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May 17, 2023

To: Members of the Department of Immunology

From: Trevor Young, Dean, Temerty Faculty of Medicine

Re: Appointment of Prof. Jen Gommerman as Chair, Department of Immunology

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I'm pleased to announce that the Agenda Committee of the Academic Board has approved the appointment of Professor Jen Gommerman as Chair of the Department of Immunology for a five-year term beginning October 1, 2023. She succeeds Professor JC Zúñiga-Pflücker who completes his second term as Chair on September 30, 2023.

Jen Gommerman received her PhD in Immunology from the University of Toronto in 1998 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School in 2000. She worked as a staff scientist in industry at Biogen in Cambridge, Massachusetts, before joining the University of Toronto as an Assistant Professor in 2003. She was promoted to Professor in 2015, and has previously served as the department's Associate Chair of Graduate Studies, and Acting Chair.

Professor Gommerman, who currently holds a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Tissue-Specific Immunity, has (co)authored more than 110 journal articles and has received grants from CFI, CIHR and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, among others. Her research is in the field of Neuroimmunology - how the nervous and immune systems interact in both health and disease. Her long-term research goal is to understand how the immune system is at the core of the "gut-brain axis". Dr. Gommerman presently serves as Immunology Pillar co-lead for CoVaRR-Net, a pan-Canadian consortium studying variants of concern and is the co-director of HI3, a consortium of 85 partners to increase biomanufacturing capacity and pandemic preparedness in Canada.

An experienced educator and mentor, Prof. Gommerman has been recognized with the Faculty of Medicine Graduate Teaching Award for Sustained Excellence in Graduate Teaching & Mentorship. As Associate Chair, she implemented improvements in student wellness and time-to-completion and created a new Applied Immunology non-thesis MSc program.

Please join me in congratulating Professor Gommerman on her appointment. I would also like to offer my most sincere thanks to Professor Zúñiga-Pflücker for his excellent leadership of the department since 2012 and wish him the very best in the future.