CALIFORNIA'S STEM CELL AGENCY

Nominations for Appointment to the Grants Working Group (GWG)

Anna Krasnodembskaya, PhD
Dr. Krasnodembskaya is a research scientist and Reader at Queen's University Belfast in the United Kingdom. She earned a PhD at St. Petersburg State University and completed postdoctoral training at the Cardiovascular Research Institute at UCSF.

Dr. Krasnodembskaya's research interests focus on Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSC) with the particular focus on the MSC based cell therapy for Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). The central goal of her lab is to understand how MSC work in the context of the injury microenvironment, how MSC modulate reparative capacities of the host cells and if the MSC therapeutic potential can be enhanced. Current research projects are investigating effects of MSC on pulmonary macrophage polarization, MSC modulation of distal lung endothelial and epithelial cell functions and the therapeutic potential of MSC-derived extracellular vesicles as a possible cell-free therapy.

Cecilia O'Kane, MRCP, PhD
Dr. O'Kane is a physician-scientist and holds the position of Clinical Professor at the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences at Queen's University Belfast in the United Kingdom. She trained as a physican in respiratory medicine at Queen's University and earned a PhD at Imperial College London studying tuberculosis.

Dr. O'Kane's research interests include respiratory failure in the critically ill, particularly the Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), mechanisms if tissue damage and repair in the lung, mycobacterial infection including Tuberculosis and Non-Tuberculous Mycobacterial infection, and novel therapies including biological and cellular therapies to treat infection and inflammation in the lung. Her group works in both wet lab and clinical research, and has a particular focus on human models of the lung environment. She is involved in the REALIST clinical trial, a Wellcome Trust HICF-funded trial of umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stromal cells in patients with moderate-severe ARDS to test the safety and efficacy of novel MSCs in reducing inflammation and promoting repair in ARDS.

Dr. O'Kane has contributed over 60 scientific publications, was elected to the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and the Association of Physcians of Great Britain and Ireland.

Peter Palese, PhD
Peter Palese is Professor and Chair of the Department of Microbiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Palese received his Ph.D. in chemistry and his M.S. In pharmacy from the University of Vienna. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology prior to joining the Department of Microbiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

His research is in the area of RNA-containing viruses with a special emphasis on influenza viruses. He established the first genetic maps for influenza A, B, and C viruses, identified the function of several viral genes, and defined the mechanism of neuraminidase inhibitors (which are now FDA-approved antivirals). He was also a pioneer in the field of reverse genetics for negative strand RNA viruses. His laboratory's research is currently focused on the development of a universal influenza virus vaccine and oncolytic viruses.

Dr. Palese is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine (formerly IOM), and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also a corresponding member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and a member of the German Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina). Dr. Palese serves on the editorial board for the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and is a former president of the Harvey Society and the American Society for Virology. He has received honorary doctorate degrees from The Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine and McMaster University; he is a recipient of the Robert Koch Prize, the Sanofi-Institut Pasteur Award, the Beijerinck Virology Prize, and the Maurice Hilleman/Merck Award.

R. Keith Reeves, PhD
Keith Reeves is currently Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and the Center for Virology and Vaccine Research (CVVR) of BIDMC. He is the Director of the Harvard CFAR Advanced Technologies Core, Director of the CVVR Flow Cytometry Core and an Associate Member of the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT, and Harvard. He also works within the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) and the BEAT-HIV Martin Delaney Cure Collaboratory. Dr. Reeves obtained his PhD from the University of Alabama-Birmingham in 2007 where his work focused on plasmacytoid dendritic cells as a mediator of inflammation in lentivirus infections. Dr. Reeves then completed his postdoctoral work and was junior faculty at the New England Primate Research Center of Harvard Medical School where his studies focused on natural killer (NK) cell biology in nonhuman primates. He has published extensively in this field providing some of the most comprehensive analyses of NK cells and innate lymphoid cells (ILC) in HIV, SIV, and HCV infections to date, including the first characterization of memory NK cells in any primate species. Dr. Reeves' research, largely supported by individual and consortia grants from NIAID and NIDCR, currently focuses on harnessing NK cells in the context of vaccines and antiviral therapeutics for HIV, CMV and HCV.

Paul Thomas, PhD
Paul Thomas obtained his undergraduate degree in Biology and Philosophy at Wake Forest University. He did his PhD training at Harvard University, working on the innate immune response to Schistosoma-associated carbohydrates and their role in promoting Th2 responses. From there, he moved to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for a postdoctoral fellowship with Peter Doherty on T cell responses in the influenza model. In 2009, he started his own lab St. Jude, where he is currently a Member in the Department of Immunology. His lab studies innate and adaptive immunity to viral infections. His work covers various topics, including novel regulatory mechanisms that shape the T cell receptor repertoire, understanding the immunological basis of severe influenza disease, and the interactions between innate and adaptive immune responses during various viral infections.

Reappointment of Scientific Members to the Grants Working Group

We are seeking the reappointment of the individuals listed in the table below. Their updated biographies follow. In accordance with the rules set forth by Proposition 71, reappointments should be staggered into thirds, each with a 2, 4, or 6-year term.

Proposed Reappointments to GWG

Last	First	Term	Expertise
Jenkins	Marc	4	T Cell Biology; Vaccines & Autoimmunity; in vivo Imaging

Marc K. Jenkins, PhD
Marc Jenkins is the Regents Distinguished McKnight University Professor in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota and Director of the Center for Immunology at the University of Minnesota. He received his B.S. degree in Microbiology from the University of Minnesota and his Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from Northwestern University. Following his postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Dr. Ronald Schwartz in the Laboratory of

Immunology at the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Jenkins joined the Microbiology Department at the University of Minnesota as Assistant Professor.

Dr. Jenkins and his colleagues investigate CD4+ T and B cell activation in vivo by directly tracking antigen-specific cells. The goal of this research is a basic understanding of lymphocyte activation that can be used to improve vaccines and prevent autoimmunity. His research has advanced the field of immunology, leading to the development of more effective vaccines and better treatments for autoimmune diseases and improved success in transplantation and cancer immunotherapy. He has recently been recognized for his role in the Medical School's response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the development of antibody testing now in clinical use.

He was ninety-seventh president of the American Association of Immunologists from 2013 to 2014 and served as an AAI Council member from 2008 to 2015. Dr. Jenkins was awarded AAI Meritorious Career Award in 2002, AAI Excellence in Mentoring Award in 2018, and AAI Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020, and he was elected Distinguished Fellow of AAI in 2019. He was recently elected to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).