



Hello Society for Immune Polymorphism!

I am writing to update you on what is going on with the Society, as you probably have not heard much since the Symposium at the October 2022 ASHI Meeting. The Society for Immune Polymorphism (SIP) is an international association of researchers, data scientists and clinicians dedicated to understanding the genetic and functional variation of the vertebrate immune system and its role in health, disease, and evolutionary biology. The SIP provides a forum for basic science as well as clinical, industrial and educational applications related to immune polymorphism, with the goal of sharing and disseminating research findings, integrating data resources, and developing secure open-source, cloud-based technologies to advance the analysis, collection, exchange and storage of immune-related genomic data.

Each quarter, I will be sending out a President's Newsletter, providing you with an update on Society activities, new developments, and other items of interest. In this initial newsletter, I summarize activities since the election for the initial Board of Directors in August of 2022. Newsletters will also be available on the Society website at <https://immunepolymorphismsociety.org/news/>.

The SIP Board of Directors



Over the last four months, much of the Board of Directors' work has focused on developing the Board, adopting the Society's Bylaws, and incorporating the Society. The elected board consisted of myself, Dr. Erin Adams, Dr. Loren Gragert, Dr. Danillo Augusto, Dr. Charles Khor, Dr. Jill Hollenbach, Martin Maiers, Jason Krawic and Dr. Aisha Souquette, and in October of 2022, we appointed Dr. Neema P. Mayor to the Board. Dr. Mayor is Head of Immunogenetics Research at Anthony Nolan, and an expert on HLA polymorphism and Bone Marrow Transplantation. She recently published a paper describing the complete sequences of 86 novel HLA-E alleles, which dramatically increased the number of HLA-E alleles known (<https://doi.org/10.1111/tan.14871>).

In November, the Board appointed Dr. Mayor and Mr. Krawic as co-chairs of the Society's Membership and Development Committee, and appointed Mr. Maiers as chair of the Society's Web Committee. We also revised and adopted the Society's bylaws. This process involved a lengthy discussion of classes of membership and membership fees, given our goal that the SIP being a truly international society.

The Board adopted two membership categories -- “Full Members”, who have active expertise in immune polymorphism research, and “Trainee Members”, who can be either pre-doctoral, or up to seven years post-doctoral. We adopted a membership fee-discount of 50% for members from upper-middle income nations of 50%, and 100% from low-middle- and low-income nations, as [defined by the World Bank](#). While your first year of SIP membership is free, subsequent annual membership dues will be \$100 US per year for Full Members, \$40 US per year for post-doctoral Trainee Members, and \$20 US per year for pre-doctoral Trainee Members.

Finally, the first two months of 2023 have focused on incorporating the Society as a Scientific non-profit organization in the US. This will allow us to collect dues, which will be applied for the Society’s purposes.

SIP Special Session at the 36th European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) Conference

This year, the European Federation for Immunogenetics’ annual conference will be held in Nantes, France from April 26th to 29th. The conference’s theme is “Big Data In Immunogenetics At The Crossroad Of Care, Tools, And Research”, and the EFI organizers have invited the Society to participate in Special Session 3, “*Society for Immune Polymorphism: Advances in Clinical Immunogenomics*” on Friday, April 28th, 2023 from 10:30 to 12:00.

We have invited three speakers to present in this session, illustrating the Society’s breadth and diversity of interests. Dr. Ami Bhatt, MD from Stanford University will present “From Precision Microbial Genomics to Precision Medicine” from 10:30 AM to 11, Dr. Becca Asquith, MSc, PhD from Imperial College London will present “KIRs, T-Cell Dynamics, Control of Chronic Virus Infection and Autoimmunity” from 11 AM to 11:30, and Dr. Effie Petersdorf, MD from Fred Hutch will present on “Immunogenetics of Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation” from 11:30 to Noon.

We hope that you will be able attend the EFI Conference and this Special Session. Information about registering for the Conference can be found at <https://efi-conference.org>.

Get Involved in SIP in 2023

My goals for the Society in 2023 include holding a scientific meeting of the General Membership, having Society members join the standing committees being chaired by board members, and fostering more informal interactions with Society members.

With this in mind, I encourage you to join and participate in the SIP Slack team. If you have already been invited to the team, you can visit <http://immunepolymorphism.slack.com> to reconnect. If that link does not work for you, email immunepolymorphismsociety@gmail.com and we will send you an invitation.

Similarly, I encourage you to serve on one of the Society’s committees – Fundraising led by Dr. Gragert, Literature & Publications led by Dr. Khor, Membership & Development led by Dr. Mayor and Mr. Krawic, Publicity & Community Engagement led by Dr. Hollenbach, or Web & Social Media led by Mr. Maiers. If you are interested in any of these committees, please email immunepolymorphismsociety@gmail.com.

Finally, you can follow SIP Board members on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram:

I’m looking forward to working with you in 2023!

Steve Mack, Society for Immune Polymorphism President and Board Chair

P.S. Here are some recently published papers that may be of interest to Society members.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/gigascience/giac100>

<https://doi.org/10.1111/evo.14590>

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00251-021-01232-7>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36796364/>