for the global immunology community to come together, exchange breakthroughs, and reaffirm the importance of science in shaping a healthier, more informed world.

We warmly invite you to join us this August in Vienna for an inspiring program of cutting-edge research, international collaboration, and community building.

Visit the IUIS Booth to share your ideas for the [2026 Day of Immunology](#) theme. If you're passionate about public engagement, help us shape a campaign that will resonate worldwide.

We're proud to present the [IUIS EXCELL Award](#), the first and only IUIS prize recognizing outstanding research by women and non-binary immunologists. Join us in celebrating inclusive excellence in immunology.



Attend the [Rising Stars sessions](#) to hear directly from outstanding early-career researchers as they present their latest work and share their journeys in science. Their passion and insight are not to be missed.

Finally, the [Travel4Expertise grant](#) supports short-term training visits for researchers with career responsibilities, making hands-on learning more accessible and it is still available to apply. See you in Vienna, where together we'll stand for science and shape the future of immunology!

Survey for FOCIS Members

The **IUIS Clinical Immunology Committee (CIC)** is conducting a global survey to understand how basic and clinical immunology are taught at the undergraduate level. This is a key initiative to identify training trends, gaps, and unmet needs worldwide.

- 🔍 **We're calling on all FOCIS members** to take part – your insight is essential!
- 🕒 **Time required:** Less than 10 minutes
- 🔗 **Click here to take the survey now**

(Or copy and paste this link into your browser:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAIX8ZZ2tBNOM-M-2C3BjDpNlm8iOg8EgJp6KXKdOFwKD_D2Q/viewform?usp=s_haring)



Your participation will help guide improvements in immunology education globally.
Thank you for your contribution!

[Take the Survey](#)

FOCIS Advanced Course Recap from Thailand

The **2025 FOCIS Advanced Course in Basic and Clinical Immunology**, held in Bangkok, Thailand from May 23–26, brought together a dynamic group of scientists, clinicians, and trainees from around the world to explore cutting-edge advances in immunology. The course featured a robust program of lectures and discussions, covering both foundational concepts and emerging research in the immunology field.

Attendees benefited from the collaborative environment and interactive sessions, fostering meaningful exchanges of knowledge and ideas. We extend our sincere gratitude to the course coordinators—**Asha Pillai, MD** (Regeneron), **Ganjana Lertmemongkolchai, PhD** (Chiang Mai University), and **Tanapat Palaga, PhD** (Chulalongkorn University)—for their dedication in organizing this impactful event.



FCE Spotlight Interview: Kelly Brown, PhD



If your colleague asked you why they should join FOCIS, what would you tell them?

For anyone looking to really accelerate and amplify their research, I would highly recommend getting involved with FOCIS. It's a great way to connect across disciplines at the annual scientific meeting each June, as well as year round through FOCIS educational programs and outstanding opportunities for collaboration such as the FCE Collaboration Travel Grant.

There's a strong focus on trainees, such as financial support to attend the scientific meeting and the FCE Fusion event, which are great platforms for networking and staying current with cutting-edge research. FOCIS has also been expanding

opportunities for continuing education for all level of experience—everything from webinars to top-tier workshops in foundational science and clinical applications. What I find most exciting is how FOCIS helps bridge basic science and clinical care....

[Read/listen to the full interview here>>](#)

How did you first get involved with FOCIS?

I first discovered FOCIS as a student while searching for conferences that truly sit at the intersection of clinical and basic science. From the very beginning, it felt like I had found a professional home. Years later, I was fortunate to return as a young investigator, co-leading a Canadian Society for Immunology-sponsored symposium on IL-1 β -mediated diseases. That experience reaffirmed just how valuable FOCIS is as a community—one that continues to support and inspire my work in translational immunology.

[Read/listen to the full interview here>>](#)

[Access the Full Interview Here](#)

Exciting News from the FOCIS FCE Community

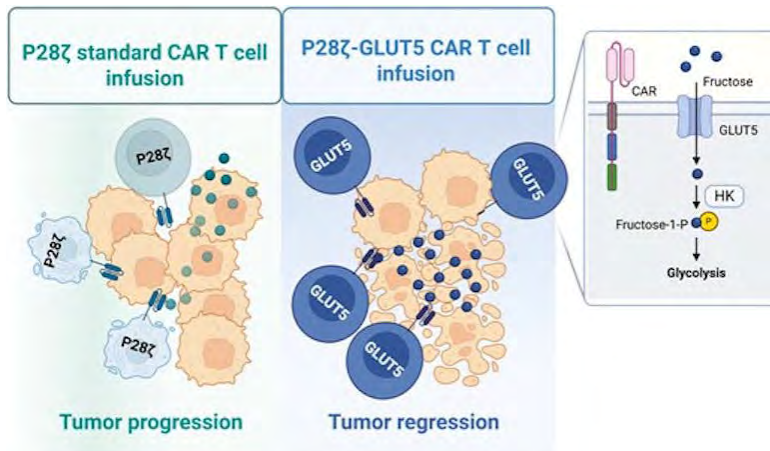


Stay up to date with the latest news and updates from our FCEs!

FCE NEWS: King's College London

Modifying T cell metabolism to enhance anti-tumour activity

Research from Dr. Esperanza Perucha and colleagues at King's College London has found that modifying T cells to use fructose as an energy source, instead of glucose, can enhance the anti-tumour activity of engineered T cells in low-glucose environments.

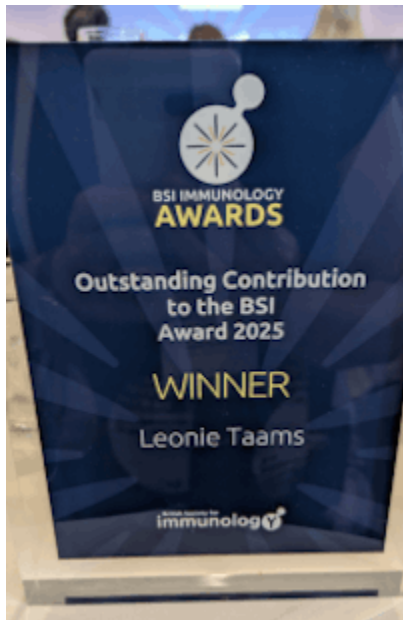


Cancer immunotherapy with engineered T cells has shown great promise in the treatment of some blood cancers; however, their success remains limited in solid cancers....

[Read the Full Article Here](#)
[>>](#)

[Check out the paper here](#) & [Check out about the work of the Perucha lab](#)

Professor Leonie Taams receives Outstanding Contribution to the BSI Award



Professor Leonie Taams, King's FCE Director and FOCIS Board member, recently received the Outstanding Contribution to the **BSI Award 2025**.

The award recognises the contribution and impact of an individual who has been outstanding in their support for the British Society for Immunology.

Professor Alberto Sanchez-Fueyo receives ILTS Award

Professor Alberto Sanchez-Fueyo, Professor of Hepatology, Academic Head of the Institute of Liver Studies at King's College London, and Honorary Transplant Hepatology Consultant at King's College Hospital has been awarded the 2025 ILTS Basic Science Established Investigator Award (Senior Career) from the International Liver Transplantation Society.



Professor Alexandra Santos receives Thermo Fisher Scientific Allergy Research Award

Professor Alexandra Santos, who spoke at FOCIS 2024, was recently awarded the Thermo Fisher Scientific Allergy Research Award 2025. The esteemed award honours one international scientific researcher who has made remarkable progress and advancements in the field of allergy research, each year.



Professor Anthony Dorling receives OBE

Professor Anthony Dorling, who recently retired as Professor of Transplant Inflammation and Repair, was recognised in The King's 2025 Birthday Honours List, receiving an OBE for his services to kidney patient care.



FCE NEWS: Benaroya Research Institute

In an [article from *Science Translational Medicine*](#), researchers from Benaroya Research Institute (BRI) and the Allen Institute published the first results from the Sound Life Project (SLP) — a two-year study following 100 healthy individuals. This initial study from the SLP shows that innate immune activity and T cell activation are major axes of variation among healthy adults. Led by BRI scientists [Megan Smithmyer, PhD](#), [Alex Hu, PhD](#), [Jane Buckner, MD](#), and [Cate Speake, PhD](#), the research team used longitudinal cytometry data leveraging whole blood samples collected at 10 visits over 2 years to identify stable immune cell populations, defined as populations that varied more between individuals than within individuals. These populations included innate immune cells that are often lost to sample processing....[Read the Full Article Here >>](#)

FCE NEWS: Yale Human and Translational Immunology Program

Prashanth Vallabhajosyula

Has published a paper entitled “Circulating Tissue Specific Extracellular Vesicles for Noninvasive Monitoring of Acute Cellular Rejection in Clinical Heart Transplantation” of interest to the FOCIS community. The publication is on EVs for noninvasive diagnosis of rejection in heart transplantation....

Publication details can be found here...[Read the Full Article Here >>](#)



Ruth Montgomery, Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Scientific Affairs, Yale School of Medicine

Inducted as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellow.

“For novel and high impact studies of innate immunity that often exploit new technologies to understand the response of immune cells to human pathogens, aging, and autoimmunity.” [News article can be found here.](#)



David Hafler, William S. and Lois Stiles Edgerly Professor of Neurology and Professor of Immunobiology

Inducted as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellow.

“For bridging immunology, genetics, and neurology to understand the pathogenesis of multiple sclerosis, and elucidating key aspects of immune pathways.” [News article can be found here.](#)

Ellen Foxman

Has published a paper: “Nasal biomarker testing to rule out viral respiratory infection and triage samples: a test performance study”.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed an urgent need for better solutions for screening for respiratory viruses. In a new study in Lancet eBiomedicine, a collaborative team

from the Yale Department of Laboratory Medicine report a biomarker-based solution for low-cost respiratory virus screening.

[Link to Yale News Article](#)

[Link to Authors and Journal Article.](#)

Foxman Lab Trainee news:

Krupa Subramaniam (post-graduate) won a trainee award and delivered a podium talk at the May 2025 AAI meeting.

Tim Watkins (graduate student) and **Julien Amat** (postdoctoral associate) were poster presenters at the June 2025 FOCIS meeting in Boston.

[Read all FCE News Here](#)

The FOCIS Podcast is Back This Fall!

We hope you enjoyed the debut series of the FOCIS Podcast this past year, featuring leading voices in immunology and groundbreaking discoveries.

We're excited to announce that a new series will launch this fall—bringing you more expert insights, emerging research, and conversations that inspire. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your immunology knowledge and stay ahead of the curve.

Catch up on all past episodes below:

Episode 1: Dr. Ignacio Anegón

Episode 2: Dr. Michael Angelo & Dr. Todd Brusko

Episode 3: Dr. Abul Abbas & Dr. Bana Jabri

Episode 4: Dr. Salvatore Albani & Dr. Ciriaco Piccirillo

Episode 5: Dr. Josh Milner, Dr. Stephanie Eisenbarth, Dr. Michail Lionakis, & Dr. Linqi Zhang

Episode 6: Dr. Leonie Taams & Dr. Susan Bueno

Episode 7: Dr. Clive Gray, Dr. Gabriel Rabinovich, & Dr. Marcelo Hill



[Listen Now](#)

[Watch on Youtube](#)

Introducing the New FOCIS Journal Club – Launching This Fall!

We're excited to announce the launch of the **FOCIS Journal Club**, coming this fall! This new initiative will feature engaging discussions of high-impact papers in immunology, with selected authors joining to present and discuss their published work directly with the FOCIS community.

Whether you're a trainee, clinician, or investigator, the Journal Club offers a valuable way to stay current, learn from experts, and connect with the immunology community.



COMING
SOON

More details and registration information will be available soon—stay tuned!

FOCIS Highlights in *Science Immunology*

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.

VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 107 | MAY 2025

Tolerance requires diversity (of antigen presenting cells)

By Danielle R. Jacobsen & Stephanie C. Eisenbarth

Multiple APC subsets cooperate to induce regulatory T cells in the gut.

How dengue defies dogma: An extrafollicular tale

By Jordan Polster & David R. Martinez

The acute humoral immune response in patients with severe dengue can be extrafollicular, driven by a unique subset of CD4+ T cells.

VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 108 | JUN 2025

Inflammatory mischief managed: How retinoic acid calms heart attacks at the (marrow) source

By Sahily Reyes-Esteves & Christopher A. Hunter

Targeting vitamin A metabolism limits emergency hematopoiesis and promotes resolution of inflammation in myocardial infarction.

Immuno-amnesia: Without B cells, T cells cannot remember

By Jonathan S. Maltzman

Why B cells are needed for optimal CD8 T cell memory.

VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 109 | JUL 2025

The 10 commandments of immunoregulation in lymphoma

By Maria de los Reyes Capilla Guerra & Gabriel K. Griffin

IL-10 plays a dual role in diffuse large B cell lymphoma progression and microenvironment, which could be leveraged for immunotherapy..

TB or not TB: That depends on the antibody Fc

By Surabhi Kumar & Kevin C. O'Connor

Fc-swapped variant monoclonal antibodies reveal new mechanisms underlying Mycobacterium tuberculosis restriction.

FOCIS Upcoming Community Events



IUIS 2025 - 19th International Congress of Immunology

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

Learn more here: <https://iuis2025.org/>



APAAACI 2025 Congress

Thursday, October 9 – Sunday, October 12, 2025 | Jakarta, Indonesia

Learn more here: <https://www.apaaaci2025.com/>.



European Advanced Course & Conference on Immunology and Immunopathology

Monday, October 20 – Friday, October 24, 2025 | Rouen, Normandy, France

Learn more here: <https://focisnet.org/education/european-advanced-course-rouen-2025/>



The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer's 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting and Pre-Conference Programs (SITC 2025)

Wednesday, November 5 – Sunday, November 9, 2025 | National Harbor, MD or Virtually

Learn more: <https://www.sitcancer.org/2025/home>



BSI Congress 2025

Monday, December 1 – Thursday, December 4, 2025 | Liverpool, UK

Learn more: <https://www.bsicongress.com/>

FOCIS Related Events

FOCIS Career Opportunities

Assistant Professor: Research Chair in Urological Sciences

London, Ontario: [View Now>>](#)

Chief, Division of Basic and Clinical Immunology

Irvine, California: [View Now>>](#)

Assistant/Associate Professor, Microbiology & Immunology (Tenure Track)

Reno, Nevada: [View Now>>](#)

Scientist, Disease Modifying Therapies **Editor-in-Chief, Clinical & Experimental Immunology**

New York, New York: [View Now>>](#)

London, England: [View Now>>](#)

Assistant/Associate Member at Benaroya Research Institute

Seattle, WA: [View Now>>](#)

Bioassay Manager

San Diego, California: [View Now>>](#)

Senior Scientist in Immuno-Inflammation

Nantes, France: [View Now>>](#)

Postdoctoral Fellowship

Nashville, TN: [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!



FOCIS is now on Bluesky! Follow us at
[@focisimmunology.bsky.social](https://focisimmunology.bsky.social)



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