HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL | BLAVATNIK INSTITUTE IMMUNOLOGY

ANNUAL RETREAT

Rubenstein Treehouse
20 Western Ave, Boston

Monday, October 26, 2026

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

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

