



# JBC Monthly Newsletter

June 2021

## JBC Updates

- **JBC funded for Cycle 2.** Our NIH Program Officer confirmed on June 7 that our P30 was selected for funding in this cycle. Thank you again to all who made Cycle 1 a success and contributed to our competitive application to continue.
- **Welcome Ms. Ara Tolentino as the new JBC Coordinator.**

Ara is originally from the Philippines, immigrating to the US as a child and graduating from Bentley University in Marketing and Liberal Studies in Media Arts and Society. She joined the JBC team on June 1 and will be learning the rope from current JBC Coordinator Anu Singh before Anu leaves for graduate school in Cincinnati at the end of July. Ara's email is [ara.tolentino@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:ara.tolentino@childrens.harvard.edu). Thanks to Anu and welcome Ara!



- **JBC Microgrant funds will expire on 7/31/2021 (really!).** It is the micrograntee's responsibility to ensure that funds for the project are spent by this deadline. Please contact JBC Coordinator Anu Singh at [asingh2@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:asingh2@bwh.harvard.edu) for questions.
- **Next JBC Synergy Meeting** will be on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Eastern Time via Zoom.
  - Talk 1: Dr. Mary Beth Son (BCH), "Treatment of MIS-C: What Have We Learned?"
  - Talk 2: Dr. Viviana Ferreira (University of Toledo), "Complement regulator properdin: Is oligomer distribution and function altered in disease?"
- There will be no **JBC Aims Review Committee meeting** in July or August for summer break, but ad hoc ARC is still available upon request. If you are not on the ARC email list and wish to be, please email [peter.nigrovic@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:peter.nigrovic@childrens.harvard.edu).

### The JBC Team:

Peter Nigrovic, M.D.  
Director (BCH & BWH)

### Human Biosamples Core:

- Elizabeth Karlson, M.D.  
Director
- Jeffrey Sparks, M.D., M.M.Sc.  
Associate Director BWH
- Lauren Henderson, M.D., M.M.Sc.  
Associate Director BCH

### Cellular Systems Core:

- Jim Lederer, Ph.D.  
Director
- Peter Nigrovic, M.D.  
Associate Director
- Kevin Wei, M.D., Ph.D.  
Associate Director

## JBC Member News

**Kevin Wei** (BWH) received a Burroughs Wellcome Fund – Career Awards for Medical Scientists for his proposal “Notch3 as a therapeutic target in rheumatoid arthritis”

**Ricardo Grieshaber-Bouyer** and **Wolfgang Merkt** (Heidelberg) received research support for the interdisciplinary project "Therapy stratification of patients with spondyloarthropathies by integrating immune signatures across inflamed tissues" as part of the Centers of Personalized Medicine Initiative in the state of Baden-Württemberg, linking academic hospitals in Heidelberg, Freiburg, Tübingen and Ulm. The project involves profiling of inflamed skin, gut and synovial fluid to identify immune signatures associated with specific therapy response and is aimed at exploring whether high-dimensional immune profiling enables personalized therapy of immune-mediated diseases in the clinical setting.

## JBC MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

Therapeutic Liposomal Vaccines for Dendritic Cell Activation or Tolerance. Nagy NA, de Haas AM, Geijtenbeek TBH, van Ree R, **Tas SW**, van Kooyk Y, de Jong EC. *Front Immunol.* 2021 May 13;12:674048. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2021.674048. eCollection 2021. PMID: 34054859

L. Boekel, L.Y. Kummer, P.J. van Dam, F. Hooijberg, Z.L.E. van Kempen, E.H. Vogelzang, L. Wieske, F. Eftimov, R. van Vollenhoven, T. Kuijpers, M.S. van Ham, **S.W. Tas**, J. Killestein, M. Boers, M.T. Nurmohamed, T. Rispens, G.J. Wolbink. Adverse events of first SARS-CoV-2 vaccinations are comparable between patients with autoimmune diseases and the general population. *The Lancet Rheumatology* (in press)

**Sparks JA**, Wallace ZS, Seet AM, Gianfrancesco MA, Izadi Z, Hyrich KL, Strangfeld A, Gossec L, Carmona L, Mateus EF, Lawson-Tovey S, Trupin L, Rush S, Katz P, Schmajuk G, Jacobsohn L, Wise L, Gilbert EL, Duarte-García A, Valenzuela-Almada MO, Pons-Estel GJ, Isnardi CA, Berbotto GA, Hsu TY, D'Silva KM, Patel NJ, Kearsley-Fleet L, Schäfer M, Ribeiro SLE, Al Emadi S, Tidblad L, Scirè CA, Raffener B, Thomas T, Flipo RM, Avouac J, Seror R, Bernardes M, Cunha MM, Hasseli R, Schulze-Koops H, Müller-Ladner U, Specker C, Souza VA, Mota LMHD, Gomides APM, Dieudé P, Nikiphorou E, Kronzer VL, Singh N, Ugarte-Gil MF, Wallace B, Akpabio A, Thomas R, Bhana S, Costello W, Grainger R, Hausmann JS, Liew JW, Sirotych E, Sufka P, Robinson PC, Machado PM, Yazdany J; COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance. Associations of baseline use of biologic or targeted synthetic DMARDs with COVID-19 severity in rheumatoid arthritis: Results from the COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance physician registry. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2021 May 28;annrheumdis-2021-220418. Online ahead of print.

Hsu TY, D'Silva KM, Patel NJ, Wang J, Fu X, Mueller A, Prisco LC, Martin LW, Vanni KMM, Zaccardelli A, Cook C, Choi HK, Zhang Y, Gravallesse EM, Wallace ZS, **Sparks JA**. Laboratory trends, hyperinflammation, and clinical outcomes for patients with a systemic rheumatic disease admitted to hospital for COVID-19: A retrospective, comparative cohort study. *Lancet Rheumatol.* 2021 (In Press).

Zaccardelli A, **Sparks JA**. Challenges and Opportunities of Targeted Behavioral Interventions for Groups at Risk for Developing Rheumatoid Arthritis. *Healthcare.* 2021 May 28;9(6):641.

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## OPEN POSITIONS

The **Nigrovic lab** (Brigham and Women's Hospital/Boston Children's Hospital) has postdoctoral position open in the areas of neutrophil biology and human genetics.

The **Wei lab** (Brigham and Women's Hospital) has a postdoctoral position open in the area of organoid biology.