



❄️ Welcome to the Winter 2025 Newsletter, FOCIS Members! ❄️

We are excited to share the latest updates and news from the FOCIS community in our winter newsletter.

Mark your calendars for the FOCIS 2025 Annual Meeting, taking place June 24-27, 2025, in Boston, MA! This year's program will feature cutting-edge research, insightful plenary & thematic sessions, and unparalleled networking opportunities. We are currently accepting late-breaking abstract submissions, so be sure to submit your work for consideration.

In other news, the FOCIS Centers of Excellence (FCEs) have had an exciting year so far, organizing a variety of events and have had many new publications. Stay tuned for more details on these exciting initiatives, which aim to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing within our vibrant community.

We hope you find this newsletter informational & educational. As always, we appreciate your continued support and dedication to FOCIS.

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- **Support the FOCIS Mission!**

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FOCIS 2025 Registration is Open

FOCIS is THE meeting in translational immunology that will give you a competitive edge in your career. Stay ahead of the curve with leading clinicians and researchers delivering the latest breakthroughs across immune-mediated diseases. Focusing on molecular pathways and their implications in human disease provides a unique opportunity for innovative thinking and applying ideas from the pathologies of other diseases to uncover novel solutions to challenges in the diseases you study.

25 YEARS OF FOCIS



Through the FOCIS Annual Meeting, researchers and clinicians share knowledge across traditional disease borders and identify commonalities between treatments and therapies that are life-changing for those affected with immune-mediated diseases.

FOCIS 2025 Annual Meeting Hotel

The FOCIS 2025 Annual Meeting will be held at the Boston Marriott Copley Place.

Boston Marriott Copley Place

110 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02116

Hotel Rates:

Regular Rate: \$319.00/night + taxes and fees

Trainee Rate: \$239.00/night + taxes and fees



[Register Now](#)

[Make Your Accommodations Today](#)

FOCIS PLENARY SESSIONS

JUNE 25

- 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM: TISSUE GENERATION AND REPAIR
- 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM: ENGINEERED IMMUNITY; FINDING THE SWEET SPOT

JUNE 26

- 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM: NEURONAL CONTROL OF IMMUNE RESPONSE
- 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM: JAK/STATS IN DISEASE

JUNE 27

- 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM: METABOLIC DYSFUNCTION AND INFLAMMATION
- 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM: PRECISION MEDICINE FOR IMMUNE DYSREGULATION

FOCIS THEMATIC SESSIONS

JUNE 25

- 1:00 PM - 2:45 PM: ALLERGY - MECHANISMS TO TREATMENTS
- 1:00 PM - 2:45 PM: MICROBIOME AND IMMUNITY
- 1:00 PM - 2:45 PM: SYSTEMS IMMUNOLOGY & AI

JUNE 26

- 2:10 PM - 3:55 PM: IMMUNE DYSREGULATION, LESSONS FROM MONOGENIC DISEASE
- 2:10 PM - 3:55 PM: ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ON IMMUNITY & INFLAMMATION
- 2:10 PM - 3:55 PM: VACCINES, EMERGING PATHOGENS & POST-INFECTIOUS SYNDROMES

JUNE 27

- 2:00 PM - 3:45 PM: ALLOREACTIVITY FROM TRANSPLANT TO MATERNAL-FETAL INTERFACE
- 2:00 PM - 3:45 PM: IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY
- 2:00 PM - 3:45 PM: OCULAR AND NEUROINFLAMMATION

Late-Breaking Abstract Submission is Open

You're invited to submit an abstract to the FOCIS 2025 Annual Meeting! Late-breaking abstract submissions will be accepted from through **April 2nd, 2025**.

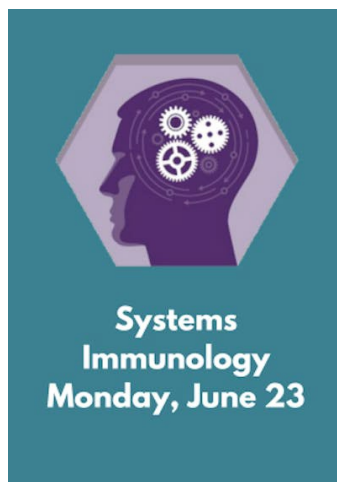
2025 ABSTRACT TOPICS
Late Breaking
Submissions Due: April 2, 2025

25 YEARS OF FOCIS **JUNE 24-27**
FOCIS
2025
BOSTON
MASSACHUSETTS

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

[Submit Late-Breaking Abstract](#)

2025 FOCISed Courses



Systems Immunology Course

Attend this course to obtain a conceptual framework of the main modeling, analysis and visualization technologies along with methodological principles for their application to translational research projects. The course will also provide a better basic understanding of modern statistical and mathematical concepts necessary for their analysis and interpretation.

This course takes place on **Monday, June 23, 2025**.



**Cancer Immunity &
Immunotherapy
Tuesday, June 24**

Cancer Immunity & Immunotherapy Course

Co-organized with SITC, the course will review tumor immunology as the scientific foundation for the current practice of cancer immunotherapy, emphasizing fundamental principles, clinical advances, limitations, and opportunities to accelerate clinical progress.

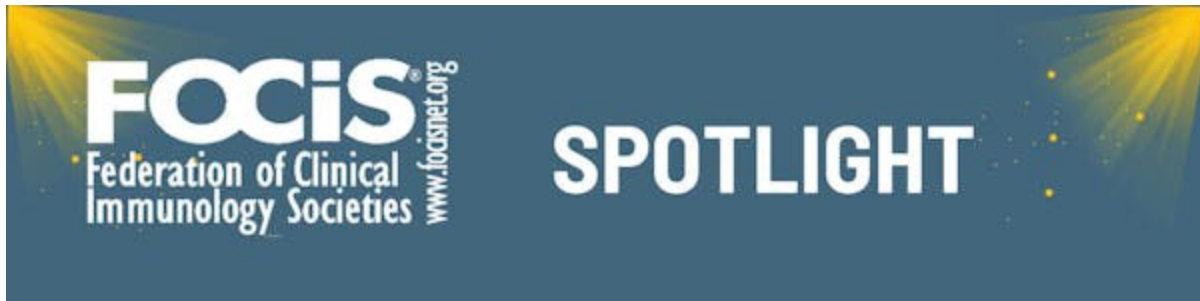
This course takes place on **Tuesday, June 24, 2025.**

[Learn More](#)

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
TODAY!**



Renew Now



FCE Spotlight Interview: Coziana Ciurtin, PhD



How do you think FOCIS has changed your world?

I believe in interdisciplinary research, and we are doing research, which is at the intersection of immunology, clinical immunology with rheumatology, which is my specialty, and is across the lifespan.

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

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

I would definitely tell them that FOCIS provides that unique opportunity for education knowledge exchange between the world leaders in immunology. It's also a platform for education and high-quality research dissemination. I'll also tell them that we can learn so much from colleagues doing research in other disciplines that are relevant to immunology and FOCIS offers this unique opportunity.

[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!

First FCE Collaboration Travel Grant Winner

Congratulations to the very first FOCIS FCE Collaboration Travel Grant winners:

- Georgios Tousinas (Gounari Lab, Mayo Clinic)
- Yeguang Hu (Georgopoulos Lab, MGH)
- Katia Georgopoulos (Georgopoulos Lab, MGH).



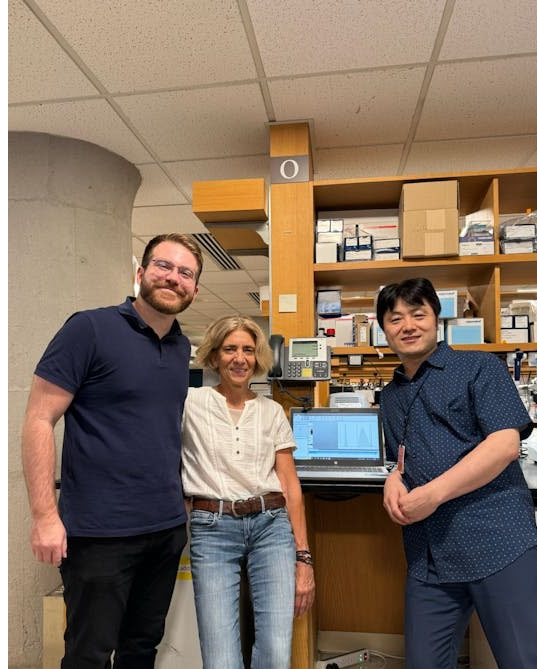
This collaboration project took place from July, 8-14, 2024. See below some of the project summary:

Any differences from the project description as outlined in the application?

The primary focus of the trip was to train me to independently conduct a HiChIP experiment. This trip was a great opportunity to teach me the nuances of this advanced molecular tool.

Were objectives achieved? Why or why not?

Yes, the objective was successfully achieved. We generated a high-quality HiChIP library targeting the H3K27ac histone mark, which enabled us to explore how super-enhancer duplications alter 3D chromatin architecture to promote Myc Overexpression... This project took place July 8-14, 2024. [Click the button below to read the full summary.](#)



[Read the Full Summary Here](#)



European Advanced Course & Conference on Immunology and Immunopathology

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

In 2023, our FCE had the great pleasure of hosting the **FOCiS European Advanced Course** and Conference on Immunology in Rouen, France (27 to 31 of August). It consisted on lectures in a "course format", one day of scientific talks in a "congress format" and half a day dedicated to the building of a clinical trial with different examples.



This course had great success, with 130 participants from 27 countries from all over the world (Image Above).

With a similar format as the previous edition, this five-day course and conference will provide a high-quality, up-to-date comprehensive coverage of major topics in immunology and will provide the opportunity to acquire essential skills on building a clinical trial and drafting a protocol during a participative workshop. Junior researchers, who will be selected based on the quality of their submitted abstracts, will have the opportunity to share their own work. Participants in this course will get the chance to engage with renowned clinical immunology specialists through discussions and questions. The deadline for early bird registration and for travel award application is June 1st. To further facilitate participation of your FCE, your members can benefit from discounted registration rates. [Register now!](#)

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

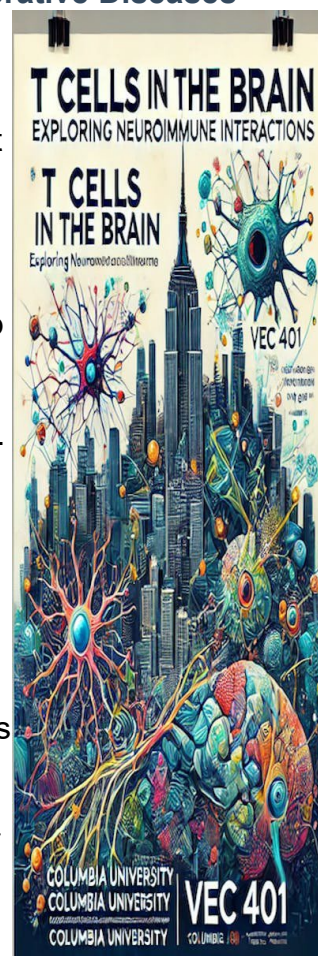
Highlights from the TCB2025 Symposium

Decoding T Cell Targets in Neurodegenerative Diseases

The TCB2025 Symposium, chaired by **Wassim Elyaman (Columbia University)**, and co-chaired by **Malú G. Tansey (Indiana University)**, was held on January 9-10, 2025, at the Vagelos Education Center at Columbia University in New York City, brought together experts, researchers, and trainees to explore the critical role of T cells in neurological diseases.

This groundbreaking event successfully bridged the gap between basic science and therapeutic development in conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, ALS, epilepsy and other neurological diseases.

The symposium featured lectures, panel discussions, and trainee-focused short-talks and poster presentations, fostering collaboration and showcasing cutting-edge research on topics like T cell biology, immune-neural interactions, novel T cell-focused technologies, and innovative therapeutic strategies. Participants had the opportunity to engage with pioneers in the field, sparking discussions and partnerships that will shape the future of neuroimmunology. The discussion was recorded and is now available online for those who could not attend: [Watch the recording](#). [To continue reading, please click the button below.](#)



[Read the Full Article Here](#)

FCE NEWS: Benaroya Research Institute

A Subset of Expanded Regulatory T Cells Is Linked With C-Peptide Preservation in Children With New Onset Type 1 Diabetes.

The use of regulatory T cells (Tregs) as cellular therapy for autoimmune diseases has shown to be relatively feasible and safe in clinical trials. However, optimization of Treg function, stability, and transcriptional expression appears to be required to improve the efficacy of this promising new therapeutic. In an article published last year in *Science Translational Medicine*, Benaroya Research Institute (BRI) scientists led by Dr. Alice Long in collaboration with Dr. Stephen Gitelman at the University of California, San Francisco and Dr. Kurt Griffin at Sanford Health and now at BRI explored the safety and potential efficacy of in vitro polyclonally expanded (expTregs) for the treatment of new-onset type 1 diabetes (T1D). [To continue reading click here >>](#)

FCE NEWS: Yale Human and Translational Immunology Program

Yale February 2025 Immunology Update

Kevin O'Connor

Trainee recognition:

Alexandra Bayer-Wildberger, PhD, a post-doctoral associate in the lab of **Kevin O'Connor, PhD**, has been selected as a MGNet Scholar by the Myasthenia Gravis Rare Disease Network (MGNet). MGNet is part of the National Institutes of Health's Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network. The grant, "Defining the molecular pathomechanisms of AChR-IgM autoantibodies in myasthenia gravis," funds one year of research with the possibility of a one-year renewal and will begin in February 2025. With the support of the grant, Dr. Bayer-Wildberger aims to understand the role of antigen-specific IgM in myasthenia gravis (MG).

Highlight on Bayer-Wildberger can be found at [Medicine.Yale.Edu](https://medicine.yale.edu) or at RareDiseasesNetwork.org.



Liza Konnikova

Liza Konnikova, MD, PhD, FAAP has been elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). The ASCI is a nonprofit medical honor society composed of more than 3,000 physician-scientists representing all medical specialties. The Society is dedicated to the advancement of research that extends understanding of diseases and improves treatment, and members are committed to mentoring future generations of physician-scientists.



Ellen Foxman

Ellen Foxman, MD, PhD was honored to give the Sidney Pestka Lecture at the Philadelphia Infection and Immunity Forum in December 2024. The award honors investigators who have made advances in the field of interferon research.

[To continue reading click here >>](#)

[Read the Full Articles Here](#)

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 9 | ISSUE 101 | NOV 2024

[TAM-ing the beast with IL-34 blockade](#)

By Aron Gyorgypal and Robert M. Anthony

TP53 mutation triggers IL-34 secretion by cancer stem cells, reprogramming macrophages to suppress T cells and promote tumor immune escape.

[CAR-ving away OX40L with engineered T_{regs}](#)

By Jonathan S. Maltzman

OX40L–CAR-T_{regs} show promise for treating autoimmunity and transplantation rejection.

VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 102 | DEC 2024

[Removing “flavor” from pathogenic antibodies hits a therapeutic sweet spot](#)

By Dana L. E. Vergoossen and Maartje G. Huijbers

Endoglycosidase CU43 removes IgG Fc glycans, inhibits IgG effector functions, and prevents pathology in multiple disease models.

It's the little things in life: Lymph node microniches drive T_H2 formation in allergic asthma

By Kelly Butler and Adam Williams

Lymph node IL-2 microniches guide development of T_H2 cells through induction of Blimp-1 expression and an IL-10–positive feedback loop.

VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 103 | JAN 2025

SNIPR alert! Making T cells more precise killers

By Jonathan Chuck and Laura A. Sol

A cell engineering approach demonstrates that precise regulation of cell signaling can be achieved using both endogenous and synthetic ligands.

Molecular scalpels dissect new GluN1 hot spots in anti–NMDA receptor encephalitis

By Marianna Spatola and Josep Dalmau

Patient-derived NMDAR mAbs combined with single-particle cryo-electron microscopy reveal multiple GluN1 epitopes and distinct functional effects.

2025 Thailand Advanced Course in Basic & Clinical Immunology

Join us for the **2025 Thailand Advanced Course in Basic & Clinical Immunology** to learn basic and clinical immunology topics from a faculty of global experts!

The Course will take place May 23-26, 2025 at Novotel Siam Square, **Bangkok, Thailand**.

Registration rates go up after **March 31, 2025**. Register today to save!



[Learn More](#)

Application Opportunities for Research Sharing



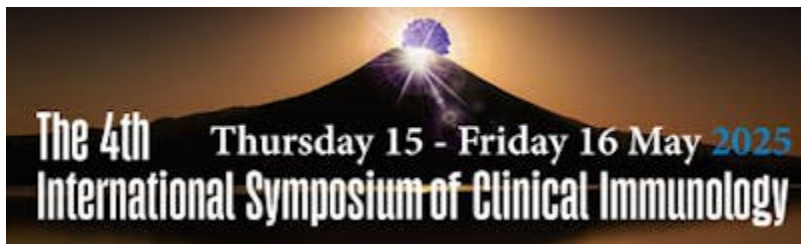
Research and Education Virtual Symposia Applications are Open

Submit your work for the opportunity to host a Research and Education Virtual Symposia in 2025 with the FOCIS community and our industry partners.

There is no cost to apply.

[Learn More Here >>](#)

FOCIS Upcoming Community Events



The 4th International Symposium of Clinical Immunology, Organized by the Japanese Society of Clinical Immunology

Thursday, May 15 – Friday, May 16, 2025 | Nippondaira Hotel, Shizuoka, Japan; Hybrid Mode (in-person and online)

Learn more here: <https://www.icongroup.co.jp/isci2025/>



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

supported by  Austrian Society for Allergy and Immunology

IUIS 2025 - 19th International Congress of Immunology

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

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

FOCIS Related Events

FOCIS Career Opportunities

Assistant Director of Diabetes Institute

Gainesville, Florida

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Clinical Assistant/Associate Professor –

Arthritis & Clinical Immunology

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

[View Now>>](#)

Rheumatology Advanced Practice Provider

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

[View Now>>](#)

Assistant/Associate/Professor Arthritis & Clinical Immunology - Rheumatology

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

[View Now>>](#)

Assistant/Associate/Staff Scientist Human Immunology

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

[View Now>>](#)

Postdoc Human Immunology (Autoimmunity)

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

[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!



Assistant/Associate Member at Benaroya Research Institute

Seattle, Washington

[View Now>>](#)

Senior Scientist in Immuno-Inflammation

Nantes, France

[View Now>>](#)

Editor-in-Chief, Clinical & Experimental Immunology

London, England

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Unparalleled visibility: Gain exposure to a diverse group of immunologists that you cannot find at any other meeting.

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Brand recognition: Position your company as a leading player in the field of immunology.

Return on investment: Our sponsorship packages are designed to provide a tangible return on your investment, with opportunities to educate key stakeholders and generate new leads.



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



✦ C. Garrison
Fathman Fellows
Fund

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[@focisimmunology.bsky.social](https://focisimmunology.bsky.social)



Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS)

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