



## **Nominations for Appointment to the Grants Working Group (GWG)**

### **Rudra Channappanavar, DVM, MVSc, PhD**

Rudra Channappanavar completed his Ph.D. training in Biological Sciences (Immunology) from Oakland University in 2012 and obtained a post-doctoral research training in Viral Immunology from the University of Iowa. He is a DVM and has a master's degree (MVSc) in Veterinary Pathology. Dr. Channappanavar joined UT Health Sciences Center as an Assistant Professor in January 2019. He also has a joint appointment with the Institute for the Study of Host-Pathogen Systems. His laboratory space is located in the UTHSC Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Biochemistry.

Research in Dr. Channappanavar's laboratory focuses on studying the host-virus interactions during respiratory virus infections. Specifically, he aims to understand the host and virus determinants of protective and pathogenic host response following high and low pathogenic viral lung infections. He is also developing a research program to examine the host factors responsible for sub-optimal immune response to virus infections in the elderly, with an ultimate goal to develop therapeutics for viral lung infections and enhance the immune response to viral infections and vaccines in the elderly. He is recently funded by NIH/NIA (R21) to investigate the role of interferons in host protection during viral lung infections in the aged host.

Dr. Channappanavar is a member of American Society for Virology, American Association of Immunologists and Indian Association of Veterinary Pathologists. He also serves as an ad hoc reviewer of several scientific journals and as an associate editor of BMC Infectious Diseases (Viral diseases section). He has authored or co-authored 26 scientific papers and presented his work in several scientific meetings.

### **Gordon Rubinfeld, MD, MSc**

Gordon Rubinfeld is the inaugural chief of the Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care Program at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and professor of medicine at the University of Toronto. Dr. Rubinfeld received his undergraduate degree in philosophy and comparative literature at Johns Hopkins University; his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College; his internal medicine training at Duke University; and pulmonary and critical care training at the University of Washington. He received additional research training in clinical epidemiology as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the University of California, San Francisco. He served on numerous professional society committees for the American Thoracic Society (ATS), including bioethics, critical care long-range planning and health policy, and as chair of the Critical Care Assembly. He directed the advanced clinical research section of the methods in epidemiologic, clinical and operations research course administered by the ATS. He served on the editorial boards of the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, Respiratory Care, the Journal of Critical Care, Critical Care, and The Lancet-Respiratory Medicine.

Dr. Rubinfeld's research focuses on the clinical epidemiology and outcomes of critical illness syndromes, the transfer of evidence into clinical practice, and end-of-life care issues in the intensive care unit. His research is funded primarily by the National Institutes of Health. He served on numerous advisory panels and consensus groups in critical care, including the American European Consensus Conference on Acute Lung Injury, the working group that developed the Berlin ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome) definition, and the Surviving Sepsis guideline committee. He has served on study sections for the National Institutes of Health and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Ongoing projects include a cluster-randomized trial of interventions to increase use of lung protective ventilation in patients with acute lung injury, and a randomized trial to improve long-term outcomes in survivors of prolonged mechanical ventilation.

**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
Gee	Adrian	6	CMC for Cell and Gene Therapy, HSC, & Blood Bank Standards
Guest	James	6	Spinal Cord Injury; Preclinical Animal Modeling
Williams	Michelle	6	Drug & Product Development; Regulatory Affairs; Clinical Regulatory

**Adrian Gee, PhD**

Adrian Gee is Director of the Clinical Applications Laboratory and the Cell Processing and Vector Production Core Laboratory at the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy and Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics Section of Hematology-Oncology at Baylor College of Medicine. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Birmingham, England, and his Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He did his postdoctoral training at the National Institutes of Health, and the University of Toronto, before taking a faculty position at the University of Florida. There he performed some of the first applications of immunomagnetic tumor purging in the United States, and his laboratory became a central cell processing facility for this procedure. He joined Baxter Healthcare in 1987, where he worked on the development of the MaxSep and Isolex magnetic cell separators. Dr. Gee co-founded the International Society for Hematotherapy and Graft Engineering (ISHAGE, now ISCT), and the Journal of Hematotherapy (now Cytotherapy) in 1992. From 1992 to 1997 he helped establish the stem cell transplantation program at the University of South Carolina. He then directed the Cell Processing Laboratory at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center until 1999, when he joined the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy (CAGT) at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Dr. Gee was involved in the development of standards for the collection processing and transplantation of hematopoietic stem cells for the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cell Therapy (FACT), the American Association of Blood Banks and the National Marrow Donor Program. He has written over 180 scientific articles and has authored and edited a number of books on graft engineering and stem cell processing. He received the 2017 Career Achievement Award from the International Society for Cellular Therapy (ISCT) in recognition for his contributions to the cell therapy industry, including building and running one of the world's largest academic manufacturing facilities that has produced viral vectors and engineered cells for thousands of patients all over the world.

**James Guest, MD, PhD**

Jim Guest is currently a Professor of Neurological Surgery at the Miller School of Medicine and the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis in Miami, FL. Dr. Guest's extensive contributions to the field of spinal cord injury, both in terms of medical practice and research, span over two decades. He's held numerous hospital appointments such as attending neurosurgeon at the Barrow Neurological Institute, West Palm Beach VA Medical Center, the University of Miami Hospital, and Chief of Spinal Neurosurgery at Miami Veteran's Medical Center. He's given more than 25 invited lectures domestically and internationally and has authored over 75 peer-reviewed publications, including articles, book chapters, and abstracts in the areas of cellular therapy for spinal cord injury, biology of neuroglia, and mechanisms of secondary injury. Dr.

Guest has been active in research design for human clinical trials, participating as a Principal Investigator for the North American Clinical Trials Network (NACTN) for the Treatment of Spinal Cord Injury.

Dr. Guest earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science, a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Biology, and a Medical Degree from the University of Alberta, Edmonton in Canada. He also earned a Ph.D. from the University of Miami, Department of Neuroscience in Miami, FL. His thesis was titled "The potential for human Schwann cell grafts to influence spinal cord regeneration in the nude rat." Dr. Guest completed his residency in the Division of Neurosurgery at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada and a fellowship in Spinal Surgery at the Barrow Neurologic Institute in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Michelle LeRoux Williams, PhD**

Michelle LeRoux Williams, Ph.D. was formally the Chief Scientific Officer of Aziyo Biologics. Prior to joining Aziyo, Dr. Williams served as Chief Operating Officer for Tissue Banks International, where she was responsible for its musculoskeletal business. Previously, Dr. Williams served as Chief Scientific Officer of Osiris Therapeutics, where she invented Osteocel®, the world's first commercially available stem cell product; led the team that obtained regulatory approval of the world's first FDA-approved stem cell drug, Prochymal® (remestemcel-L) for the treatment of severe graft-versus-host disease in children; and oversaw the development of three additional stem cell products, Grafix®, Cartiform® and Ovation®.

Dr. Williams is a fellow in the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) and an internationally recognized expert in biologics and cell therapy. She earned a PhD in biomedical engineering from Duke University and a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Rice University. Dr. Williams completed an NIH postdoctoral fellowship in tissue engineering at Columbia University.