



OCTOBER 2023 PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Hello Society for Immune Polymorphism (SIP) members!

This October newsletter includes exciting news about upcoming society activities and new society developments and activities since June of 2023. My previous newsletters are available on the [SIP website](#). You can find news about the society on [LinkedIn](#) and [X \(fka Twitter\)](#). This SIP Board has planned several society events for the next 18 months. I'm very excited to tell you about four events happening between now and December of 2023.

Frontiers in Immunology Special Issue: A New Perspective in Immune Polymorphism

The SIP is organizing a special issue of [Frontiers in Immunology](#), focused on the Human Leucocyte Antigen (HLA), Killer-cell Immunoglobulin-like Receptor (KIR) and Leukocyte Immunoglobulin-like Receptors (LILR) genes. This special issue is intended to showcase new and ongoing research that advances our understanding of the roles played by the HLA, KIR and LILR genes in human health, along with their therapeutic applications, with the aim of underscoring the need for the integrated analysis of these genes for advancing our understanding of the vertebrate immune system. This issue is being edited by SIP Board Members, Charles Seik-Soon Khor, Danillo Augusto, Jason Krawic, Martin Maiers and Aisha Souquette, and looks to be a very exciting issue of Frontiers in Immunology. I encourage everyone to submit manuscript about your work on these topics.

The submission portal for this special issue is now open. Follow [this link](#) for more information about this Frontiers special issue, along with access to the submission portal. The abstract submission deadline is *December 1st, 2023*, and the manuscript submission deadline is *February 29th, 2024*.

October 2023 – 49th ASHI Meeting, [Plenary Session II](#)

The SIP has organized Plenary Session II: *MHC Genomics – How Evolutionary Diversity of the MHC May Have Clinical Relevance* at the 49th Annual American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Meeting, held at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter in San Antonio, Texas from October 16th-20th, 2023.

This session will be held from 10:30 to Noon on October 18th, and will feature:

Dr. [David Sayer](#), PhD (One Lambda/ThermoFisher) presenting, “How matched is a MUD? MHC comparisons in unrelated HCT”

Dr. [Jason Chin](#), PhD (GeneDX) presenting, “Human Pangenomic Graph Analysis for the MHC”

Dr. [Satu Koskela](#), PhD (Finnish Red Cross Blood Service) presenting “MHC Genomic Diversity and HCT Donor Selection”

This is guaranteed to be an exciting and informative session! You won't want to miss it!

SIP Meeting at ASHI

Following Plenary Session II, I hope that you will join SIP board members for a lunchtime SIP meeting in Room 11 from 12:15 to 2:05 PM. Bring your lunch and feel free to bring a friend who might be interested in the SIP. We will discuss the Plenary Session, and upcoming SIP events in greater detail, along with plans for 2024.

November 2023 – SIP Webcast: [Best Practices for Manuscript Review](#)

On November 14th, 2023 the SIP will be host a webcast on the peer-review of academic research manuscripts. Graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and anyone interested in providing a manuscript review that is helpful for authors and journal editors will find this webcast to be extremely rewarding. A helpful, well-written review improves the quality of published research, and advances research science. Good reviewers are often invited to editorial boards or to join journals as section editors!

We are excited to present two stellar speakers for this webinar:

Dr. James Matthew, PhD, Professor of Surgery and Microbiology-Immunology at Northwestern University, is the incoming Editor-in-Chief of the Journal Human Immunology.

Dr. Danilo G. Augusto, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, is an Associate Editor at Human Immunology, and member of the Editorial Board of the journal HLA.

Drs. Matthew and Augusto will each speak for 20 minutes, followed by a moderated 20 minute question-and-answer session.

This one hour webcast will begin at 1600 GMT/11AM Eastern Standard Time on November 14th, and will be held remotely, via Webex. [Register](#) by following [this link](#). If you are not a SIP member, follow [this link](#) to [Join the SIP](#).

December 2023 – First Annual General Membership Meeting

We will end 2023 with our inaugural General Membership Meeting in December. This first meeting of SIP Members be held online, and will consist of a 15 minute business meeting, during which the Annual Report will be delivered and discussed. The business meeting will be followed a pair scientific presentations on topics of interest to the Society, followed by a panel discussion.

Our Keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting will be **Dr. Jill A. Hollenbach, PhD, MPH**. Dr. Hollenbach is a Professor in the Department of Neurology and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco. She will be speaking about her work titled, "[A common allele of HLA is associated with asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection](#)", that was recently published in Nature.

We are looking forward to closing out 2023 with you at these exciting SIP events!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

In September, we added our twelfth and final member to the SIP Board of Directors. Please welcome Dr. Janelle Noble, PhD to the SIP Board!



Dr. Noble received her PhD in Immunology from UC Berkeley, followed by postdoctoral training at Roche Molecular Systems in Human Genetics. She has spent her career at Children’s Hospital Oakland Research Institute and UCSF studying the genetics of susceptibility to autoimmune disease, specializing in HLA genetics and primarily focusing on type 1 diabetes (T1D). Her current focus includes HLA-associated T1D susceptibility related to innate immunity and in understudied populations. She has recently published studies dissecting HLA-DRB1 associations with T1D in non-European populations (e.g., doi.org/10.1111/pedi.13411, and doi.org/10.1111/pedi.13209).

In addition, Dr. Erin Adams is stepping down as the society’s Secretary, although she remains on the Board of Directors. At our September Board Meeting, we appointed Mr. Jason Krawic to the Secretary position. Please welcome the society’s new Secretary!

With a complete board, the directors are now focusing on programs to grow the society and serve the membership. With that in mind, we are creating a Membership Engagement Team composed of members and directors who will plan society events to meet the scientific and academic needs of members. The goal of this

team is to propose events that the board can implement, initially every two to three months, and eventually on a monthly basis. These could include journal-club type webinars, seminars on specific topics, and educational events like the upcoming manuscript review webcast. We want ideas from these events to come from the SIP membership, and all members are invited to participate. If you are interested, email me at immunepolymorphismsociety@gmail.com.

With membership engagement in mind, we are excited to announce that first International SIP Symposium will be held in the last quarter of 2024. This will be stand-alone conference where SIP members can meet, present their work, and collaborate. More details will be coming in 2024.

STAY CONNECTED

You can stay current with society happenings between newsletters by visiting the [SIP website](#), where past editions of this newsletter are available on the [SIP News](#) page, and following the Society on [LinkedIn](#) and [the X platform](#).

I am looking forward to seeing you at SIP events over the next three months!

Steve Mack, Society for Immune Polymorphism President and Board Chair

P.S. Here are some recently (and not so recently) published papers that may be of interest to society members:

- Morrissey KA, et al. [Comparative genomics of the T cell receptor \$\mu\$ locus in marsupials and monotremes. Immunogenetics](#). 2023 Sep 25.
- Xiong L, et al. [Structural variations in crocodile lizard populations provide novel insights into genomic variations in endangered animals](#). Mol Ecol. 2023 Sep 23.
- Murray JS. [Dichotomy in TCR V-domain dynamics binding the opposed inclined planes of pMHC-II and pMHC-I \$\alpha\$ -helices](#). Mol Immunol. 2023 Oct;162:111-124.
- Flajnik MF, et al. [An Ancient MHC-Linked Gene Encodes a Nonrearranging Shark Antibody, Urlg, Convergent with IgG](#). J Immunol. 2023 Sep 15;211(6):1042-1051.
- Dézé O, et al. [Unique repetitive nucleic acid structures mirror switch regions in the human IgH locus. Biochimie](#). 2023 Sep 5:S0300-9084(23)00208-0.
- Reth M. [Discovering immunoreceptor coupling and organization motifs](#). Front Immunol. 2023 Sep 4;14:1253412.
- Minias P, Peng WV, Matson KD. [Evolutionary trade-off between innate and acquired immune defences in birds](#). Front Zool. 2023 Sep 8;20(1):32.
- Sá ALA, et al. [Novel insights on aquatic mammal MHC evolution: Evidence from manatee DQB diversity](#). Dev Comp Immunol. 2022 Jul;132:104398.