Dr. Jonathan Harton Joins CIMD Faculty

Jonathan A. Harton, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, joined CIMD in August 2006. Dr. Harton earned his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa (1995). Most recently he was a faculty member at the University of Southern Florida in Tampa. The Harton laboratory’s research focuses on molecular regulation of immune responses relevant to innate immunity, inflammation, and cancer. Dr. Harton’s office and lab are located in MS-250 and he can be reached at extension 24445.

Welcome Dr. Harton!

CIMD Annual Research Retreat and Picnic

This year’s CIMD Annual Research Retreat and Picnic was held on August 29, 2006 at the beautiful River Stone Manor in Scotia, NY. Presentations included:

Carlos de Noronha, Sc.D., Assistant Professor
“HIV1 Accessory Protein Vpr as a Mediator of Proteasomal Degradation”

Zhuo Ma, Ph.D., Research Associate (Mentor: Dr. Jing-Ren Zhang)
“RR06 Regulates cbpA Expression in Streptococcus pneumoniae”

Jaya Dasgupta, Graduate Student (Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez)
“Redox Regulation of Matrix Metalloproteinase-1: “O” the pain of aging!”

Following the presentations, student posters were viewed and judging was tallied. And although the weather was less than cooperative, the Retreat Organizing Committee (Justin Wilson, Amanda Melillo, and Douglas Durrant) planned well for indoor activities including board games, cards and karaoke sing-alongs.

Awards were given for the following poster presentations:

First and Second Year Students

First Place—Kathleen McCabe
Second Place—Amanda Melillo

Senior Students

First Place—Sita Subbaram
Second Place—Xiaoyun Wen
Third Place—Justin Wilson
Dr. Canki Receives Funding

Mario Canki, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, has received a two-year grant in the amount of $411,386 from the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine in support of his research entitled, “Naturally Occurring HIV-1 Inhibitors.” This project represents a collaboration between Dr. Canki and Dr. Lee Yue-Wei at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Crawford Receives Grant

Dana R. Crawford, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, has received a $10,000 grant from The Bender Scientific Fund of the Community Foundation for the Capital Region in support of his research on Adapt78 in Alzheimer’s Disease and Down Syndrome.

Medical Student Investigation Day 2006

Several medical students, who worked in CIMD labs over the past few months, presented posters and were selected for commendations during Medical Student Investigation Day 2006 on September 29.

Summer Research Fellowship Program

Jamie Busch - “The Effect of AF Pep on Uterine Leiomyomata.”
(Mentor: Dr. James A. Bennett)

Dipti Bhoiwala - “The Involvement of Adapt78 in Ca-Dependent Cell Signaling and Macrophage Function.”
(Mentor: Dr. Dana R. Crawford)

Travel Awards

Meenakshi Malik, D.V.M., Ph.D., Research Associate, received a $250 travel award, as well as registration fee waiver to attend the Joint Meeting of the Society for Leukocyte Biology and the International Endotoxin & Innate Immunity Society, November 9-11, 2006 in San Antonio, TX. Dr. Malik is one of four individuals selected to give an oral presentation of their research from a field of 50 applicants. Dr. Malik’s presentation is entitled, “Matrix Metalloproteinase 9 activity enhances susceptibility to pulmonary infection with Francisella tularensis.” Dr. Malik’s research is funded by the National Institutes of Health, Biodefense Program Project Grant.
(Mentor: Dr. Timothy J. Sellati)

Bikash Sahay, D.V.M., Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, received a $200 travel award and registration fee waiver to attend the Joint Meeting of the Society for Leukocyte Biology and the International Endotoxin & Innate Immunity Society, November 9-11, 2006 in San Antonio, TX. Dr. Sahay was also selected to give a poster presentation entitled, “CD14 Negatively Regulates Toll-like Receptor 2 Signaling Events during Infection with the Lyme Disease Agent Borrelia burgdorferi.” (Mentor: Dr. Timothy J. Sellati)

Kathleen O. McCabe, graduate student, received a $200 travel award and registration fee waiver to attend the Joint Meeting of the Society for Leukocyte Biology and the International Endotoxin & Innate Immunity Society, November 9-11, 2006 in San Antonio, TX. Kathleen was also selected to give a poster presentation entitled, “Role of Toll-like Receptor 2 in Regulation of Francisella tularensis-induced matrix Metalloproteinase 9 Activity.”
(Mentor: Dr. Timothy J. Sellati)

Sita Subbaram, graduate student, was awarded $500 to attend the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine to attend SFRB&M 2006 on November 15-19, 2006 in Denver, CO. Sita’s poster is entitled, “Redox Control of Chromatin Remodeling Events During MMP-1 Transcription.”
(Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez)
CIMD Newsletter

Dr. Jacobson Wins Award for Best Poster

Herbert Jacobson, Ph.D., Professor, recently presented his research poster at the Fifth International Conference on Hormonal Carcinogenesis, September 9-13, 2006 in Montpellier, France. His poster entitled, “Hormones of Pregnancy, AFP, and Reduction of Breast Cancer Risk” took the ‘Best in Session’ award.

Dr. Gosselin Serves on Study Section


Dr. Metzger Invited Speaker at FASEB

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., Professor, was invited to speak at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) Summer Research Conference, August 12-17, 2006 in Indian Wells, CA. Dr. Metzger’s presentation was entitled, “Antibody-mediated protection from bacterial infection.”

Dr. Sellati Collaborates With La Jolla Institute on Lyme Disease

Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D., Associate Professor, in collaboration with Dr. Mitchell Kronenberg, Adjunct Professor, La Jolla Institute, recently published a paper in Nature Immunology that describes their finding of an immune system trigger that could be important in developing new vaccines for Lyme Disease. (See Publications)

Publications


Fall Events

Autumn Leaves—Chronicle Book Fair
Sunday, 11 am-4 pm    10/22/06
Queensbury Hotel     Glens Falls, NY
Dozens of authors, book signings, readings, discussions and children’s activities.

Dinner with the Dead
Sunday, 10/29/06     $28/pp
Merrill Magee House   Warrensburgh, NY
Historical Society presents this intriguing dinner with the dead.
Reservations by October 24           518-623-2449

Adirondack Stampede Charity Rodeo
Fri-Sat    11/03-14/06
Glens Falls Civic Center
Seven event championship rodeo. Fun for all.

Adirondack Christmas on Main St.
11/24-26/06    Old Forge, NY
Village shopping, tree lighting, Santa, wagon rides, music, food & more.

Breakfast with Santa, North Country Tree Fest
Fri-Sun, 8am    11/24-26/06
Six Flags Great Escape   Queensbury, NY
Breakfast with Santa, children’s wonderland, etc.
Reservations requested ($10) 518-798-0170

Upcoming CIMD Seminars

October 30, 2006
(12:00 p.m., MS-316)
Michael Otto, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator
Rocky Mountain Laboratories
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health, Montana
"Interaction of Staphylococci with Innate Host Defense"

November 6, 2006
(12:00 p.m., MS-316)
Robert D. Perry, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Microbiology & Immunology
University of Kentucky
"Plaque Transmission—Fleas, Biofilms and Cyclic-di-GMP"

November 13, 2006
(12:00 p.m., MS-316)
João B. Xavier, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow
F.A.S. Center for Systems Biology
Harvard University
"The Structure and Activity of Microbial Biofilms"

November 16, 2006
(11:00 a.m., Huyck Auditorium)
Faculty Candidate
James Masouka, Ph.D.
Instructor of Research
Department of Pathology
University of Virginia
"Protein and Carbohydrate Composition of Candida albicans Cell Surface Glycoproteins"

November 27, 2006
(12:00 p.m., MS-316)
Blanca Barquera, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Biology & the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
"TBA"

December 4, 2006
(12:00 p.m., MS-316)
Cynthia Leifer, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Cornell University of Veterinary Medicine
"TBA"

For more information, please check our website.

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 your items to me at: Bellvid@mail.amc.edu  Thank you.

Deadline for submission: 12/15/06
Next print date: January 2007
Dawn Bellville, Editor