

2005 CIMD, A YEAR IN REVIEW

A wonderful time was had by all who attended the CIMD's holiday dinner that was held on Thursday, December 8, 2005 at The Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia, NY. Dr. Metzger provided a summary of the many accomplishments that faculty, trainees and staff attained through continued dedication and perseverance in their research efforts. Dawn Bellville, Dr. Jim Drake and Dr. Ed Gosselin received recognition awards for their outstanding contributions to CIMD in 2005.

CIMD welcomed new faculty member **Karsten R.O. Hazlett, Ph.D.** '99, Assistant Professor (tenure track, non-tenured) from the Center for Microbial Pathogenesis, University of Connecticut Health Center.

Appointments: **Chandra Shekhar Bakshi**, Assistant Professor (non-tenured track); **Mark Preissler**, Instructor; **Michael Fasullo**, Adjunct Associate Professor

Promotions: **Timothy Sellati**, Associate Professor (tenure track, non-tenured); **Jing-Ren Zhang**, Associate Professor (tenure track, non-tenured); and **Dawn Bellville**, Administrative Coordinator

Ph.D. Degrees awarded: **Kip Connor** and **Lori DeFreest**.

M.S. Degrees awarded: **Christopher Collins**, **Jaya Dasgupta**, **Ekaterina Petrova**, **Elizabeth Ricciardi**, and **Sita Subbaram**.

CIMD had 26 articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

Faculty Funding: \$6.3 million in 2005

The new institutional rankings for NIH funding in fiscal year 2004 were published and out of all Microbiology/Immunology/Virology departments in the nation, CIMD ranked 55 out of 99. In 2004, our Center obtained **\$4.21 million in NIH funding**.

Dr. Zhang received **\$1.7M for 5 years** from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications Disorders in support of his research entitled, "Otitis Media-associated Pneumococcal Genes."

Dr. Melendez received **\$1.1M for 3 years** from Philip Morris External Research Program in support of his research entitled, "Redox Control of Bladder Cancer."

Dr. Metzger received **\$150,000 for 5 years** from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in support of CIMD's annual international Tularemia Conference.

Dr. Crawford received **\$48,000 for 2 years** from the Lejuene Foundation.

Dr. Kirimanjeswara received an \$86,000 3-year Career Development Grant from the Northeast Biodefense Center of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Region II Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Disease Research. (Mentor: Dr. Metzger)

Other funding sources included the Arthritis Foundation, American Lung Association, Concern Foundation, Komen Foundation and biotechnology industrial funding.

Study Sections and Review Panels

Dr. Melendez—Served on the Cancer Etiology Study Section Oncological Sciences Integrated Review Group on October 2-4, 2005 in Washington, DC.

Dr. Metzger—Served on the NIH/NIAID Regional Centers of Excellence in Biodefense & Emerging Disease Research Review Committee Special Emphasis Panel via telephone conference calls that took place on January 5, 19, and 25, 2005. A final review took place on February 17, 2005 in Gaithersburg, MD. ...was appointed as Chair of the External Scientific Advisory Board of NIH's Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) at Dartmouth Medical School and reviewed the school's research programs on March 6-9, 2005.

Dr. Metzger...served on the NIH/CSR Musculoskeletal Tissue Engineering Study Section March 17-18, 2005 in Bethesda, MD. ...served as a member of the American Heart Association 2005 Peer Review Committee 4B, April 19-20, 2005 in Orlando, FL. ...chaired the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Special Emphasis Panel on "Innate and Acquired Immunity to *Francisella tularensis*" on June 23, 2005.

Dr. Sellati—Served on the National Institutes of Health "NIH IDM-A (Bacterial Pathogenesis) Study Section on October 20-21, 2005 in Washington, DC.

...served on the National Institutes of Health "Innate Immunity and Inflammation (III) Study Section" on November 9-10, 2005 in Washington, DC.

Dr. Zhang—Served on the National Institutes of Health Host Interactions with Bacterial Pathogens Study Section on October 24-25, 2005 in Washington, DC.

2005 Graduate Student Poster and Research Day Award

Kip Connor—Dean's Certificate and Prize for Excellence in Research and First Place for his oral presentation, "Mitochondrial H₂O₂ Regulates the Angiogenic Phenotype via PTEN Oxidation." (Mentor: Dr. Melendez)

Postdoctoral Trainee Travel Awards

Postdoctoral trainees **Dr. Diana Albu**, **Dr. Sofia Olmos**, and **Dr. Albert Sabirov** and graduate student **Keer Sun** each received a "Young Investigator Award" award in the amount of \$750 to attend the 12th International Congress of Mucosal Immunology, held in Boston, MA on June 25-30, 2005.

CIMD Annual Research Retreat at Fort William Henry

Oral presentations were given by: **David Lynch**, **Christopher Collins**, **Ling Lu**, **Dr. Melendez**, **Dr. Friedrich** and **Dr. Metzger**. Prizes were awarded for outstanding posters in the following categories:

1st and 2nd Year Graduate Students

Douglas Durrant: 1st Place

Xiaoyun Wen: 2nd Place

Senior Graduate Students

Ling Lu: 1st Place

Justin Wilson: 2nd Place

Adriana Caballero Muniz: 3rd Place

2005 Theobald Smith Annual Lecture

Peter Palese, Ph.D., Member, National Academy of Sciences; Professor and Chairman, Dept of Microbiology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine presented his lecture entitled, "Lessons Learned from the 1918 Influenza Pandemic" on April 28, 2005.

8th Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference

Was held on October 9-12, 2005 at the Sagamore, Bolton Landing, NY. The Conference hosted 125 attendees, including representatives from Pennsylvania, Dartmouth, UConn and UMass.

Tularemia Workshop 2005

26 faculty, postdocs, graduate students and technicians from CIMD attended the international Tularemia Workshop 2005 held at Jiminy Peak Resort in Hancock, MA on November 6-8, 2005. There were over 180 attendees including representatives from NIH, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Kazakhstan and Canada.

Births

Daughters: **Steve Lotz**, **Ling Lu**

Sons: **Jaya Dasgupta**, **Xudong Lin**, **Sita Subbaram**

Graduate Student News

Two third year Ph.D. graduate students, **Cherie Fontaine** (Mentor: **Dr. Karen Duus**) and **Justin Wilson** (Mentor: **Dr. James Drake**) successfully presented their Ph.D. Thesis Proposals before their Committee members. **Cherie's** research project is entitled, "The role of virion-associated HLA-DR in HIV-1 Pathogenesis in the Human Thymus." **Justin's** research project is entitled, "Effects of *F. tularensis* infection on the cell biology of processing and presentation in macrophages."

Conferences and Presentations

The following individuals gave presentations at the 9th Annual Upstate NYC on October 9-12, 2005:

Adriana Caballero Muniz - entitled, "Functional requirements for BCR-mediated Ligand Internalization and Signaling."

Dr. Fernandez - entitled, "Effect of azithromycin on a murine model of allergic lung inflammation."

Dr. Sellati entitled, "Pattern recognition and the fate of *Francisella tularensis* in a mouse model of tularemia."

Justin Wilson - gave an oral poster presentation entitled, "Effect of *F. tularensis* invasion on the cell biology of antigen processing and presentation by macrophages."

Dr. Metzger was invited to give a seminar at SUNY Stony Brook on October 17, 2005. Dr. Metzger's presentation entitled, "Mucosal Immunopathogenesis of *Francisella tularensis*" was co-sponsored by the Center for Infectious Diseases and the Molecular & Cell Biology of Infectious Disease Training Program.

Dr. Metzger was invited to give a presentation during a public seminar on November 9, 2005 in the Huyck Auditorium at Albany Medical Center. The seminar focus was on flu facts and flu vaccine research. The possibility of a flu epidemic and pandemic was discussed.

Dr. Metzger and **Dr. Sellati** were invited to give presentations to the Eastern Section of the Science Teachers Association of New York State at Siena College on October 14, 2005. Dr. Metzger discussed "Defending Against Bioterror" and Dr. Sellati discussed "Honing in on Stealth Bacteria (Lyme Disease)."

Dr. Zhang was an invited speaker for the 40th Annual Regional 1 Meeting held November 1-2, 2005 in Cromwell, Connecticut. The talk was entitled, "Genetic determinants of *Francisella* virulence."

Publications

Kirimanjeswara GS, Mann PB, Piliore M, Kennett MJ, Harvill ET. The Complex Mechanism of Antibody-Mediated Clearance of *Bordetella* from the Lungs Requires TLR4. *J Immunol.* 2005 Dec 1;175(11):7504-11.

Kirimanjeswara GS, Agosto LM, Kennett MJ, Bjornstad ON, Harvill ET. Pertussis toxin inhibits neutrophil recruitment to delay antibody-mediated clearance of *Bordetella pertussis*. *J Clin Invest.* 2005 Nov 17

Wolfe DN, **Kirimanjeswara GS**, Harvill ET. Clearance of *Bordetella parapertussis* from the lower respiratory tract requires humoral and cellular immunity. *Infect Immun.* 73(10):6508-13, 2005.

Klutzman KS, Perez AV and **Crawford DR**. DSCR1 (ADAPT78) lethality: Evidence for a protective effect of trisomy 21 genes? *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm.* 337: 595-601.

Friedrich TD, Bedner E, Darzynkiewicz Z and Lehman JM. Distinct patterns of MCM protein binding in the nuclei of S phase and rereplicating SV40-infected monkey kidney cells. *Cytometry A.* 2005 Nov;68(1):10-8.

Adamova E, Walsh MC, **Gosselin DR**, Hale K, **Preissler MT**, Graziano RF and **Gosselin EJ**. Enhanced antigen-specific antibody and cytokine responses when targeting antigen to human FcGAMMA receptor type I using an anti-human FcGAMMA receptor type I-streptavidin fusion protein in an adjuvant-free system. *Immunol Invest.* 2005;34(4):417-29.



Winter Events

Winter Fun at Glimmerglass Lake

12/15/05-4/15/06 Cooperstown, NY

Winter visitors can go tubing (we supply the tubes!), cross-country skiing, ice skating, snowshoeing, snow-mobiling, ice fishing and winter hiking! A warming shed is on premises with hot chocolate served!

109th Annual Saranac Lake Winter Carnival

2/3/06-2/12/06 Saranac Lake, NY

Winter Carnival complete with an Ice Palace

Dance Flurry

2/17/06-2/19/06 Saratoga Springs, NY

Dancing, performances, workshops, crafts and more for adults, teens and families

Bands-N-Beans

3/5/06 Lake George, NY

Chili contest and music festival

For more information, visit www.iloveny.com

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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](mailto:bellvid@mail.amc.edu) Thank you.

Deadline for submission: 3/15/06

Next print date: April 2006

Dawn Bellville, Editor

Researchers Receive National Attention

Dr. James Bennett, Dr. Herbert Jacobson and Dr. Thomas Anderson received local and national media attention for their discovery of a synthetic peptide called AFPep, which decreases the growth of human breast cancer cells in mice.

Upcoming CIMD Seminars

January 13, 2006

(9:00 a.m. in ME-100)

Faculty Candidate

Jonathan A. Harton, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Medical Microbiology and Immunology

University of Southern Florida

"The Caterpillar (CLR) Family: Nuggets of Immunity from the Genomic Mine"

January 20, 2006

(9:00 a.m. in MS-169)

Faculty Candidate

Robert K. Ernst, Ph.D.

Research Assistant Professor

Division of Allergy & Infectious Diseases

University of Washington School of Medicine

"Differential Recognition of Bacterial Lipopolysaccharide by the Host Innate Immune System"

February 6, 2006

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

Faculty Candidate

Stefan U. Pukatzki, Ph.D.

Research Fellow

Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics

Harvard Medical School

"TBA"

For more information, please check our website.

Dr. Metzger Interviewed

Dr. Dennis Metzger was interviewed by the Times Union and WGY about the bird flu and whether it could possibly rival the 1918 pandemic that killed up to 50 million people.

Dr. Metzger was also interviewed by WGY regarding the international Tularemia Workshop CIMD organized which was held on November 6-8, 2005 at the Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort.

Postdoc News

The 1st Annual AMC Postdoctoral Research Poster Session was held on Tuesday, December 6, 2005. Post-docs from the four Interdisciplinary Research Centers joined together and presented 21 posters that were judged by AMC Faculty. Lunch was provided by *VWR International*.

Tamara McNealy, Ph.D., attended the AAMC GREAT (Graduate Research Education and Training) Conference held October 14-16, 2005 in Fort Myers, FL.

Dr. McNealy also attended the 6th International Legionella Conference on October 16-20, 2005 in Chicago, IL. Dr. McNealy presented a poster titled, "LetA regulation of DotA and Mip in Legionella pneumophila."