

CIMD Continues Funding Record in 2004

The new NIH funding rankings have now been published and CIMD continues its exceptional performance. For 2004, CIMD ranked 55th out of a total of 99 Microbiology Departments nationwide. We received a total of \$4,212,984 in direct NIH dollars (plus 58% in indirect costs), which was an increase of \$769,000 in direct costs over 2003. Importantly, CIMD's additional NIH funding represented 46% of the total increase received in 2004 by the entire Albany Medical College! Congratulations to everyone in CIMD who were a part of this stellar accomplishment. We can look forward to 2005 being an even stronger year.

Dr. Melendez Receives \$1.1M Grant

J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, was recently awarded a three-year, \$1.1 million grant from the Philip Morris External Research Program for his research entitled, "Redox Control of Bladder Cancer." The grant will begin in August 2005.

Graduate Students Receive Degrees

Ph.D. Recipients

Kip Connor

Title: "Manganese Superoxide Dismutase Regulates the Malignant Phenotype Through the Production of Mitochondrial Derived Hydrogen Peroxide"
Mentor: J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D.

Lori DeFreest

Title: "Binding Sites and Mechanistic Pathways for a Novel Human Anti-breast Cancer Peptide"
Mentor: James A. Bennett, Ph.D.

MS Recipients

Christopher Collins

Title: "Mechanisms of Phagocytosis of *F. tularensis* LVS in Macrophages"
Mentor: James R. Drake, Ph.D.

Elizabeth Ricciardi

Title: "Determining the PDGF- β Receptor Substrates Required for Transformation Induced by the Bovine Papillomavirus (BPV) E5 Oncoprotein in Human Diploid Fibroblasts"
Mentor: Lisa M. Petti, Ph.D.

Jaya Dasgupta

Title: "Defining Signaling Pathways that Regulate Age-dependent Increases in MMP-13 Production"
Mentor: J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D.

Sita Subbaram

Title: "Redox Regulation of Pre-initiation Complex Formation During MMP-1 Transcription"
Mentor: J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D.

Ekaterina Petrova

Title: "Structure and Function of Mox4 in Anaerobic Gene Regulation in Yeast"
Mentor: Charles V. Lowry, Ph.D.

Congratulations to All!

Dr. Friedrich, CIMD Graduate Studies Director

Dr. Tom Friedrich was appointed the CIMD Graduate Studies Program Director, effective July 1, 2005. If you have any questions about the Program, courses, deadlines, etc., please see Dr. Friedrich in MS-226A or call x25847.

Dr. Sellati Presents Lyme Disease Seminar at AMC

A “standing room only” free seminar on Lyme Disease was held on May 25, 2005 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Huyck Auditorium. [Dr. Timothy J. Sellati](#) discussed the latest research on the disease and Dr. Elizabeth Higgins discussed advances in treatment and patient care.

CIMD Faculty Promotions

The following promotions were approved by the AMC Board of Trustees on July 6, 2005:

[Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D.](#), Associate Professor (tenure track, non-tenured)
[Jing-Ren Zhang, Ph.D.](#), Associate Professor (tenure track, non-tenured)
[Chandra Shekhar Bakshi, D.V.M., Ph.D.](#), Assistant Professor (non-tenured track)
[Michael Fasullo, Ph.D.](#), Adjunct Associate Professor
[Mark Preissler, Ph.D.](#), Instructor

ASM Meeting in Atlanta

[Dr. Jing-Ren Zhang](#) and [Dr. Zhuo Ma](#), Postdoctoral Fellow, attended the General Meeting of the American Society of Microbiologists (ASM) held in Atlanta, GA on June 5-9, 2005. They also presented a poster entitled, “Impact of Human pIgR on the Pathogenesis of *Streptococcus Pneumoniae*.”

[Dr. Zhang](#) was also elected as an Alternate Councilor for the Eastern New York Branch of ASM.

Dr. Metzger Chairs Panel

[Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.](#) Chaired the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Special Emphasis Panel ZAI1 HSD-M on “Innate and Acquired Immunity to *Francisella tularensis* on June 23, 2005.

[Dr. Metzger](#) served as a Member of the National Institutes of Health Special Emphasis Review Panel ZAI1 KLW-M on Regional Centers of Excellence in Biodefense and Emerging Diseases on February 17-18, 2005.

[Dr. Metzger](#) was a Member of the American Heart Association 2005 Peer Review Committee 4B, held April 19-20, 2005 in Orlando, FL.



CIMD Welcomes Dr. Su

[Jingliang Su, Ph.D.](#) Postdoctoral Fellow, recently joined [Dr. Zhang](#)'s lab. [Dr. Su](#) received his degree from Beijing Agricultural University and his thesis was entitled, “The Study on the Pathogenicity and Immunogenicity of *Pasteurella anatispestifer*.”

[Dr. Su](#) will be working on the genetic aspects of bacterial pathogenesis.

Postdoc Representative Named

[Toufic Nashar, Ph.D.](#), Postdoctoral Fellow, began with the simple idea of developing a support system for CIMD postdocs. [Dr. Nashar](#) has organized meetings with postdocs from the other three IRCs. The group's goal is to foster a better understanding of the needs and concerns of the postdocs. They meet once a month for discussion, planning of and participation in colloquium and social events. The CIMD representative will rotate every three months. [Tamara McNealy, Ph.D.](#) is the Aug.-Oct. representative.

There will be a “meet and greet” picnic for AMC postdocs on August 6 at Riverside Park. Contact [Meenakshi Malik, Ph.D.](#) for more information.

CIMD Tularemia Research Updates

CIMD scientists' research was published in the April 2005 issue of *Infection and Immunity*. Researchers discovered that treatment with interleukin-12 (IL-12) may protect against the respiratory form of tularemia (*Francisella tularensis*). The disease has also raised concerns as a potential biological weapon.

Young Investigators Awards

Four trainees from [Dr. Dennis Metzger's](#) laboratory each received a "Young Investigator Award" in the amount of \$750 to attend the 12th International Congress of Mucosal Immunology, held in Boston, MA on June 25-30, 2005. The awards were given to:

[Diana Albu, PhD.](#), Postdoctoral Fellow, gave a poster presentation entitled, "Intranasal IL-12 Enhances Local Humoral Immunity in the Lung to Influenza Virus." [Sofia Olmos, Ph.D.](#), Postdoctoral Fellow, gave an oral presentation entitled, "Role of T cells in Respiratory tularemia." [Albert Sabirov, Ph.D.](#), Postdoctoral Fellow, presented his poster entitled, "Intranasal Vaccination with Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and Interleukin 12 Induces Protective Immunity Against Pneumococcal Otitis Media in Neonatal Mice." [Keer Sun](#), Graduate Student, gave an oral presentation of her research entitled, "The Protective Role of IL-12 in Innate Immunity Against Pneumococcal Pneumonia."

New Feature in CIMD Newsletter

This issue introduces a new feature to the CIMD Newsletter. Every issue will have either a jumble, word search, or word puzzle. Everyone is invited to submit scientific/research words for use in future puzzles. Please submit words with less than 18 letters.



Jumble

Rearrange the letters to make familiar words. Place one letter in each box or circle. Use the letters in the circles to make words that answer the question below.

NUMEMI	□ □ □ ○ ○ □
SEFDEBNIOE	□ □ ○ □ ○ □ □ □ ○ □
BECRMISO	□ ○ □ □ □ ○ □ □
TONGHAESP	○ □ □ □ □ ○ □ □ □
TEADUAGR	○ □ □ □ □ □ ○ □
MERG	○ □ □ ○

What did the scientist say to the germ?

“ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ !”

Answers on page 4.

Publications

Narayan AV, Stadel R, Hahn AB, [Bhoiwala D](#), Cornielle G, Sarazin E, Koleilat I and [Crawford DR](#). Redox response of the endogenous calcineurin inhibitor Adapt78. *Free Rad Biol Med* 2005, in press.

[López MC](#), Duckett NS, [Baron SD](#) and [Metzger DW](#). Early activation of NK cells after lung infection with the intracellular bacterium, *Francisella tularensis* LVS. *Cell Immunol* 232:75-85, 2004.

[Arnaboldi PM](#), Behr MJ and [Metzger DM](#). Mucosal B cell deficiency in IgA^{-/-} mice abrogates the development of allergic lung inflammation. *J Immunol* 175:1276-1285, 2005.

[Duckett N](#), [Olmos S](#), [Durrant DM](#) and [Metzger DW](#). Intranasal Interleukin-12 treatment for protection against respiratory infection with *Francisella tularensis* live vaccine strain. *Infection and Immunity* 73:2306-2311, 2005.



2004 CIMD Research Retreat and Picnic

Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease
Albany Medical College
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

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: 9/15/05
Next print date: October 2005
Dawn Bellville, Editor

Summer Events

Alive at Five

Thursdays thru August 10th, 5-8 pm
Corning Preserve, Albany
Music, food and beverages. FREE

Food Festival

Thursday, August 10th, 11 am-10pm
Empire State Plaza
70 vendors, microbrews, NY wineries.

Scottish Games

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 3-4th, 9-6pm & 11-7pm
Altamont Fairgrounds
Celtic games, food, music, crafts, etc.

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

Upcoming CIMD Seminars

August 15, 2005
(12:00 p.m. in MS-316)

Holly Van Remmen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Research Health Scientist
Department of Cellular and Structural Biology
The University of TX Health Science Center at San Antonio
"TBA"

September 26, 2005
(12:00 p.m. in MS-316)

James A. Imlay, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Department of Microbiology
School of Life Sciences, University of Illinois
"TBA"

October 3, 2005
(4:00 p.m. in ME-700)

Yousef Abu-Kwaik, Ph.D.

Professor
Department of Microbiology and Immunology
University of Louisville
"TBA"

For more information, please check our website.

Birth Announcement

Graduate Student, [Ling Lu](#), delivered her baby on April 24, 2005. The baby weighed 7 lbs., 13 oz. and her name is Julia Ling Johnson.

Did you know....

This year's incoming graduate students will have a senior student "buddy" to assist them in finding where to go in the Albany area for things such as groceries, shopping, restaurants, etc. as well as being a resource for questions about studies, course work, research and academic affairs.

Thanks to this year's student assistant volunteers!

Jumble Answers: Immune, Biodefense, Microbes, Pathogens, Graduate, Germ
STOP BUGGING ME!