Upcoming Events in CIMD...

Seminar Speakers
April 13, 2004
(12:00 a.m. in MS-316)
David Wentworth, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Molecular Genetics
Department of Biomedical Sciences
SU NY Albany and Wadsworth Center
"Emerging/Re-emerging Virus Threats."

April 12, 2004
(12:00 a.m. in MS-316)
Yan Hong Zhang, Ph.D., M.D.
Research Fellow
Department of Microbiology & Immunology
Vanderbilt University Medical School
"The Role of TRAF2 in the CD4 Memory T Cell Formation and the Recall Response in an Allergic Model?"

April 22, 2004
(10:00 a.m. in MS-700)
2004 Theobald Smith Annual Lecture
Stanley Falkow, Ph.D.
Robert W. and Vivian K. Cahill Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and of Medicine
Stanford University Medical Center
"Microbial Pathogenesis: A Little Bit of This and A Little Bit of That"

May 3, 2004
(12:00 p.m. in MS-316)
Sandra Ryem, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Cell Biology
Washington University School of Medicine
"The Function of Calcipressin (Adapt78) in the Immune System"

May 10, 2004
(12:00 p.m. in MS-316)
Gerhardt Schuring, DVM, Ph.D.
Interim Dean
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
"TBA"

May 17, 2004
(12:00 p.m. in MS-316)
Anjula Ghorpade, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Center for Neurovirology & Neuro-Degenerative Disorders
Department of Neurology
University of Nebraska Medical Center
"Role of Gial Inflammation in HIV-1-associated dementia: Implications for Neurodegenerative Disease Mechanisms A"

For more information, please check our website.
Ten CIMD Members Attend ASM Biodefense Conference

Faculty, postdocs, and graduate students in the Center attended the American Society for Microbiology’s Biodefense Meeting which was held in Baltimore, Maryland on March 7-10, 2004. Five posters were presented featuring the tularemia research currently being conducted in CIMD’s Biodefense Program Project labs. This represented one-half of all of the tularemia presentations at the meeting.

CI MD Faculty Serve on NIH Study Sections

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., served on the American Heart Association’s Peer Review Committee in Orlando, Florida on March 30-31, 2004.

Edmund Gosselin, Ph.D., served on the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases study section, “Veterinary Medicine,” Feb. 26 and 27, 2004 in Washington, DC.

Jeffrey A. Banas, Ph.D., served on the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research study section “Oral, Dental and Craniofacial Sciences,” held in Washington, DC on February 24-25, 2004.

James R. Drake, Ph.D., served on two National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease Special Emphasis Panels “Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Disease Research Opportunities” on February 4th and February 12, 2004.

Employee Recognition Luncheon

On March 2, 2004 CIMD celebrated “Years of Service” for two employees. Dr. Jeffrey Banas (10 years) and Sharon Saladin (5 years) were honored with service gifts and a luncheon in Meeting Room 211.

Albany Medical Center Prize

The recipient of the Albany Medical Center Prize of $500,000 will be announced at a press conference planned for April 23, 2004 at 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Metzger Interviewed by Science

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D. was interviewed by Science magazine regarding postdoctoral fellows and the growing training opportunities in research. It is seen as a time to “…hone their skills and learn new ones.” You can read the entire article, Postdoctoral Opportunities I: Academic Instigation by going to www.recrut.sciencemag.org/feature/advice.

Dr. Metzger Appointed to Advisory Board

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D. was recently appointed as a member of the COBRE (Center for Biomedical Research Excellence) External Scientific Advisory Board at Dartmouth Medical School and visited that school on March 15-16, 2004 to review its research programs.

Publications

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Code of Conduct

By now, everyone should have received a copy of the “Code of Conduct” packet. If you have not received a copy and you are a student, please contact Jean or Marianne in the Graduate Studies Program office.

Birth Announcements!

Albert Saburov, Ph.D. (Dr. Metzger’s lab) welcomed his baby girl, Adelya Saburova, into the world on March 22nd. She weighed 7 lbs, 8 oz.

On the same day, Sujata Rainald (Dr. Bennett’s lab) also delivered a baby girl. She weighed 7 lbs, 12 oz. Sujata and she and her husband will name the baby during a special ceremony.

Diana Albu gave birth to Daniel George Albu, 7 lbs., 18” on April 7, 2004.

Congratulations from everyone in CIMD!

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AMC Alumni Association Bulletin Features CIMD Biodefense Program

The Spring 2004 issue of the AMC Alumni Association, Inc. Bulletin featured our own distinguished team of scientists who were recently awarded an unprecedented $8.3 million NIH grant. The award was given to establish a biodefense research program to study the bacterial disease tularemia. In order to conduct this type of research work, the College began construction of a $971,000 Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory. Francisella tularensis is considered a Category A (the highest) bioterrorist by the NIAD because of its extreme infectivity (very little exposure is needed to cause the disease), ease of dissemination, and substantial capacity to cause illness and death.

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47 New Scotland Ave., MC-151
Albany, NY 12208-3479
Phone: 518-262-6750
Fax: 518-262-6161
Website: www.amc.edu/academic/research/imd

Dawn Bellville, Editor

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

Deadline for submission: 06/15/04
Next print date: July 2004
Dawn Bellville, Editor

CIMD Newsletter
April 2004

CIMD Graduate Students Receive Six Awards at 2004 AMC Research Awards Day

Paul Arnaboldi, a fifth year Ph.D. Graduate Student, was one of six chosen from 88 entries to present his research during Awards Day, February 24, 2004. Paul’s presentation was entitled, “Luck of IgA Decreases the Severity of Inflammation in a Murine Model of Allergic Lung Inflammation.”

Masters Degrees Awarded!

Thirty Ph.D. Graduate Students successfully presented their thesis proposals and were awarded Master Degrees.

Ling Lu (Mentor: Jiqing Ren, Zhang, Ph.D.)
Ekaterina Petrova (Mentor: Charles V. Lowry, Ph.D.)
Odeneil Sertil (Mentor: Charles V. Lowry, Ph.D.)
Keer Sun (Mentor: Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.)

Congratulations!

Ph.D. Thesis Defense A Success!

On January 19, 2004 Diana Albu, a fifth year graduate student, successfully defended her thesis entitled, “IL-12 as a Mucosal Adjuvant for Enhancement of HIV-1 and Influenza Virus Immune Responses.”

Congratulations Dr. Albu!!

BSL-3 Laboratory Completed

During the last few weeks, preparations have been finalized for completion of the BSL-3 laboratory. Equipment was moved in place, hoods were vented and access badges were being programmed for entry by authorized personnel.

AMC Receives $1.8 million from NIH to Study Lyme Disease

Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, has received a $1.8 million 5-year research grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in support of his research entitled "CD14 and the Immunopathogenesis of Chronic Lyme Disease”.

Congratulations Dr. Sellati!