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WHERE IMMUNOLOGISTS MEET

18th International Congress of Immunology

27 November - 2 December 2023 | Cape Town, South Africa

IUIS2023.org

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WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear Global Immunology Community,

The 18th IUIS International Congress of Immunology, to be held in Cape Town from 27th November to 2nd December 2023, will be a landmark occasion for Cape Town, South Africa, Africa and the Global immunology community. This will be the first time the triennial meeting will be held in Africa and I think will represent a watershed moment for the immunology field. This is also the first such meeting that will be held since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and where many of us are piecing together the immunology of SARS-CoV-2 infections. The rapidity of having an effective suit of vaccines and introduction of various treatment regimens is the exemplar of what can be achieved when immunology, drug and vaccine development come together. Our Congress needs to reflect this intersection and brings into focus our meeting theme: Turning Discoveries into Treatments.

As President of the 18th IUIS Congress, I will enthusiastically welcome you to South Africa and to beautiful Cape Town. Our sub-theme "from Basic to Translational Immunology and Back" will guide us in tapping into the global immunology dialogue to effectively translate basic immunological findings into actionable protocols to address the disease burden challenge in Africa. Notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic, the wide spectrum of communicable and non-communicable diseases that exist in Africa also represents an ecology of diseases that exist in many other parts of the World. Thus, the International Congress of Immunology being held in Africa will reflect the variety of global exceptional challenges for immunology. In turn, our theme further encompasses studies of human diseases, involving immune networks, microbiomes and genetic variation that can also inform basic immunology. By so doing, we aim to harness the connectivity between basic immunology and human health. We believe that this focus and theme, woven into the scientific programme, can provide new inspiration to the global immunology community.

We wish to be inclusive of immunology from all regional societies: FAIS, EFIS, FIMSA, ALACI and AAI. Our Scientific Program Committee, chaired by Mark Davis and Miriam Mered, comprises a mix of immunologists from across all national and regional societies and promises to put together an exciting cohesive and inspiring scientific agenda. Importantly, this is also an African meeting and there is incredible enthusiasm and exhilaration being generated across North, West, Central, East and Southern Africa. Both the South African Immunology Society and the Federation of African Immunology Societies are your hosts, and we will make this a memorable experience.

Now that the COVID-19 pandemic is under control, we look forward to warmly welcoming you in person to Cape Town. You will see from our scientific programme that we have devised a very exciting immunology feast over 6 days. We will also stimulate you with a mix of African, South African and Cape Town music and cuisine.

Sincerely yours,





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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

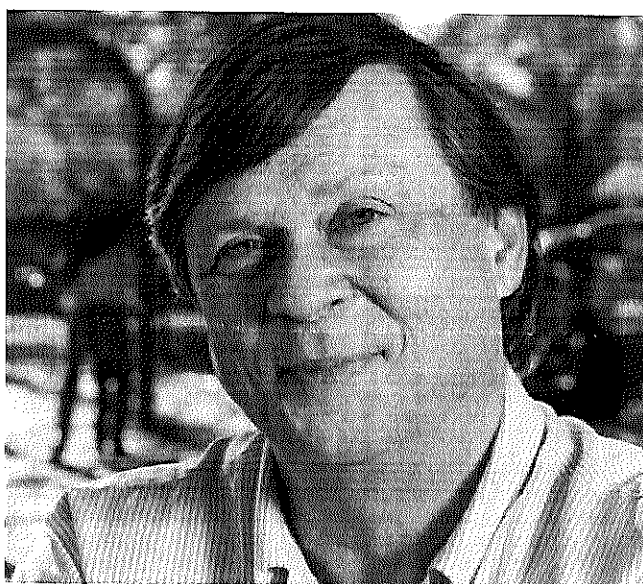


The role of the Scientific Program Committee is to ensure the highest possible value of the scientific content of the IUIS Congress, broken into specific task forces.





IUIS President & Scientific Program Committee Co-Chair
Miriam Merad



Scientific Program Committee Chair
Mark Davis

Scientific Committee Members

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Veronique Angeli	Singaporean Society for Immunology
Sunil K Arora	Indian Immunology Society
Mohamed Ridha Barbouche	Tunisian Society of Immunology
Xuelao Cao	Chinese Society for Immunology



SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE – IUIS 2023

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Dong Chen	Chinese Society for Immunology
Dmitriy Chudakov	Russian Society of Immunology
Mark Davis	American Association of Immunologists
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Christine Falk	German Society for Immunology
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Theresa Rossouw	South African Immunology Society
Melinda Suchard	South African Immunology Society
Eric Vivier	Société Française d'Immunologie
Bruce Walker	American Association of Immunologists

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[897] Immune response of patients with *Trichinella spiralis* infection to SARS-CoV-2 is not compromised
Other topic not listed above

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Modulation of immune response with helminth *Trichinella spiralis* infection could have beneficial effect on autoimmune or allergy disorders but its possible detrimental effect on responses to viral infections or vaccines was not elucidated yet. In this study we investigated the immune response in 15 patients who acquired trichinellosis during the pick of Covid-19 pandemic and got infected and/or being vaccinated with SARS-CoV-2. In order to examine the mutual influence of the specific immune response to SARS-CoV-2 and to *T. spiralis*, the obtained results were compared with the immune response in 15 healthy persons as a matched control, who were vaccinated and/or recently recovered from Covid-19 but not exposed to *Trichinella* infection. Obtained results revealed that anti-*Trichinella* antibodies were accompanied by the presence of anti-RBD SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in infected patients. The SARS-CoV-2 15-mer peptides (S, M, N)-reactive T cells and the total number of RBD-specific memory B lymphocytes in these patients was not significantly changed compared to the response of the control group, which indicates that the infection with *T. spiralis* does not compromise the ability of the organism to respond to viral antigens. Also, the response of cells on stimulation with *Trichinella* components was not significantly altered by SMN-peptides application. This study nevertheless carries a novel, powerful message that the presence of *Trichinella* or its components should not jeopardize vaccine efficacy or immune response to viral infection.