

President-Elect (2019-2020)

President (2021-2022)

Claudia Kemper, PhD

Senior Investigator

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Dr. Claudia Kemper obtained her PhD from the Bernhard-Nocht-Institute for Tropical Medicine, University of Hamburg, Germany in 1998. She performed her postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of John Atkinson at Washington University School of Medicine in Saint Louis, MO, and became a faculty member of Washington University as an Instructor in Medicine and then Research Assistant Professor in 2004/2006. In 2008, Dr. Kemper joined the MRC Centre for Transplantation at King's College London as a Senior Lecturer and was promoted to Reader in 2012 and Full Professor in 2015. In 2017 she joined the Immunology Center at the NHLBI as a tenured Senior Investigator and as the Chief of the Complement and Inflammation Research Section.

Dr. Kemper remains a Visiting Professor at King's College London and also serves as an Adjunct Professor for the University of Lubeck in Germany.

Statement of Qualifications:

Prior ICS Secretary and Councilor who performed many important activities for the ICS during that period of time including Head of the Complement Nomenclature Committee.

Internationally recognized scientist, recipient of the Wellcome Trust Investigator Award and current member of the Immunity Review Boards for the Wellcome Trust and Arthritis Research UK.

Statement: Recent new discoveries of unexpected broad roles for this ancient system in development, general homeostasis and cell physiology in combination with the 'return' of complement as an attractive therapeutic target led to renewed interest among scientists and clinicians alike.

I would be honored and delighted to serve as President of the ICS and to represent our field during these exciting times with an eye on further strengthening the profile of complement among the broad immunology community and as an attractive research area for the next generation of trainees.

Secretary (2019-2020)

Trent Woodruff, PhD

Associate Professor of Pharmacology

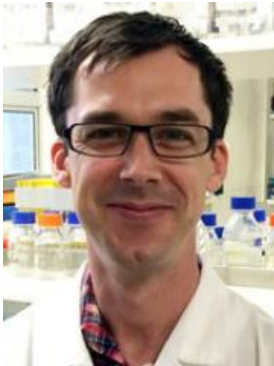
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<https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/profile/561/trent-woodruff>



Dr Woodruff obtained his PhD from the University of Queensland (UQ) in 2003, performing key research on the discovery and development of the complement C5aR1 inhibitor, PMX53. He then spent several years in Industry, overseeing the preclinical and clinical progression of this drug into human trials. He returned to UQ in 2007 and is now an NHMRC R.D. Wright Biomedical Research Fellow and Associate Professor of Pharmacology, and leads a research team aiming to find new therapeutic treatments for neurodegenerative disease. Current therapies for these diseases are vastly inadequate, and so new research is needed to identify novel targets to slow or halt their progression. Dr Woodruff's specific research revolves around complement in the brain, and how it may propagate brain disease. A key focus is the development and testing of new C3a and C5a receptor targeted drugs developed by his group, in preclinical animal models. Using a series of potent and orally active complement C5a receptor inhibitors, Dr Woodruff's team has confirmed the therapeutic potential of targeting complement-mediated neuroinflammation to reduce neuronal cell death. His team has also recently shown that in addition to its roles in neurodegeneration, complement factors also play essential roles in stem and neuronal cell development during embryogenesis, underscoring the widespread physiological and pathological roles of this evolutionarily ancient immune system within the brain.

Statement of Qualifications:

Dr Woodruff has been an active ICS member for over 14 years. He was an ICS councilor from 2013-2016, and is the current ICS Secretary and Editor of the *Focus on Complement* Newsletter. Dr Woodruff has been instrumental in upgrading the FoC with a new modern layout and many other activities within the society.

Treasurer (2019-2020)

Daniel Ricklin, PhD

Associate Professor of Molecular Pharmacy

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Prof. Dr. Daniel Ricklin is Associate Professor of Molecular Pharmacy in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Basel, Switzerland. He studied pharmaceutical sciences at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, Switzerland, and earned a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from the University of Basel. He joined the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, USA) and the field of complement biology as a postdoctoral scientist in 2006 and turned to therapeutic aspects as an Assistant and Associate Professor at the same institution. In 2016, he was appointed to his current position at the University of Basel, where he now heads the Molecular Pharmacy group. His research efforts are focused on the development of therapeutic concepts for immune modulation and controlling adverse host defence pathway activation in clinical conditions, starting from natural leads (i.e., peptides, proteins and carbohydrates) and applying concepts ranging from biotechnology to medicinal chemistry.

Statement of Qualifications:

Current ICS Treasurer who has served in an outstanding manner and introduced several upgrades to the organizational financial management activities.

Councilor – 6 years (2019-2024)

Leendert Trouw, PhD

Associate Professor
Leiden University Medical Center
Dept of Immunohematology and Bloodtransfusion
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Dr. Leendert Trouw is an Associate Professor at the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Leiden, The Netherlands. Leendert did his PhD training, at the Department of Nephrology in the LUMC, with Professor Moh Daha. In his early research, he provided an explanation as to why anti-C1q autoantibodies contribute to renal damage in patients suffering from lupus, whereas the same antibodies are not harmful in healthy individuals. Leendert continued in 2004 to a post-doctoral training with Professor Anna Blom at the Lund University, in Malmo, Sweden. During this period, he focussed on the role of endogenous complement inhibitors on the protection of dying and dead cells from excessive complement attack. To gain clinical insights in the field of complement and autoantibodies, in 2007 Leendert joined Professors Huizinga and Toes at the Department of Rheumatology in the LUMC, first as a senior post-doc and later as an Assistant Professor. He studied the complement activating potential of ACPA. Leendert identified a new autoantibody in rheumatoid arthritis, the anti-CarP antibody. Since 2016, as an independent Associate Professor his research has focussed on the role of complement in autoimmunity. Currently, the research of Leendert is supported by The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research and the Dutch Arthritis Foundation and by an ERC-consolidator grant. In July 2017, he moved to the Department of Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion in the LUMC and is investigating RA biomarkers and the pathogenic impact of complement, antibodies and post-translationally modified proteins in rheumatism.

Statement of Qualifications:

Leendert served as active co-organizer of the 13th European Meeting on Complement in Human Disease held in Leiden 2011. Since 2016, he has been the Secretary of the European Complement Network and maintains the ECN website.

Councilor – 6 years (2019-2024)

Zoltan Prohaszka, MD

Full Professor of Immunology

Semmelweis University

Department of Internal Medicine

Budapest, Hungary

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Zoltán Prohászka is heading the Research Laboratory and professor of immunology at 3rd Department of Medicine at Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary. As an MD, PhD and specialist in laboratory medicine he has a major impact on complement research in Hungary and around the world. In addition, as head of the Research Laboratory and George Füst Complement Diagnostic Laboratory he serves as consultant in hematology and complement diagnostics for routine diagnostics. He currently is the vice-head and secretary of the Quality Assessment and Standardization Committee, for the standardization and quality assessment of complement measurements.

Statement of Qualifications:

Zoltán as a very committed, experienced, reliable and pleasant person who would be a great asset on the board of the ICS.

Councilor – 6 years (2019-2024)

Suzan Rooijackers, PhD

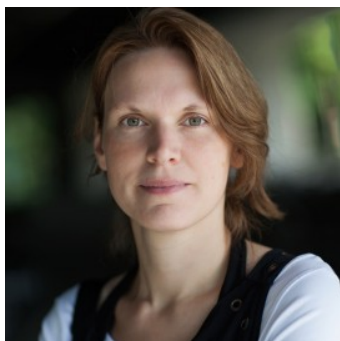
Professor Bacterial and Immunity

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<https://www.evasionutrecht.nl/themes/suzan-rooijackers-bacteria-complement/>



So far my work has focused on deciphering the mechanisms that bacteria use to divert elimination by the innate immune system. My work has led to the discovery that the prominent pathogen *Staphylococcus aureus* secretes a number of proteins that block critical steps in the complement cascade. As a PhD student in microbiology, I discovered a highly unique bacterial complement inhibitor (SCIN) that blocks a key enzyme of the complement cascade: the C3 convertase (Nature Immunology, 2005). In 2007, I obtained a Veni-grant for the biochemical characterization of SCIN. In close collaboration with Prof. Piet Gros, I managed to resolve the structure of SCIN in complex with the C3 convertase (Nature Immunology, 2009). This was key to the complement field, since the C3 convertase is highly unstable and its structure could only be revealed thanks to the stabilizing properties of SCIN. Furthermore, we discovered two novel staphylococcal complement inhibitors: Efb and Ecb (Journal of Experimental Medicine, 2007). Since these inhibitors were active against murine complement, I obtained a prestigious EMBO fellowship for an advanced postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Prof. Victor Nizet at the University of San Diego, California. Here I obtained the expertise to genetically manipulate bacteria and study bacterial virulence in small animal models. We demonstrated that complement evasion molecules are important virulence factors *in vivo*. In november 2009, I started my own research group at the Dept. of Medical Microbiology in Utrecht focusing on the intricate interplay between bacteria and the extracellular part of the immune system (complement, coagulation, neutrophil secretions). In 2010, I received a Vidi-grant allowing me to expand my research group. In 2011, I received the prestigious Eppendorf award for Young European Investigators.

Statement of Qualifications:

Suzan is a Dutch professor working in the area of microbiology, structural biology and complement. She has a background as PhD in microbiology and has made several groundbreaking observations related to the complement system during her relatively short career.