



2003 CIMD Achievements Include Receiving a Record \$12.3 Million in Grant Funding

FACULTY AWARDS

- ? **Dr. Jeffrey Banas** received **\$1.5 million for 5 years** from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research in support of his work entitled, "Glucan binding proteins of oral *Streptococci*."
- ? **Dr. Michael Miller** received **\$474,000 for 2 years** from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study the "Role of quinolone efflux pumps in *S. pneumoniae* resistance."
- ? **Dr. Timothy Sellati** received **\$375,000 for 5 years** from the Arthritis Foundation grant to study Lyme Disease.
- ? **Dr. Jing-Ren Zhang** received 2 grants:
 - ? **\$474,000 for 2 years** from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study "Promotion of pneumococcal adherence by viral infection.
 - ? **\$35,000 for 2 years** from the American Lung Association for research entitled, "Molecular mechanisms of pneumococcal adherence to human lung epithelium."
- ? **Dr. Dennis Metzger** received 2 grants:
 - ? **\$1.1 million for 3 years** from Phillip Morris for his study of the "Role of IgA in lung inflammation."
 - ? **\$8.3 million for 4-1/2 years** from National Institutes of Allergy & Infectious Diseases to study *Francisella tularensis*.

Other CIMD faculty: **Drs. Banas, Drake, Gosselin, Lopez, Melendez, Mudzinski, Sellati and Zhang**

Other IRC faculty:

- ? CCBCR faculty: Dr. Lennartz
- ? CCS faculty: Dr. Loegering
- ? CNN faculty: Drs. Feustel and Mazurkiewicz

- ? **Dr. James Drake** - The Helen H. Molinari Graduate Encouragement and Merit Award
- ? **Dr. Jim Drake's** research was featured on the cover of the Journal of Immunology.

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

- ? **M.S. Degrees awarded: Adriana Caballero, Kip Connor, Lori Defreest, Pey-Lih Ho, Kwi-Hye Kim, and Danielle Wroblewski.**
- ? **Ph.D. Degrees awarded: Zheng Dong, Aparna Ranganathan, Thomas Shupe, Mary Walsh.**
- ? **Doctor of Medicine with Distinction in Research awarded: Henry Michtalik** (Mentor: Dr. Crawford)
- ? **Lori DeFreest** received **\$30,000 for 2 years** from The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for her research entitled, "Identification of cellular binding sites for a novel human anti-breast cancer peptide."
- ? **2003 Graduate Student Poster Day** – Four CIMD graduate students were selected to make oral presentations on Student Awards Day and received:
 - ? Dean's Certificate and Prize in Recognition of Excellence in Research: **Diana Albu, Kip Connor, Lori DeFreest and Kristin Nelson**
 - ? Dean's Certificate and Prize for Excellence in Extramural Research Activities: **Kristin Nelson**
 - ? Alumni Research Award: **Elisaveta Adamova**
 - ? **Lori DeFreest** received a **travel award of \$1,000** from AACR-Inglenook Vineyards Scholar-in-Training Award.

2003 CIMD Achievements (Continued)

- ? **Kristin Nelson** received a **\$500 Young Investigators Award** from the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine (formerly The Oxygen Society) at the 10th Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington.
- ? **CIMD Annual Research Retreat** – prize recipients were:
 - ? 2nd year students: **Erica McGovern and Sita Subbaram**
 - ? Senior Students were: **Lori DeFrest, Kip Connor, Kristin Nelson and Mark Preissler**

FACULTY STUDY SECTIONS/REVIEW PANELS

- ? **Dr. Dana Crawford** served on the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Study Section.
- ? **Dr. Edmund Gosselin** served on the NIH Center for Scientific Review's Special Emphasis Study Section ZRG1 VACC o2: Vaccines for Biodefense Pathogens.
- ? **Dr. Dennis Metzger** served as chair on the NIH Special Emphasis Study Section, served on the American Heart Association Study Section, served on the Special Emphasis Panel to review applications for the NIH National Swine Research and Resource Center, and served on the NIH Center for Scientific Review's SSS-M 01 "Reparative Medicine" Study Section.
- ? **Dr. James McSharry** chaired the Herpes Virus Session at the 16th International Conference on Antiviral Research in Savannah, Georgia.

GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

- ? **Elisaveta Adamova** – was invited to present at the Annual ASM Meeting "Future Directions for Biodefense Research: Development of Counter Measures" in Baltimore, Maryland. Her poster was entitled, "CD-14 deficiency compromises host resistance to pneumonic tularemia."
- ? **Paul Arnaboldi** – was invited to present his research entitled, "IgA increases the severity of inflammation in a murine model of allergic lung inflammation," at the Keystone Symposium in Colorado.
- ? **Kip Connor** – was invited to present his research entitled, "Mitochondrial-derived hydrogen peroxide regulates PI3K signaling via PTEN oxidation," at the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine (SFRBM) on November 23, 2003 in Seattle, Washington.

OTHER ITEMS

- ?Biowarfare Expert – Dr. Kenneth Alibek gave the Annual Theobald Smith Alumni Chair Lecture.
- ?**Dawn Bellville** developed and produced CIMD Newsletter.
- ?**Dawn Bellville** completed the CIMD Student Handbook.
- ?BSL-3 Facility started in preparation of Program Project. It is due to be completed by April 1, 2004.

CIMD Postdoc Training Announcement Featured in *Science*

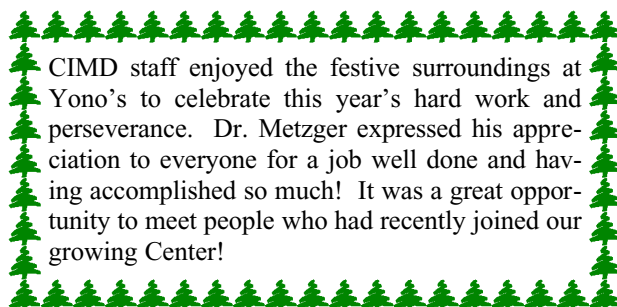
The Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease ran two full-page postdoctoral research and training ads in *Science*. Our hope is to find qualified candidates to further the research work being done on *Francisella tularensis*.

Please see one of the copies available in the CIMD Office; take copies to post at any meeting you may be attending.



CIMD Holiday Celebration at Yono's!!




 CIMD staff enjoyed the festive surroundings at Yono's to celebrate this year's hard work and perseverance. Dr. Metzger expressed his appreciation to everyone for a job well done and having accomplished so much! It was a great opportunity to meet people who had recently joined our growing Center!



Dr. McSharry To Retire

James McSharry, Ph.D. will be retiring from Albany Medical College after more than 30 years of service. Dr. McSharry will be honored by the Center of Immunology and Microbial Disease with a Center Luncheon on Wednesday, January 21, 2004 in MS-227.

GOOD LUCK DR. MCSHARRY!!!

Publications

Lu L, Lamm ME, Li H, Corhesy B. and Zhang J-R. The human polymeric immunoglobulin receptor binds to *Streptococcus pneumoniae* via domains 3 and 4. *J. Bio. Chem.* 278:48178-48187, 2003.

Nagatomi J, Araulanandam PG, Metzger DW, Meunier A and Bizios R. Cyclic pressure affects osteoblast functions pertinent to osteogenesis. *Ann Biomed Eng.* 2003 Sep;31(8): 917-23.

Davis CA, Hearn AS, Fletcher B, Bickford J, Garcia JE, Leveque V, Melendez JA, Silverman DN, Zucali J, Agarwal A, and Nick HS. Potent anti-tumor effects an active site mutant of human MsSOD: Evolutionary conservation of product inhibition. *J Biol Chem.* 2003 Dec 18 (in press).

Dr. Meenakshi Malik Joins CIMD to Work on *F. tularensis*

Dr. Meenakshi Malik joined Dr. Sellati's lab in December and is currently working on a project entitled, "Role of pattern recognition receptors such as CD14 and members of the toll-like receptor (TLR) family of signaling molecules in induction of protective immune responses to *F. tularensis*."

Dr. Malik earned her Ph.D. from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute. Her thesis was entitled, "Studies on antigenic characterization of immunogenicity of outer membrane proteins of *Salmonella enteritidis*." **WELCOME!!**

Graduate Student Poster Day and Awards Day

Please note that this year's Graduate Student Poster Day will be held on **Tuesday, February 3, 2004**. The deadline for abstracts is Friday, **January 9, 2004**. All second year students and beyond are expected to present a poster of their research work. Refer to your handbook for more information or ask your mentor. Graduate Student Awards Day will be held on Tuesday, **February 24, 2004**.



2003 CIMD Retreat and Picnic

Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease
Albany Medical College
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Albany, NY 12208-3479

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We're on the web!

If you have an item you would like included in the next Newsletter issue, please put them in my mail box or e-mail your items to me at: Bellvid@mail.amc.edu Thank you.

Deadline for submission: 03/15/04

Next print date: April 1, 2004

Dawn Bellville, Editor

Winter Events in the Capital Region

Bartender's Ball

Semi-formal gala with non-stop entertainment and music.

Saratoga Springs—1/10/04

Snowman Contest

Held in conjunction with Winterfest.

Saratoga Springs—1/26-2/1/04

Dance Flurry

Traditional Dance event.

Saratoga Springs—2/13-15/04

For more information visit
www.iloveny.state.ny.us

Upcoming Events in CIMD...

Monday Seminar Speakers

January 8, 2004

(10:00 a.m. in MS-316)

Anton P. McCaffrey, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Fellow

Department of Pediatrics and Genetics

Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto

"New In Vivo Approaches for Studying Viral Pathogenesis in Mouse Liver: Hepatitis Virus RNA Interference Therapeutics and Host Pathogen Interactions"

January 19, 2004

(12:00 p.m. in MS-316)

Lloyd Mayer, M.D.

Immunobiology Center

Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York City

"Controlling Immune Responses in the Intestines"

January 19, 2004

(2:00 p.m. in MS-316)

Diana Albu, M.S.

Ph.D. Thesis Defense

"IL-12 as a Mucosal Adjuvant for Enhancement of HIV-1 and Influenza Virus Immune Responses"

January 26, 2004

(12:00 p.m. in MS-316)

Chris Kepley, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

"TBA"

March 1, 2004

(12:00 p.m. in MS-316)

Jon D. Piganelli, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Diabetes Institute

Department of Pediatrics, Rangos Research Center

Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh PA

"TBA"

For more information, please check our website.

Graduate Students Final Data Set Rule

Prior to the defense of the Ph.D. Thesis, the student must convene a thesis committee meeting for the presentation of the data set that comprises the thesis. At least four of the five voting members of the student's committee must agree that the data set is sufficient for the thesis and that essentially no more experiments are necessary. A final target date for the thesis defense will be scheduled for no later than four months beyond approval of the final data set. If the student does not defend his/her thesis accordingly, the student will be required to petition the Student Progress Committee for an extension. In addition, the student's funding may be discontinued at the discretion of their Center. In the event that the student has begun postdoctoral employment, a letter will be written by the Student Progress Committee to the student's postdoctoral employer indicating that they have not yet completed their degree requirements (as stated in the Graduate Studies Program Handbook).