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**Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Program**

**Overview of the Program:**

The Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Program at the Medical University of South Carolina is discipline-based, interdepartmental program involving more than 40 faculty members across campus involved in microbiological or immunological research. The Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Program confers both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. Students wishing to pursue a PhD are admitted through the College of Graduate Studies Admissions Committee and enter the Microbiology and Immunology Program by choosing a mentor in the program at the end of their first year. Students wishing to pursue a master’s degree apply to the Master in Biomedical Sciences Program and choose the Microbiology and Immunology Track as their field of concentration.

The Microbiology and Immunology Program Committee consists of 10 faculty members and is chaired by the Graduate Program Director Natalie Sutkowski (sutkows@musc.edu). This committee is responsible for evaluating masters applicants for admission, administering the written qualifying exam for the PhD degree each year, and monitoring individual student progress from the time of admission to the program until admission to candidacy. After admission to candidacy, the student’s Advisory Committee takes over the monitoring roll, but the M&I Program Committee is always available for advice and mediation if needed.

**M&I Graduate Program Committee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natalie Sutkowski (Chair)</th>
<th>Hal May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carl Atkinson</td>
<td>Janardan Pandey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azizul Haque</td>
<td>Michael Schmidt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina Voelkel-Johnson</td>
<td>Stephen Tomlinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Kasman</td>
<td>Chenthamarakshan Vasu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Microbiology and Immunology Program Faculty**

All faculty with full appointments in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology are M & I Program Faculty. In addition, any MUSC faculty member involved in research related to microbiology and immunology can make a request to the department Chair, Dr. Zihai Li, to become a member of the Program Faculty so that they may mentor students in the program. Currently more than half of M&I Program Faculty are appointed in departments outside of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and labs that students may work in towards their degree are distributed among all the research buildings on the downtown campus and at Fort Johnson. Several faculty members in the program have M.D.s or D.M.D.s and also have appointments in various clinical departments, thus permitting direct access to patients of interest. A list of current program faculty is included as Appendix I.

The main office for the Department of Microbiology and Immunology is Basic Science Building 203. The address is 173 Ashley Ave, MSC 504, Charleston SC 29425-0504.
Program Requirements for Ph.D.

1. Coursework

Year 1: complete First Year Core Curriculum

All matriculating Ph.D. students participate in the first year common curriculum of the College of Graduate Studies. The first year curriculum includes 3 laboratory research rotations. Students interested in Microbiology and Immunology are encouraged to select their research rotations with faculty members in the Microbiology and Immunology Program Faculty (Appendix I). Students are also encouraged to speak to the Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Program Director (Natalie Sutkowski, sutkows@musc.edu) to assist in the selection of rotations. At the end of the first year, Ph.D. students officially join the M&I Program by completing an “Appointment of Major Advisor Form”. The form requires the signatures of the student’s chosen advisor, the chair of the department in which their major advisor is appointed, and the M&I Graduate Program Director, before being turned in to be signed by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Within three months of choosing a Major Advisor, students must also complete a "Program of Study" form, described below in Year 2.

Year 2: At least 6 credit hours of advanced coursework in microbiology and immunology + Seminar (MBIM 770) each semester and enough Biomedical Research (MBIM 970) credits to qualify as a full time student.

In the second year, Ph.D. students undertake advanced, elective courses, and complete any courses required by the College of Graduate Studies. As a prerequisite for the PhD degree, the College requires students to demonstrate a predetermined level of statistical competence. This may be achieved by either enrolling in and completing CGS 700 in the second or subsequent years of graduate study, or by providing the syllabus and transcript evidence of satisfactory completion of previously taken statistical course(s) that fulfill the College requirement to the Dean who will decide whether or not to grant a waiver.

The Program of Study for each student is planned jointly by the student and major advisor (and/or advisory committee) and is individualized according to the needs and goals of the student. All PhD students must complete 12 credit hours of advanced coursework as a requirement of the degree, with at least six credit hours of advanced coursework completed prior to taking the qualifying exam. In order to count for advanced credit, the course must be merit graded (graded on a 0.0 - 4.0 scale) and the student must receive a grade of 3.0 or higher. Course work can be in either microbiology or immunology or both; courses offered by the Department of Microbiology and Immunology are listed in Appendix II. Electives offered by other departments that are merit graded may also be applied toward the 12 hrs of advanced credit, with the approval of the student’s advisor and committee. Additional courses in computer literacy and Grants or Manuscript Writing may also be required at the discretion of the Advisory Committee. The Program of Study form must be completed prior to scheduling the qualifying exam.

In addition, all students must enroll in and pass MBIM 770 and 970 each semester (see below). These courses are not merit graded and therefore do not count toward the 12 credit hour requirement.

Year 2 and beyond: completion of 12 credit hours advanced coursework plus the following

MBIM 770 M&I Seminar (1 cr)

All students must enroll every semester until a successful final defense, and one presentation is required per year
• This course is pass/fail and therefore, does not count for advanced credit MBIM 970

Biomedical Research (0.5-15 credits)
• These credits account for the time spent on the student’s original research project under mentorship of their major advisor.
• This course is pass/fail and therefore, does not count for advanced credit

MBIM 856 Critical Literature Review in Inflammation and Immunity (1 cr)
• Enrollment is open to all students and required after admission to candidacy.
• Candidates must enroll for 4 semesters or until they successfully defend, whichever comes first.
• This is a refereed journal club style course and is merit graded. Therefore, up to 4 credits may be applied to the 12 hrs of required advanced credits.
• Credit hours earned in this course prior to achieving candidacy will NOT reduce the 4 semester / until defense requirement of candidates.

CGS 700 Introduction to Biostatistics or proof of proficiency in the topic
• This is a requirement of the College of Graduate Studies
• Consult the College of Graduate Studies office for information on how to test out of the requirement
• The credits DO NOT count toward the 12 advanced credits for the PhD degree

Students must maintain a minimum grade of 3.0 in all advanced courses, which satisfy the advanced graduate 12 credit hours. If this requirement is not met, the student may retake a specific course once or may take additional courses to satisfy the 12 credit hours at the discretion of the Course Director and the Program Committee. Failure to achieve the required grade upon subsequent examination will usually result in dismissal from the program, as will a grade of less than 2.0 in any course. Extenuating circumstances will be considered by the M&I Program Committee.

2. Qualifying Exam:

The qualifying exam is a written examination taken at the end of the second year of study following completion of at least 6 approved advanced credit hours. The format of the Microbiology & Immunology Written Qualifying Examination is determined on an ongoing basis each academic year. In recent years, it has consisted of an open-book exam in which students choose 2 questions from a given set in the area of microbiology and immunology. For each question, the answers require synthesis of background information, and proposal of a hypothesis with experiments designed to test the hypothesis. The exam is 1 week long, and the dates are chosen each year by consensus of the examinees. Questions are approved by the Program Committee, and answers are scored Honors/Pass/Fail by a panel of 4 faculty members. If a passing grade is not achieved, the student will be re-examined at the next yearly cycle. Failure at the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program with a terminal masters degree.

The purpose of the qualifying exam is to determine one’s maturity and preparation for completing the Ph.D. degree. The exam is designed to determine the following: 1) the ability to read and understand primary scientific literature, 2) the ability to summarize detailed information on novel subjects requiring students to consult the scientific literature, 3) the ability to develop hypotheses
about new information that is read, 4) the ability to propose experiments to test such hypotheses and 5) the ability to communicate this information in writing. All of these abilities are essential for future success in a career in science, and are thus considered during grading of the exams. A passing grade on the written qualifying exam is required for eligibility to defend the thesis proposal.

3. Dissertation Advisor and Advisory Committee

Students are encouraged to select the members of the Advisory Committee as early as is feasible after completing the qualifying exam, but no later than the beginning of the third year. In exceptional circumstances, approved by the Program Committee, this may be extended six months. During this time, the Program Committee will act as the Student Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee will consist of at least five members including the student’s Dissertation Advisor. At least three members of the Advisory Committee must be Microbiology and Immunology Program Faculty, and two must be from outside the department. All members must be faculty of the MUSC College of Graduate Studies. The chairperson must be a full member of the Graduate Faculty or an associate member with a full member co-chair. Faculty from other universities are permitted, but they must apply to the College of Graduate Studies credentials committee to become associate members of the graduate faculty. The Program Director must approve and recommend the Advisory Committee by signing the form for this purpose and providing it to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The approved Advisory Committee assumes primary responsibility for the Dissertation Research and general progress of the student.

The student will meet at least yearly with the Advisory Committee, and will provide a concise written summary of his/her research progress to the Committee prior to the annual meeting. This annual meeting usually coincides with the student’s annual seminar. A copy of the completed Annual Evaluation of Student Progress form must be signed by all Committee members and the Graduate Program Director, then forwarded to the Dean of the College of Graduate studies to verify that the annual meeting has taken place. Failure to hold timely meetings will first result in warnings, and if necessary, withholding of stipends until the form is submitted.

4. Dissertation Proposal

A written plan of research (thesis proposal) must be prepared by the student in consultation with the Advisory Committee, in the organizational format of a research grant application in accordance with the current National Institutes of Health Guidelines, except that page limits and margins do not apply. The proposal must contain clearly stated and original hypotheses to be tested, with introductory background and preliminary data that support the objectives. The student must defend the proposal orally before the Advisory Committee and the M&I Program faculty. This presentation usually takes place during the regular Microbiology and Immunology Seminar Series and will fulfill the seminar requirement for that year. The written dissertation proposal is generally submitted and defended within 10 months after passing the qualifying examination. The Graduate Program Coordinator must be notified of the time and date of the proposal defense at least two weeks in advance, and be provided with a summary (abstract) of the proposal that will be distributed to all M&I Program Faculty. The written proposal MUST be distributed to the student’s advisory committee and the Graduate Program Coordinator at least one week prior to the oral presentation. The final written proposal must be approved by the Advisory Committee, who
may request first changes. Approval is documented by submitting the title page of the Dissertation proposal to the graduate office attached to a signed College of Graduate Studies “Plan of Research” form.

1. Candidacy for the PhD degree

Admission to candidacy requires a passing grade on the M&I qualifying exam and a successful proposal defense. Immediately following a successful proposal defense, the advisory committee certifies the admission to candidacy by signing the Plan of Research and Admission to Candidacy forms, which are then submitted to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Usually, the proposal defense and Admission to Candidacy is accomplished by the end of the third year. All students in the Ph.D. degree program must be admitted to candidacy at least one year prior to submission and defense of the Dissertation. Exceptions to the timeline outlined above will be considered only if student illness or other extenuating circumstances exist, or if unsatisfactory performance mandates re-examination.

The College of Graduate Studies recognizes that the student’s research may deviate from that originally proposed. The student should be encouraged to pursue promising leads; however, substantial or long-term changes in the direction of the student’s research should be made only after consultation and with the approval of the Advisory Committee.

2. Dissertation Defense

When the student’s advisory committee agrees that the student has completed the agreed upon goals for his or her thesis project, the student will be given permission to write the final dissertation, and a final defense date will be set. The draft dissertation must be distributed to the advisory committee members and the Graduate Program Coordinator 4 weeks prior to the defense date. The "Dissertation Defense Notification" (or Ready to Defend) form must be completed and turned into the College of Graduate Studies office 21 days in advance of the defense date, with no exceptions.

Dissertation: The dissertation/thesis must be based upon original investigation, provide evidence of mature scholarship and critical judgement, indicate knowledge of research methods and techniques, and demonstrate the ability to carry on independent investigation. Preparation of the dissertation/thesis must comply with the regulations contained in “A Guide to the Preparation of Thesis and Dissertations” which is available in the College of Graduate Studies Office. Three weeks prior to the date of the student’s thesis/dissertation defense, the "Thesis/Dissertation Defense Notification" must be signed by all members of the thesis/dissertation Advisory Committee, the graduate program director, and department chair, and received by the College of Graduate Studies. At this time, the graduate program director will place a completed copy of the thesis/dissertation in the Microbiology and Immunology common area for review by M&I faculty. The thesis/dissertation needs to be distributed to the Advisory Committee for review at least one week before they are asked to sign the "Thesis/Dissertation Defense Notification.” Therefore, the dissertation should be in a complete form and distributed at least four weeks prior to the intended defense date.

Thesis/Dissertation Seminar: Student candidates for the Ph.D. degree are required to present completed research results in a formal seminar prior to their final examination. The date of the Thesis/Dissertation Seminar must be agreed upon by the Advisory Committee and publicly announced by the College of Graduate Studies in advance of the defense.
Final Examination (Oral Defense of Thesis/Dissertation): Each candidate is required to pass a general oral examination directed primarily to the defense of the thesis/dissertation. This will follow the Thesis/Dissertation Seminar. The examination is conducted by the Advisory Committee, with the Chair of the Department or Graduate Program Director presiding. (The Chair or Program Director may appoint another faculty member, who is not a member of the student’s Advisory Committee, to preside at this meeting.) The M&I Program Faculty, other Graduate Faculty and General Faculty are invited to be present and participate. The review of the thesis/dissertation by an external reviewer (a person outside of the University that is an expert in the field) can be extremely helpful and is suggested. Approval by the Advisory Committee, with no more than one dissenting vote, is a requirement for awarding of the degree. In the event of disapproval, the candidate may, at the discretion of the Advisory Committee, be permitted to retake the examination after six months, and not more than two years from the time this decision was made. Only one opportunity for re-examination is given. Any candidate who is granted this privilege shall retain the status and obligations of a graduate student until the time of such re-examination. The Advisory Committee has the authority for final approval of the candidate for the awarding of the degree, and their recommendation is forwarded to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

Upon completion of the defense, each faculty committee member will fill out a "Thesis/Dissertation Defense Rubric" form and give them to the Major Advisor. The Major Advisor will in turn collate the evaluations into one form, discuss it with the trainee, and then submit it to the College's Registrar.

The Advisory Committee may request changes to the Thesis/Dissertation. All changes must be made within 30 days, and the final Dissertation MUST be electronically submitted to the ProQuest website within 30 days of the defense. Stipend support for students will end on the 31st day. Students who do not submit the Dissertation within 30 days will be required to register for the next semester at their own expense for a minimum of one hour, and will receive that semester as their completion date.

Final Diplomas are awarded twice a year, in December and May. Official Graduation Ceremonies are held in May. **NOTE: The final dissertation MUST be electronically submitted prior to the last official day of class of the Fall semester for a December graduation, or prior to the last official day of class of the Spring semester for a May graduation.**

Please Note:

**IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THIS HANDBOOK.**
Program Requirements for Master of Science degree

The M.S. program is expected to last two fall semesters, two spring semesters and one summer, so that a degree can be obtained 19 - 21 months after the start of the program. The timeline below is recommended for students wishing to finish within this time frame.

<table>
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<th>Courses</th>
<th>Fall Year 1</th>
<th>Spring Year 1</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall Year 2</th>
<th>Spring Year 2</th>
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<td>MBIM-770</td>
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<td>Immunobiology (optional)</td>
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<td>MBIM-970</td>
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<td>CGS 701-P</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunology</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4 cr electives</td>
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</table>

Other Milestones:

- Two 6-wk lab rotations. Choose mentor at end of semester.
- Start thesis research project with chosen mentor.
- Start writing thesis proposal in CGS 762 course.
- Finish and defend thesis proposal by Oct 31. Admission to candidacy for M.S. degree. Finish research!
- Write thesis (Feb). Defend thesis (March). Graduate in May!

CGS Forms to Complete:

- ✓ Appointment of Major Thesis Advisor
- ✓ Program of study
- ✓ Selection of Advisory Committee
- ✓ Admission to Candidacy
- ✓ Annual Evaluation of Student Progress
- ✓ Thesis Defense Notification (Ready to Defend)
- ✓ Successful defense
- ✓ Thesis Defense Rubric

1. Required Courses for the Masters Degree:

The program of study for each student is planned jointly by the student and his or her advisors and is highly individualized according to the needs and goals of the student. All Masters students must complete CGS 710, CGS 701P, MBIM 738, MBIM 762, MBIM 770 (every semester), and 3 credit hours of elective advanced coursework as a requirement of the degree. In order to count for advanced credit, the course taken must be merit graded (graded on a 0.0 - 4.0 scale). Course work can be in either microbiology or immunology or both, and elective courses offered by the Department of Microbiology and Immunology are listed in Appendix II. Possible electives are listed on page 10.

Merit graded electives offered by other departments or under the CGS designation may also be applied toward the 3 hrs of advanced credit, with the approval of the student’s advisor. In addition, all students must enroll in and pass MBIM 770 and 970 every semester that they are enrolled in the program. These courses are not merit graded and therefore do not count toward the 3 credit hour requirement for advanced coursework.

Students must maintain a minimum grade of 3.0 in all courses, in order to satisfy the required graduate credit hours. If this requirement is not met, the student may retake a specific course once or may take additional courses to satisfy the required credit hours at the discretion of the Course
Director and the Program Committee. Failure to achieve the required grade upon subsequent examination will usually result in dismissal from the program, as will a grade of less than 2.0 in any course. Extenuating circumstances will be considered by the Program Committee.

Possible electives for Masters students are:

**Fall:**
- CGS 700 Introduction to Biostatistics
- MBIM 725 Immunogenetics
- MBIM 856 Critical Literature Review of M&I

**Spring:**
- CGS 702
- MBIM 788 Immunobiology Selective (last 7 weeks of semester)
- MBIM 623 Microbiology for Dental Students
- MBIM 772 Environmental Microbiology
- MBIM 775 Special Topics in Immunology
- MBIM 856 Critical Literature Review of M&I

An M.S. program is also currently offered in conjunction with the Department of Periodontics in the School of Dental Medicine. Students admitted to this program must hold a D.M.D./D.D.S. degree, and be acceptable to the Department of Periodontics for Graduate Training in that specialty of clinical dentistry.

2. Thesis Advisor and Advisory Committee

The student is encouraged to select an Advisor by the end of the first semester of the program, so that he/she may start work on a thesis at the beginning of the spring semester. The student’s Advisory Committee should be chosen no later than the end of the first spring semester, in consultation with their major advisor and in consideration of the faculty expertise best suited to the planned thesis project.

The Advisory Committee will consist of at least four members, three of whom (including the Major Advisor) must be M&I Program Faculty and one outside member. The Graduate Program Director (Natalie Sutkowski) must approve and recommend the Advisory Committee to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies by signing the “Selection of Advisory Committee” form. The approved Advisory Committee assumes primary responsibility for the Thesis Research and general progress of the student. Until the “Selection of Advisory Committee” form is submitted, the M&I Program Committee acts as the student’s advisory committee.

The student will meet at least yearly with his/her Advisory Committee, and will provide a concise written summary of his/her research progress to the Committee prior to the meeting. This meeting usually coincides with the student’s annual seminar. The advisory committee should fill out and sign an annual evaluation form at the meeting to document that the meeting has taken place. A copy of the signed annual report should be forwarded to the Graduate Program Director who will turn it in to the Dean of the College of Graduate studies. The Evaluation form, along with all required forms are available on the College of Graduate Studies website under Current Student Forms and Guidelines resources, and in the Master of Biomedical Science student handbook.

A written plan of research (thesis proposal) must be prepared by the student, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, in the format of a research grant application. The proposal must contain clearly stated and original hypotheses to be tested and preliminary data that support the objectives. Preliminary data may include work by others in the lab, such as past students, as well as the student proposing. Contact Dr. Sutkowski for examples. The written proposal MUST be given to the student’s advisory committee and the Graduate Program Director at least one week prior to the oral presentation. The student will also provide Dr. Sutkowski with a summary (abstract) of the proposal to distribute to all Program Faculty. The written proposal must be approved by the Advisory Committee. The student must present their proposal in the form of a public seminar, and defend the proposal orally in a closed session afterwards before their Advisory Committee and any Program faculty that wish to attend. The seminar presentation usually takes place during the regular Friday Microbiology and Immunology Seminar Series and will fulfill the seminar requirement for the year. First year students will have opportunities to attend several proposal seminars during their first year as examples.

The written thesis proposal defense is usually completed in the fall of the second year of study. Upon successful defense of the thesis proposal and completion of required coursework, the student is admitted to candidacy for the Master’s degree. At least three months must elapse between the thesis proposal defense and the final thesis defense.

The date of the proposal defense must be agreed upon by the Graduate Program Director, who will attend or send an alternate.

The M&I Graduate Program Committee recognizes that the student’s research may deviate from that originally proposed. The student should be encouraged to pursue promising leads; however, substantial or long-term changes in the direction of the student’s research should be made only with the approval of the Advisory Committee.

4. Thesis and Final Defense

When the student’s advisory committee agrees that the student has completed the agreed upon goals for his or her thesis project, the student will be given permission to write the final dissertation, and a final defense date may be set. The draft dissertation must be distributed to the advisory committee members 4 weeks before the defense date, and the Thesis Defense Notification (Ready to Defend) form must be signed by all committee members and turned into the College of Graduate Studies at least 21 days in advance of the defense date, no exceptions.

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dissertation should be in a complete form and distributed at least four weeks prior to the intended defense date.

Thesis Seminar: Student candidates for the Master’s degree are required to present completed research results in a formal seminar prior to their final examination. The date of the Thesis Seminar must be agreed upon by the Advisory Committee and publicly announced.

Final Examination (Oral Defense of Thesis/Dissertation): Each candidate is required to pass a general oral examination directed primarily to the defense of the thesis/dissertation. This will follow the Thesis Seminar. The examination is conducted by the Advisory Committee, with the Chair of the Department or Graduate Program Director presiding. (The Chair or Program Director may appoint another faculty member, who is not a member of the student’s Advisory Committee, to preside at this meeting.) The M&I Program Faculty, other Graduate Faculty and General Faculty are invited to be present and participate. Approval by the Advisory Committee is a requirement for awarding of the degree. In the event of disapproval, the candidate may, at the discretion of the Advisory Committee, be permitted to retake the examination within two years from the time this decision was made. Only one opportunity for re-examination is given. Any candidate who is granted this privilege shall retain the status and obligations of a graduate student until the time of such re-examination. The Advisory Committee has the authority for final approval of the candidate for the awarding of the degree, and their recommendation is forwarded to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

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Please Note:

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty name &amp; contact</th>
<th>Research interests</th>
<th>Recruiting?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Naren Banik <a href="mailto:baniknl@musc.edu">baniknl@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Calpain in spinal cord injury and demyelinating diseases, neuroprotective effects of proteinase inhibitors</td>
<td>Yes PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Bartee <a href="mailto:bartee@musc.edu">bartee@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Myxomavirus based cancer therapeutics</td>
<td>Yes PhD,MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Chavin <a href="mailto:chavinkd@musc.edu">chavinkd@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Improving survival of transplanted livers and ischemic tissues</td>
<td>Yes PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beichu Guo <a href="mailto:guobe@musc.edu">guobe@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Innate immunity in inflammatory diseases and tumor development.</td>
<td>Yes PhD, MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azizul Haque <a href="mailto:haque@musc.edu">haque@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Tumor immunology (lymphoma, melanoma and prostate cancer) and autoimmunity</td>
<td>Yes PhD, MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wei Jiang <a href="mailto:jianw@musc.edu">jianw@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Memory B cell death and vaccine responsiveness in HIV</td>
<td>Yes PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zihai Li <a href="mailto:zihai@musc.edu">zihai@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Cancer Vaccines, Innate Immunity, Immune Tolerance, Stem Cells</td>
<td>Yes PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bei Liu <a href="mailto:liube@musc.edu">liube@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Cancer immunotherapy, stem cell-based cancer vaccine and innate immunity</td>
<td>Yes PhD, MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barb Rohrer <a href="mailto:rohrer@musc.edu">rohrer@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Immunopathology of macular degeneration</td>
<td>Yes PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Tomlinson <a href="mailto:tomlinss@musc.edu">tomlinss@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>The complement system and its role in inflammation and immunity</td>
<td>Yes PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Julie Westerink <a href="mailto:westerin@musc.edu">westerin@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Immune response to pneumococcal vaccination in HIV patients</td>
<td>Yes PhD, MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Westwater <a href="mailto:westwatc@musc.edu">westwatc@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Candida pathogenesis, fungal quorum sensing, fungal oxidative stress resistance, plant-derived antimicrobials</td>
<td>Yes PhD, MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Wu <a href="mailto:wuijd@musc.edu">wuijd@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Immunotherapy of cancer, inflammation and cancer, tumor microenvironment</td>
<td>Yes PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xue-Zhong Yu <a href="mailto:yux@musc.edu">yux@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Graft vs Host Disease, Stem cell transplantation, T cell development</td>
<td>Yes PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xian (John) Zhang <a href="mailto:zhangjo@musc.edu">zhangjo@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Molecular pathogenesis of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus</td>
<td>Yes PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Atkinson <a href="mailto:atkinsoc@musc.edu">atkinsoc@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Complement inhibitory proteins and their role in cancer, emphysema, and transplantation</td>
<td>Yes MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shikhar Mehrota <a href="mailto:mehrotr@musc.edu">mehrotr@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Adoptive immunotherapy of cancer</td>
<td>Yes, MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina Voelkel-Johnson <a href="mailto:johnsccv@musc.edu">johnsccv@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Gene therapy of cancer to promote apoptosis, ceramide and sphingolipid metabolism of cancer</td>
<td>Yes MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chenthamarakshan Vasu <a href="mailto:vasu@musc.edu">vasu@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Immune tolerance, Immunotherapy of autoimmunity, cancer, and transplant rejection</td>
<td>Yes MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Gilkeson <a href="mailto:gilkeson@musc.edu">gilkeson@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Autoimmune disease: rheumatoid arthritis, lupus</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Kamen <a href="mailto:kamend@musc.edu">kamend@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Autoimmunity and environmental exposures</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Kirkwood <a href="mailto:kkirk@musc.edu">kkirk@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Oral health, head &amp; neck cancer, bone remodeling in periodontal disease, inflammation</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda LaRue <a href="mailto:laruerc@musc.edu">laruerc@musc.edu</a></td>
<td>Hematology/stem cell biology and vascular biology.</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty name &amp; contact</td>
<td>Research interest</td>
<td>Recruiting?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Meissner</td>
<td>HCV and HIV immunobiology</td>
<td>Possibly MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satish Nadig</td>
<td>Treg biology and transplantation tolerance</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrrystal Paulos</td>
<td>Immunotherapy of Cancer, adoptive T-cell therapy, Th17 cell biology</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titus Reaves</td>
<td>Inflammatory bowel disease</td>
<td>Possibly MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Rubinstein</td>
<td>Immunotherapy of cancer, adoptive T cell therapy</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Schmidt</td>
<td>Nosocomial infection control, biosafety</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Soloff</td>
<td>Immunopathology of and vaccine development against HIV, SIV and influenza virus</td>
<td>Possibly MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Sutkowski</td>
<td>Tumor viruses EBV &amp; HPV, HERV superantigens, human monoclonal antibodies, cancer immunology</td>
<td>Possibly MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Thaxton</td>
<td>Cancer immunology</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paula Traktman</td>
<td>Vaccinia virus biology and VRK protein kinases</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Wrangle</td>
<td>Immunotherapy of lung cancer</td>
<td>Possibly MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yi (Benny) Yang</td>
<td>Th17 cells and gut microbiome</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Rita Young</td>
<td>Immunotherapy of head and neck cancer</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Cole</td>
<td>Immunotherapy of cancer, adoptive T cell therapy</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Cook</td>
<td>Mechanisms of inflammation, sepsis and septic shock</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Kasman</td>
<td>Gene therapy of cancer, virus-virus interactions</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hal May</td>
<td>Bioremediation, microbial fuel cells, biofuel production</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamara Nowling</td>
<td>Regulation of gene expression, sphingolipids and T cell function in in lupus-associated kidney disease</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Oates</td>
<td>Biomarkers of disease and role of reactive intermediates in lupus nephritis and CVD in lupus</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janardan Pandey</td>
<td>Immunogenetics of infectious, autoimmune, and malignant diseases</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inderjit Singh</td>
<td>Immunology of Neurological disorders such as Multiple Sclerosis, Stroke and Spinal Cord Injury</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Wright</td>
<td>Viral gene expression and virus host interactions</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Appendix II: Microbiology and Immunology Courses 2015-2016

MBIM-623G. Microbiology for Dental Students. Microbiology is a core course in the dental curriculum that is intended to foster a knowledge base and understanding of the fundamentals of bacterial physiology and genetics; clinical bacteriology, virology, parasitology and mycology; antimicrobial therapy; asepsis in dentistry; and infection control. The primary goals of the course are to explore the relationship between the physiology of medically important microbes to the pathobiological sequelae of human-microbial interactions, with particular reference to the role of oral microbes in human disease. Emphasis is placed on the study of oral ecology, dental caries, periodontal disease, hepatitis and AIDS. Laboratory instruction includes problem based, small group exercises in microbiology, with specific sections on oral flora and aseptic techniques. 4 hr. Spring (Schmidt).

MBIM-725. Virology. This course will introduce principles of virology to advanced microbiology students. The key areas to be covered include the unique features of replication of RNA and DNA viruses, the uses of viruses as vectors, and elements of viral pathogenicity. The material will be presented in a number of formats including lectures by faculty, written papers, oral presentations by students, and discussion of current and seminal literature. 3 s.h. Spring or Fall. (Kasman, Sutkowski, team) Alternate Years.

MBIM-735. Molecular & Cellular Basis of Inflammation & Immunity. This course represents an intensive and in-depth study of the areas of cellular immunology, immunogenetics, clinical immunology, and the immunobiology of tumor development. Each area will be presented with the intent of developing a sound understanding of experimental and theoretical observations. Emphasis will be placed on the most current research involving sophisticated methodology. 4 s.h. Fall/Spring. (Atkinson)

MBIM-738. Introduction to Microbiology and Immunology Methods. This is an introductory research methods course with three goals:(1) to provide students with the planning and mathematical skills to correctly and confidently perform common microbiological and immunological laboratory techniques and collect the results, (2) to present adequate theoretical information about the techniques to enable students to critically appraise results presented in published articles, (3) to teach students how to interpret a methods section a published article such that they can write an adequate protocol for themselves and anyone wishing to repeat their work. There is no wet lab associated with this course. Class time will include approximately 1/3 lecture and 2/3 group active-learning activities. 4 s.h. Fall. (Kasman)

MBIM-742. Advanced Microbiology. The course will present in-depth perspectives on the agents responsible for the major bacterial, viral and parasitic-induced diseases. Emphasis will be placed on current research and new insights gained into the biochemistry, molecular biology and immunology of these organisms. 4 s.h. Fall. (Schmidt, May, team) Alternate Years.

MBIM-770. Seminar. Participation of graduate students in this course is mandatory. Guest speakers supplement the regular program. Each graduate student gives at least one seminar yearly. Pass/Fail 1 s.h. (Haque) Fall/Spring.

MBIM-772. Environmental Microbiology. The course emphasizes fundamental microbiological principles as they apply to the environment. Its main goal is to introduce the student to the concepts of microbial diversity and evolution, microbial metabolism and catalysis in the biodegradation and synthesis of natural and man-made compounds, the microbial role in biogeochemical cycling, and the interactions of microbes with the physical environment and with other organisms related to the
application of microbiological approaches to problems which exist in today’s environment. The
course should prepare the student interested in environmental problems and issues with the necessary
practical information to make sound judgements in assessing meaningful solutions and the role
microorganisms play in those processes. 3 s.h. Fall/Spring. (May)

**MBIM-775. Special Topics in Microbiology and Immunology.** This elective course will provide
continuous update in immunology to those students who have completed Basic and Advanced
Immunology and taken their qualifying examination. It will be a seminar course during which the
students will meet with the instructors for two hours a week over a semester to discuss the most
recent publications and the new insights they give. To ensure a broad coverage, any faculty in
Immunology and Microbiology may suggest a topic to be discussed. Prerequisite: MBIM-735 or
permission of instructor. 2 s.h. Fall/Spring. (Schmidt, Kasman)

**MBIM-776. Special Projects in Immunology and Microbiology.** Individual faculty accept limited
numbers of students to pursue a “small” research project. Intended for those students desiring
research experience but open to those who would pursue relevant projects of their own design.
Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Variable s.h. Fall/Spring.

**MBIM-779. Immunogenetics.** Initial lectures will review the fundamental principles of genetics.
The principle focus of the course will be the genetics of human MHC and immunoglobulin allotypes.
Major blood genes will also be discussed. Statistical methods employed in delineating the genetic
contribution to human diseases will be reviewed. 2 s.h. Fall. (Pandey)

**MBIM-786. Cancer Immunotherapy Lessons.** (K12 Scholars Program.) This course will combine
didactic lectures with participation in mock study sections. The first 3 weeks of class will be lecture
and the remaining 12 weeks will be used to review and critique past grant proposals related to cancer
immunotherapy recently submitted by principal investigators at MUSC. Students will also attend the
monthly meetings of the Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy (CII) program faculty (4 meetings
during the semester) and submit a 1 page written summary and response for each. 2 s.h. (Li)
Fall/Spring.

**MBIM-788. Spring Selective: Immunobiology.** Intensive 7-week introductory immunology course
for graduate students in lecture format, utilizing Janeway’s Immunobiology as a textbook. Emphasis
is on understanding molecular mechanisms resulting in immunity, and experimental methods for
testing and discovering these mechanisms. **(not for advanced credit if taken as part of the PhD first
year curriculum). 3 hr. Spring (Atkinson).**

**MBIM-856. Critical Literature Review in Inflammation and Immunity.** Course is a formalized,
refereed Journal Club focused on topics of general interest in Microbiology and Immunology.
Mandatory for PhD candidates in Microbiology and Immunology. (Sutkowski, Rubinstein) 1 s.h.
Fall/Spring.

**MBIM-970. Research.** Variable s.h.

**MBIM-980. Thesis.** Variable s.h.

**MBIM-990. Dissertation.** Variable