Upcoming Events in CIMD...

Monday, August 30, 2004
CIMD Annual Retreat and Picnic
Herbert’s at Birch Hill
Schodack, NY

Continental Breakfast and Presentations
8 AM - 12 PM
POSTER SET-UP
12 PM
Lunch and Activities
“Superior Barbecue”
12 PM - 3 PM
Poster Presentations
3 PM - 5 PM
Awards to follow

Please submit your poster abstracts to Wendy by Friday, August 13, 2004.

REMEmBER TO SCHEDULE YOUR POSTER PRINTING TIME WITH DAWN.

Seminar Speakers
There are no seminars scheduled
For July and August 2004.

For more information, please check our website.

Editorial

As a “roving reporter” is expected to do, I recently came across an issue of the Student Perspectives publication. Always looking for sources of information to include in our CIMD Newsletter, I took a copy and lucked it away for review at a later time.

To my pleasant surprise, I found the articles well-constructed, thought-provoking and thoroughly worthwhile. While all the writers were upfront in their views and opinions, they were also unbiased and open. This is one publication all students and others would benefit from reading. Copies can be found in the Office of Student Affairs.

CIMD Welcomes Two Faculty Members

Carlos de Noronha, Sc.D., Assistant Professor comes to AMC from the Gladstone Institute of Microbiology and Immunology and the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of California, San Francisco. While at Gladstone, Dr. de Noronha was able to demonstrate the role of the HIV-1 Vpr protein in causing nuclear instability and cell cycle arrest, as well as in nuclear import and sub-nuclear targeting of the viral preintegration complex; and he is co-inventor on two patents related to his virus disease studies. Dr. de Noronha’s office and laboratory will be located in MS-212.

Karen M. Duus, Ph.D., Assistant Professor comes to AMC from the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the School of Dentistry, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. While at UNC, Dr. Duus was able to demonstrate the genomic determinants and mechanisms of HIV-1 pathogenesis in the human thymus and has made several seminal observations regarding herpes virus replication and pathogenesis in the oral cavity. Dr. Duus’ office and laboratory will be located in MS-216.

Dr. Zhang Awarded $1.7M Grant

Jing-Ren Zhang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, has received a $1.7 million, 5-year research grant (started July 1, 2004) from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders in support of his research entitled, “Otitis media-associated Pneumococcal Genes.”

Ph.D. Recipients

Diana Albu
Mentor: Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D
Thesis Title: “IL-12 as a Mucosal Adjuvant for Enhancement of HIV-1 and Influenza Virus Immune Responses”

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Adriana Caballero
Mentor: James P. Drake, Ph.D
Thesis Title: “Dynamics of BCR Signaling and Internalization and its Relationship to Antigen Cross Linking Level”

CIMD Student Perspectives

We’re on the web!

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

Deadline for submission: 09/15/04
Next print date: October 2004
Dawn Bellville, Editor

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Website: www.amc.edu/academic/research/imd
Dr. Sellati’s Lyme Disease Research Featured on Front Page of Albany Times Union

Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D. was featured on the front page of the Albany Times Union newspaper on May 27, 2004. The focus of the interview was the need to address the question of why individuals experience Lyme Disease so differently. It has generated tremendous controversy, often pitting patients against researchers. It has identified these proteins in mice. The ultimate goal is to figure out how to manipulate those proteins, thereby quieting the immune system and alleviating the chronic symptoms associated with Borrelia.

Dr. Fernandez Receives Wiggers Fellowship

Aracelis D. Fernandez, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Assistant Professor in CMD was awarded the Wiggers Fellowship for 2004 in the amount of $1,000 to support travel to the XV International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand to present her research entitled, “A Study to Estimate the Prevalence of HIV-1 Infection in Women of Childbearing Age in Latin America.” Dr. Fernandez is doing her research in Dr. Metzger’s lab.

Research Award Recipient

Emily Roberge, a junior at SUNY Albany, received the Department of Biological Sciences Excellence in Research Award at SUNYA’s Undergraduate Research Symposium for her poster entitled, “Inhibition of HIV-1 Replication In T cells by Aqueous Extracts from Prunella vulgaris and Sargassum fusiforme.” (Mentor: Dr. Mario Canki)

Dr. Petti Awarded Grant

Dr. Lisa Petti received a research grant entitled, “Identification of a Potent Apoptotic Peptide Produced by Fibroblasts: Studies Towards the Design of a Novel Agent for Breast Cancer Therapy.”

The award, given by the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program, begins September 30, 2004 and totals $75,000.

CIMD Welcomes New Ph.D. Graduate Students

Shawn Baron—has been doing undergraduate work in Dr. Metzger’s lab and received his B.S. from the University at Albany. Shawn will start July 1st.

Peter Ting—came to visit the Center in April and was impressed by everyone’s friendliness. He recently received his B.S. from Cornell University and is looking forward to joining our team on July 1st.

Douglas Durrant—has attended Utah State University where he earned his Bachelor’s Degree. Doug will be arriving with his wife in August.

Xiaoyun Wen— is moving here from China to join CIMD. She earned her M.S. at IaNan University.

CIMD Improves NIH Funding Rank in 2003

The new institutional rankings for NIH funding in fiscal year 2003 have now been published and out of all Microbiology/Immunology/Virology departments in the nation, CIMD ranked 56th out of 99. That is up from #70 in 2002. In 2003, our Center obtained $3.44M in NIH funding. CIMD is clearly on the right track because of everyone’s hard work.

See the 2003 rankings at http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/award/rank/microbiology03.htm

Dr. Sellati Serves on Panel

Timothy Sellati, Ph.D. served on the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Special Emphasis Panel, Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research Opportunities on April 23, 2004.

Dr. Metzger Gives Presentation

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Dr. Metzger chaired the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Advisory Panel titled, “Biodefense and SARS Product Development” in Gaithersburg, MD on May 24 and 25, 2004.

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All CIMD faculty, students and staff are invited to attend the monthly celebration that recognizes years of service and birthdays. These celebrations will be include awards and a luncheon. Please read the announcement emails that include the date, time and location of the celebration!
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Dr. Sellati is looking into solving the Lyme puzzle. He is newly armed in this research by a $1.8 million federal grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Interestingly, it is not the bacteria that damages the body. “It’s our inflammatory response to the bacteria that causes the symptoms,” states Dr. Sellati. His summation that people with prolonged symptoms and complications lack certain proteins on their white blood cells. His lab has identified these proteins in mice. The ultimate goal is to figure out how to manipulate those proteins, thereby quieting the immune system and alleviating the chronic symptoms associated with *Borrelia*.

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Adriana Caballero
Mentor: James R. Drake, PhD
Thesis Title: “Mechanisms of Regulation of Anaerobic Colonization”

Ling Lu
Mentor: Jing-Ren Zhang, PhD
Thesis Title: “Identifying the Mechanisms of CbpA-mediated Streptococcus pneumoniae Colonization”

David Lynch
Mentor: Jeffrey A. Banas, PhD
Thesis Title: “GbpA and Glucan Ratios Affect S. mutans Biofilm Architecture”

Odeneil Sertil
Mentor: Charles V. Lowry, Ph.D.
Thesis Title: “Mechanism of Regulation of Anaerobic Genes in Saccharomyces Cerevisiae”

Keer Sun
Mentor: Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.
Thesis Title: “Exogenous IL-12 Improves Innate Defense in a Murine Model of Pneumococcus Pneumonia”

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**Summer Events in the Capital Region**

**Alive at 5 Concerts**
Free - music, food and beverages available.
Coming Preserve
Albany - 6/2/04
Empire State Plaza (outdoors)
Albany - 6/21/04
Capital District Scottish Games
Family entertainment, music, food, etc.
Almont Fairgrounds
Almont - 8/4-5/04
Albany Jazz Festival
Riverfront Amphitheatre-Coming Preserve
Albany - 6/12/04
For more information visit: www.iloveny.state.ny.us

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

Dawn Bellville, Editor

Next print date: October 2004
Deadline for submission: 09/15/04
Thank you.