



**HARVARD**  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

**BLAVATNIK INSTITUTE**  
IMMUNOLOGY

## ANNUAL RETREAT

Rubenstein Treehouse  
20 Western Ave, Boston

**Monday, October 26, 2026**

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                        |                         |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>9:00 AM</b>  | <b>Check-In</b>                                                                                                                                                        | <b>3rd Floor Atrium</b> |
| <b>9:30 AM</b>  | <b>Welcome   Arlene Sharpe, MD, PhD, HMS</b><br><br><b>Invited Faculty Talks</b><br>Moderator: Ruth Franklin, PhD, HMS                                                 | <b>Canoy Hall A</b>     |
| <b>9:35 AM</b>  | <b>Zuri Sullivan, PhD, Whitehead Institute, MIT</b><br><i>Whole-organism host defense programs</i>                                                                     |                         |
| <b>10:05 AM</b> | <b>Erin Chen, MD, PhD, Broad Institute, MIT &amp; MGH</b><br><i>Decoding commensal-immune crosstalk in the skin and nose</i>                                           |                         |
| <b>10:35 AM</b> | <b>Break</b>                                                                                                                                                           |                         |
| <b>10:45 AM</b> | <b>Social Activity</b><br>Facilitator: Lilli Orgler-Gasche, Dougan Lab, DFCI                                                                                           |                         |
|                 | <b>Trainee Talks: Host Pathogen</b><br>Moderator: Daisy Hoagland, PhD, Franklin Lab, HMS                                                                               | <b>Canoy Hall A</b>     |
| <b>11:15 AM</b> | <b>Joshua Acklin, PhD, Walker Lab, Ragon</b><br><i>Fatty acid synthesis restricts HIV-1 infection through regulation of the nuclear envelope in CD4+ T cells</i>       |                         |
| <b>11:30 AM</b> | <b>Yufan 'Ivan' Zheng, PhD, Dang Lab, Ragon</b><br><i>A macrophage-derived cholesterol metabolite organizes an immunosuppressive niche within the fungal granuloma</i> |                         |
| <b>11:45 AM</b> | <b>Eric Loo, PhD, Huh Lab, HMS</b><br><i>IL-10 signaling in innate immune cells limits Th1-mediated peripheral neuropathy during Borrelia burgdorferi infection</i>    |                         |
| <b>12:00 PM</b> | <b>Fran Prenen, PhD, Mills Lab, DFCI</b><br><i>Polyethylene nanoplastics impair macrophage antibacterial defense by disrupting MSR1-dependent phagocytosis</i>         |                         |
| <b>12:15 PM</b> | <b>Department picture &amp; optional lab pictures</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>Canopy Hall A</b>    |
| <b>12:30 PM</b> | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Canoy Hall B</b>     |

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|                | <b>Keynote</b><br>Moderator: Stephanie Dougan, PhD, DFCI                                                                                           | <b>Canopy Hall A</b>    |
| <b>1:15 PM</b> | <b>Dusan Bogunovic, PhD, Columbia University</b><br><i>Genetic architecture of immune disorders</i>                                                |                         |
| <b>2:15 PM</b> | <b>Break</b>                                                                                                                                       |                         |
|                | <b>Trainee Talks: Cancer &amp; Autoimmune Disease</b><br>Moderator: TBD                                                                            |                         |
| <b>2:25 PM</b> | <b>Debolina Ganguly, PhD, Agudo Lab, DFCI</b><br><i>Liver metastasis hijacks hepatic tolerance to sabotage systemic T cell immunity</i>            |                         |
| <b>2:40 PM</b> | <b>Winiffer D. Conce Alberto, Dougan Lab, DFCI</b><br><i>TARGET – Targeting Antigen Receptors to Generate Engineered Tregs for celiac disease</i>  |                         |
| <b>2:55 PM</b> | <b>Daniela Coronado, PhD, Kasper Lab, HMS</b><br><i>Commensal microbe disrupts lectin checkpoint and rewires dendritic cell antitumor immunity</i> |                         |
| <b>3:10 PM</b> | <b>James Han, PhD, Sharpe Lab, HMS</b><br><i>Aging as a driver of immune dysfunction in cancer</i>                                                 |                         |
| <b>3:25 PM</b> | <b>Ankita Chopde, PhD, Merkenschlager Lab, HMS</b><br><i>What T cells see in B cells:<br/>Defining the Immunopeptidome of the Germinal Center</i>  |                         |
| <b>3:40 PM</b> | <b>Trick or Treat Poster Session &amp; Image Contest</b>                                                                                           | <b>3rd Floor Atrium</b> |
| <b>4:50 PM</b> | <b>Concluding Remarks   Arlene Shape, MD, PhD, HMS</b><br>Trainee talk, poster, & image contest winners announced                                  | <b>Canopy Hall A</b>    |

