

**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**

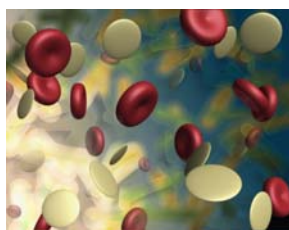


## Dr. Canki Receives Funding

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 AFPep 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 SFRBM 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)

### 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

**Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D.** served on the National Institutes of Health "Non-HIV Microbial Vaccine Development Study Section" in Washington, D.C. on July 10-11, 2006.

### 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)

---

## P ublications

Kinjo Y, Tupin E, Wu D, Fujio M, Garcia-Navarro R, **Benhnia MR**, Zajonc DM, Ben-Menachem G, Ainge GD, Painter GF, Khurana A, Hoebe K, Behar SM, Beutler B, Wilson IA, Tsuji M, **Sellati TJ**, Wong CH and Kronenberg M. Natural killer T cells recognize diacylglycerol antigens from pathogenic bacteria. *Nat Immunol.* 2006 Sep;7(9):978-86.

**Crawford DR**, Ostrowski S, Vakharia D, Ilic Z and Sell S. Separate origins of hepatitis B virus negative foci and hepatocellular carcinomas in transgenic HBsAg (alb/psx) mice. *Am. J. Path.* 2006 Jul 169:223-232.

**Dasgupta J**, **Subbaram S**, Connor KM, Rodriguez AM, Tirosh O, Beckman JS, Jourd'Heuil D and **Melendez JA**. Manganese superoxide dismutase protects from TNF-alpha-induced apoptosis by increasing the steady-state production of H2O2. *Antioxid Redox Signal.* 2006 Jul-Aug;8(7-8):1295-305.

Loegering DJ, **Drake JR**, **Banas JA**, **McNealy TL**, **McArthur DG**, Webster LM and Lennartz MR. Francisella tularensis LVS grown in macrophages has reduced ability to stimulate the secretion of inflammatory cytokines by macrophages in vitro. *Microb Pathog.* In press, 2006.

Zimmerman RS, Sherman MP, Blackett JL, Neidleman JA, Kreis C, Mundt P, Williams SA, Warmerdam M, Kahn J, Hecht FM, Grant RM, **de Noronha CMC**, Weyrich AS, Greene WC and Planelles V. HIV-1 Vpr induces DNA replication stress in vitro and in vivo. *J Virol.* In press, 2006.

**Drake L**, **McGovern-Brindisi EM** and **Drake JR**. BCR ubiquitination controls BCR-mediated antigen processing and presentation. *Blood.* In press, 2006.

---

## 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

These are just a few of the activities in New York State. Many are free!

**For more information, visit  
[www.iloveny.com](http://www.iloveny.com)**

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](http://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: 12/15/06**

Next print date: January 2007

Dawn Bellville, Editor

## 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., Huyck Auditorium)

**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.**