



🐦 Welcome to the FOCIS Spring Newsletter 🐦

We're excited to bring you the latest news and updates from across the FOCIS community. From major upcoming events to recent accomplishments, there's plenty to look forward to this season.

Mark your calendars for the **FOCIS 2025 Annual Meeting**, happening **June 24–27, 2025**, in **Boston, MA**! This year's program promises groundbreaking research, dynamic plenary and thematic sessions, and unmatched networking opportunities. Don't miss the **15 Member Society Symposia** kicking off the meeting on **Tuesday, June 24**.

Elsewhere in the FOCIS community, our **Centers of Excellence (FCEs)** have been busy hosting impactful events and publishing new research. Stay tuned as we highlight their impressive contributions and ongoing efforts to promote collaboration and innovation.

We hope you find this edition both informative and inspiring. Thank you for being a valued part of FOCIS!

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FOCIS Welcomes New Executive Director

Kerry O'Brien, CAE, IOM

We are thrilled to announce that **Kerry O'Brien, IOM, CAE** has joined the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) as our new Executive Director! See below a statement from her



"Since joining the FOCIS team in February, it has become abundantly clear to me that FOCIS is truly exceptional. Here, "collaboration" and "interdisciplinary approaches" aren't just buzzwords—they are foundational values that shape everything we do. I'm honored and inspired to work alongside the dedicated leaders, members, and supporters who are driving the FOCIS mission forward.

Having led membership organizations for the past 15 years, I've seen firsthand that in times of growth, a strong mission provides the foundation for progress—and in times of uncertainty, it offers the stability we depend on. FOCIS is well-positioned for both.

I'm excited to see FOCIS in action at the Annual Meeting and to celebrate 25 years of global collaboration with you in Boston!" - Kerry O'Brien, CAE, IOM.

FOCIS 2025 Annual Meeting

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



Boston Marriott Copley Place

110 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02116

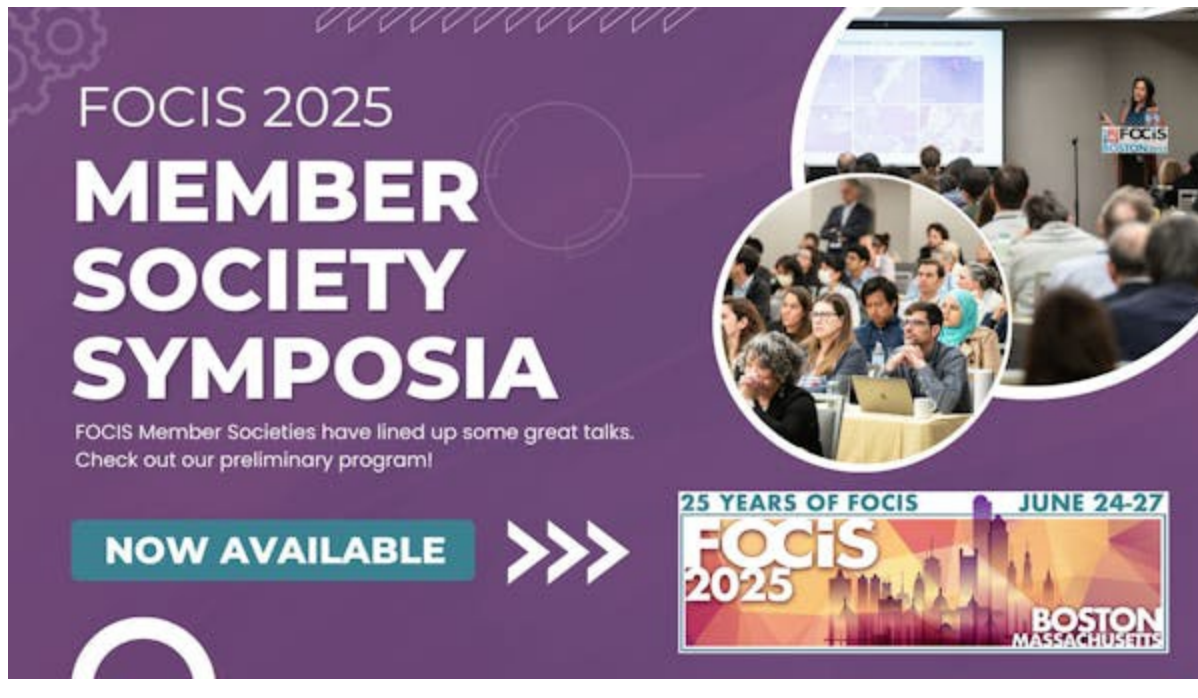
Hotel Rates:

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

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

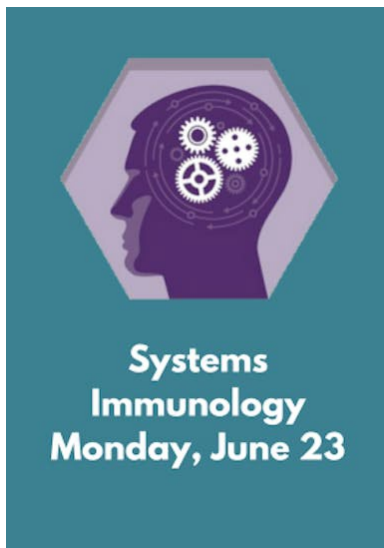
[Register Now](#)

[Make Your Accommodations Today](#)



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 Course

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](#)

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 closes **May 22, 2025!**



[Learn More & Register](#)



FCE Spotlight Interview: Emilio Malchiodi, PhD



How do you think FOCIS has changed your world?

FOCIS has had a profound impact on my career. Having founded and led three research laboratories, my engagement with FOCIS inspired me to bring together leading researchers from the University of Buenos Aires and the University of Luján to establish a FOCIS Center of Excellence....

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

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

I would tell them that joining FOCIS is an unparalleled opportunity to be part of a global network of leading immunologists and translational researchers. FOCIS provides access to cutting-edge scientific advancements, fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, and offers valuable educational programs that bridge basic and clinical immunology. Through its annual meetings, training courses, and Centers of Excellence, FOCIS creates a dynamic environment for sharing knowledge, developing new research ideas, and forming meaningful collaborations that can drive impactful discoveries. For anyone committed to advancing immunology and improving patient outcomes, FOCIS is an essential community to be part of.

[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: Stellenbosch University

Centre for Global Surgery at Stellenbosch University awarded two major grants

1. Genomic Profiling of Colorectal Cancer in South Africa

Funder: National Research Foundation (NRF)

Lead Investigator: Dr. Nelisiwe Mkize

2. RURAL_SURG: Strengthening Surgical Access in Rural Africa

Funder: Academy of Medical Sciences (UK) – Network Strengthening Grant

Awarded To:

- Lead Investigator: Prof. Kathryn Chu (Stellenbosch University)
- UK Co-Investigator: Prof. Justine Davies (University of Birmingham)

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

FCE NEWS: REINVENT

Abundance of key immune cells may be influenced by oestrogen and XX chromosomes

Learn more about this on the UCL News website here: [UCL NEWS](#)

Read just the article posting here: [PDF Article](#).

FCE NEWS: UCL Institute of Immunity and Transplantation

Engineered hiPSC-derived Renal Organoids as a Drug Screening Platform for Diabetic Nephropathy

Dr. Ashleigh Boyd, Associate Professor in Stem Cell Immunobiology & Regenerative Medicine at UCL's Division of Surgery & Interventional Science and the Institute of Immunity and Transplantation (IIT), has been awarded £100,000 from the Royal Free Charity. Her team is developing an advanced human induced pluripotent stem cell (hiPSC)-derived 3D renal organoid culture system to investigate diabetic nephropathy (DN), the leading cause of renal failure.

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

Dissecting NF- κ B and Cell Death Signalling in T Cell Immunity

Professor Ben Seddon has recently been awarded a Medical Research Council (MRC) Programme Grant. This funding will support research aimed at dissecting how NF- κ B signalling and cell death pathways regulate T cell function during viral infection. The project will also explore novel mechanisms of cell death regulation within the immune system.

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

Autoantibodies in Long-Term Care Residents and Chronic Hepatitis B

Supported by a recently awarded a UCL-BCA fund, Dr Doug Fink is collaborating with the Ring Lab (Fred Hutch, Seattle) to apply REAP (Rapid Extracellular Antigen Profiling) technology to the UCL VIVALDI cohort – residents of UK long-term care facilities. The project will investigate auto-antibody profiles against immune molecules and their associations with SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination outcomes

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

Fully funded PhD opportunity in Immunometabolism – Mauri Lab, UCL

We are pleased to highlight an exciting Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)-funded PhD studentship in the Mauri Lab at UCL, commencing in September 2025. Offered as part of the UNION Doctoral Network, this fully funded position combines cutting-edge immunology and metabolism research with an international training experience.

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

Timing Immunity: Investigating How the Body Clock Shapes Antiviral Responses in the Liver

Dr Alan Zhuang has been awarded the Rosetrees Trust Seedcorn Award to investigate the role of circadian rhythms in regulating liver-specific immunity to Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection. This interdisciplinary study brings together circadian biology and immunology to better understand time-of-day-dependent immune responses in the liver.

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

FCE NEWS: Yale Human and Translational Immunology Program

April 2025 Immunology Update - Yale - HTI Program

Vikki Abrahams

Has published a paper entitled “Buprenorphine induces human fetal membrane sterile inflammation,” of interest to the FOCIS community.
News article about publication and implications can be found [here](#).

Carrie Lucas

Serves as the Henry Kunkel Society Editor for a new journal of interest:
Journal of Human Immunity (JHI) <https://rupress.org/jhi>

Matthew Vesely

Matthew D. Vesely, MD, PhD (Assistant Professor of Dermatology) was awarded a 2025 Young Physician-Scientist Award by the American Society for Clinical Investigation. [ASCI announcement](#)

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

FCE NEWS: Benaroya Research Institute

Benaroya Research Institute (BRI) Immunology Symposium: New Horizons in Immunity and Disease

Benaroya Research Institute (BRI) is bringing together leading voices from the local and national immunology research community for its second annual Immunology Symposium: New Horizons in Immunity and Disease on Monday, April 28, 2025. The event includes a full day of exciting presentations addressing some of the most important topics in immunology, as well as opportunities for collaboration and discussion among attendees.

A full list of speakers can be found at benaroyaresearch.org/symposium.

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

[Read all FCE News Here](#)

FOCIS Research and Education Virtual Symposium

FOCIS is excited to host two Research & Education Virtual Symposia! See below for details on both.

Thursday, May 15, 2025 | 12:00 - 2:40 PM ET

Emerging Research in Immunity to Infections

Organized by: FOCIS' Committee Representatives (FCE, Education & Membership)

Cost:

FOCIS Member \$0

Non-Member \$50



Thursday, June 12, 2025 | 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Role of AI in Immunology: Advancing Scientific Frontiers

Organized by: ImmPort

Cost:

FOCIS Member \$0

Non-Member \$50

[Registration is open to ALL](#) (FOCIS members, FCEs, Member Society members, the general FOCIS community, industry partners, and nonmember clinical/translational immunologists).

[Learn More](#)

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 104 | FEB 2025

[Afraid of needles? Try lotion: Engineering skin commensals for vaccination](#)

By Daniel A. Shapiro, Christopher A. Hunter

Commensals induce germinal center–like structures in the skin that can be used for vaccination.

[Is one lymphocyte's brake another lymphocyte's gas?](#)

By Thomas T. Xu, Shiv Pilla

PD-1 contributes to memory B cell development and robust antibody responses through B cell extrinsic and intrinsic mechanisms.

VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 105 | MAR 2025

[MBPeace treaty: How myelin self-peptides broker CNS tolerance](#)

By Isabelle Leo, Etienne Caron

Specific MBP-derived self-peptides promote immune tolerance in the CNS and induce an unconventional regulatory T cell response.

[Trouble at the border: An invading gut bacterium can break tolerance to self-RNA](#)

By Rachael A. Clark

Mouse anti-RNA antibodies triggered by gut *E. gallinarum* correlate with self-RNA autoantibodies and lupus severity in humans.

VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 106 | APR 2025

[Luck gone cold: A trifecta of B cell mutations associates with cryoglobulinemia](#)

By Kangzhi Chen, Kevin C. O'Connor

Triple somatic mutations in autoreactive B cells contribute to virus-associated autoimmune disease.

[They are what they eat](#)

By Asha Pillai

The viability of ingested bacterial pathogens can alter the metabolic program and cytokine secretion of macrophages.

FOCIS Upcoming Community Events



IUIS and EFIS warmly invite immunologists, researchers, and enthusiasts to celebrate the **Day of Immunology** on **April 29, 2025**. This year's theme, "**Brain and Immunity: Immunological Insights into Neurological Disorders**," highlights the intricate relationship between the immune system and the brain.

 **Date:** April 29, 2025

 **Time:** 15:00 – 18:00 CEST

 **Format:** Online Webinar

 **Register here:** <https://immunohub.iuis.org/iuis/2024/webinars/4152027>

Join us for a thought-provoking session where leading experts will discuss how the immune system influences neurological function, contributes to disease, and offers potential therapeutic pathways. Topics will include:

- The immune system's dual role in triggering and curing neurological disorders
- The impact of environmental factors, including infections and gut microbiota, on brain health
- Immunological mechanisms and treatment options for diseases such as multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's

Don't miss this opportunity to gain cutting-edge insights into the neuroimmune interface and its implications for diagnosis and treatment. Help us spread the word and let's celebrate the power of immunology together!

Understanding and Targeting Innate Immunity in Type 1 Diabetes Pathogenesis – Request for Proposals

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 | RFP Deadline

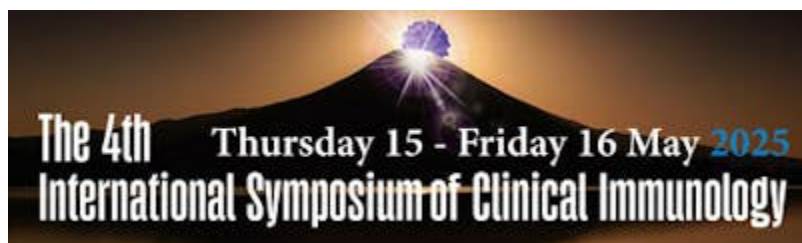
Concept notes are due April 30, 2025. More information can be found on our [website](#).



22nd CIMT Annual Meeting

Monday, May 12 – Wednesday, May 14, 2025 | Mainz, Germany

To learn more, go to www.meeting.cimt.eu.



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  OCAI
Allergic 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/>



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/>

FOCIS Related Events

