

CIMD Students Receive Awards at Graduate Studies Poster Day

Top Honors in the 1st-2nd Year Basic Science Category to: **Shawn Baron** - "Intranasal vaccination with inactivated *F. tularensis* LVS protects against respiratory tularemia."

Top Honors in the 1st-2nd Year Basic Science Category to: **Xiaoyun Wen** - "Determining the role of the HIV protein VPR in infection and pathogenesis through its cellular interaction partners."

2nd Place in the 3rd Year Basic Science Category to: **Justin Wilson** - "The effects of *F. tularensis* on the cell biology of antigen presentation in macrophages."

3rd Place in the 5th Year Basic Science Category to: **Keer Sun** - "A requirement for signaling by TNF- α RII in IL-12 induced IFN- γ production during innate responses to Pneumococcal infection."

Faculty Promotion

J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D. has been promoted to Associate Professor (tenure track, non-tenured) in CIMD. Dr. Melendez research focuses on antioxidant-dependent regulation of signal transduction, infectious diseases and tumor growth.

Dr. Bakshi Receives Junior Faculty Award

Chandra Shekhar Bakshi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, has received the American Association of Immunologists Junior Faculty Award in the amount of \$500. This award recognizes young investigators in the field of immunology and provides financial assistance to participate in the AAI Annual meeting IMMUNOLOGY 2006 to be held May 12-16, 2006 in Boston, MA.

Odeniel Sertil Earns Ph.D. Degree

On February 17, 2006, **Odeniel (Dan) Sertil** successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis entitled, "Regulatory Mechanisms of Anaerobic Gene Expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*: Role of Mot3 and Rpd3 in Adaptation to Anaerobic Growth." (Mentors: **Dr. Jeffrey Banas** and the late **Dr. Charles V. Lowry**) Dr. Sertil has accepted a postdoctoral fellow position with **Dr. Jing-Ren Zhang**.

Study Sections

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was asked to serve on the National Institutes of Health Study Section on "Topics in Bacterial Pathogenesis," on February 8-9 2006 in Denver, CO.

J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D. served on the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute "Cancer Etiology Study Section," February 13-15, 2006 in Washington, DC.

Jeffrey A. Banas, Ph.D. served on the National Institutes of Health, Oral, Dental and Craniofacial Sciences Study Section on February 27-March 1, 2006 in Washington, DC.

Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D. served on the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Study Section on "Topics in Bacterial Pathogenesis," in Washington, DC on March 8-9, 2006.

Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D. served on the Non-HIV Microbial Vaccines Study Section on March 13-14, 2006 in Washington, DC.



Theobald Smith Annual Lecture

Ralph M. Steinman, M.D.

Henry G. Kunkel Professor, The Rockefeller University Institute
Senior Physician, The Rockefeller University Hospital
Member, National Academy of Sciences and Institute of Medicine

"Harnessing Dendritic Cell Biology in Vaccine Design"

Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. in ME-700 (Wiggers Auditorium) at Albany Medical College

Advisory Panels

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D. was asked to present at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's 2006 Cooperative Biological Research (CBR) Program Review and Uzbekistan Country Science Plan Coordination Meeting in conjunction with the Department of Defense and U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation, January 23-26, 2006 in Crystal City, VA.

Dr. Dennis Metzger was recently re-appointed a member of the External Advisory Board of NIH's Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) at Dartmouth Medical School to review the school's research programs on March 13-15, 2006 in Lebanon, NH.

Publications

Nashar TO and **Drake JR**. Dynamics of MHC class II-activating signals in murine resting B cells. *J Immunol* 2006 Jan 15;176(2):827-38.

Parikh RR, Gildener-Leapman N, Narendran A, Lin HY, **Lemanski N**, **Bennett JA**, **Jacobson HI** and Anderson TT. Prevention of N-methyl-N-nitrosourea-induced breast cancer by alpha-fetoprotein (AFP)-derived peptide, a peptide derived from the active site of AFP. *Clin Cancer Res* 2005 Dec 1;11(23):8512-20.



Graduate Student and Postdoc Career Development Workshop

There will be a Professional Development Workshop entitled, "Scientific Methods: Survival Skills for Young Investigators in Biomedical Research," on Saturday, April 29, 2006. All AMC graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are invited and encouraged to attend. This event is sponsored by the Graduate Studies Office and the seminar will be given by Dr. Tung-Tien Sun from NYU Medical School. This program is offered every year to all graduate schools in NYC and is highly recommended. Topics covered include: Experimental Design, Literature Analysis, Scientific Writing and Oral Presentation. It will be an all-day event (9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) There is no cost for the program and those planning to attend should RSVP Jean Cornwell at x25253 or via email at graduate-studies@mail.amc.edu.

Conferences and Presentations

Karen M. Duus, Ph.D. attended the 4th Annual American Society of Microbiologists Biodefense Research Meeting held February 15-18, 2006 in Washington, DC. In collaboration with **Dr. Dennis Metzger** and Lynn Soong, M.D., Ph.D., (University of Texas Medical Branch) **Dr. Duus** is in the planning stages of a research project with the objective of developing a vaccine to protect against the cardio-pulmonary syndrome (HCPS) associated with New World Hanaviruses Sin Nombre (SNV) and Ades (ANDV). On May 22, Dr. Stephen St. Jeor will be presenting his Hantavirus pathogenesis research as part of CIMD's Seminar Series (see page 4 for details).

J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D. was asked to present a seminar at Roswell Park Cancer Institute on Monday, March 20, 2006. The talk was entitled, "Manganese superoxide dismutase and its control of the invasive phenotype: an oxidant function for an antioxidant enzyme."

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was asked to give a seminar to the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology at the University of South Florida, March 27-28, 2006 in Tampa, FL. Dr. Metzger's seminar was entitled, "Mucosal Immunopathogenesis of *Francisella tularensis*."



Graduate Students Receive Travel Awards

Amanda Melillo has been selected to receive a \$500 travel award to help defray costs to attend the American Society for Microbiology 106th General Meeting, May 21-25, 2006 in Orlando, FL. Amanda has also been selected to present her poster entitled, "*Francisella tularensis* Intracellular

Growth Locus Controls Resistance to Redox Cycling Drugs: a Biochemical Phenotype for a Virulence Factor of Unknown Function". (Mentor: J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D.)

Sita Subbaram has received a travel award in the amount of \$750 to attend the Experimental Biology Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA on April 1-5, 2006. Sita's poster presentation is entitled, "Role of Intracellular Redox Status on Chromatin Remodeling Events During Matrix Metalloproteinase-1 Gene Activation." (Mentor: J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D.)

Spring Events

Albany Tulip Festival

5/12/06-5/14/06 Washington Park, Albany

Featuring arts & crafts, food 3 stages of entertainment, children's activities and more!

Lake George Garage Sale & Craft Fair

5/20/06-5/21/06 Lake George, NY

Arts, crafts, food, music and much more!

Fireworks on the Lake

6/2/06 Shepard Park, Lake George

Fireworks galore! 10 p.m.

Adirondack Birding Festival

6/8/06-6/11/06 Lake Pleasant, NY

Hikes, canoe trips, walks, seminars, exhibits, etc.

Double M Rodeo

6/30/06-9/1/06, Fridays Ballston Spa, NY

Rodeo (bull riding, barrel racing, etc.)

and a western B-B-Q.

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: 6/15/06

Next print date: July 2006

Dawn Bellville, Editor

Upcoming CIMD Seminars

April 17, 2006

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

Qijing Zhang, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Dept. of Veterinary Microbiology & Preventative Medicine

Frank K. Ramsey Endowed Chair

Iowa State University

"Roles of Bacterial MDR Transporters in Intestinal Colonization"

May 1, 2006

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

Malcolm E. Winkler, Ph.D.

Professor of Biology; Director of Biotechnology Training Program

Department of Biology

Indiana University, Bloomington

"Regulation of Surface Protein and Virulence Factor Genes in the Respiratory Pathogen Streptococcus pneumoniae"

May 8, 2006

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

Christian Sell, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of

Pathology, Pathology Control

Drexel University College of Medicine

"Hormonal Influences on Lifespan"

May 18, 2006

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

April D. Burch, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Wadsworth Center, New York State Dept. of Health

"Studies on the Use and Modulation of Host Chaperone Systems by Herpes Simplex Virus Type 1"

May 22, 2006

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

Stephen St. Jeor, Ph.D.

Professor and Director

Department of Microbiology & Immunology

University of Nevada

"TBA"

For more information, please check our website.

Code Orange

AMC recently implemented "**CODE ORANGE.**" Code orange is a lock-down situation which will prevent people from either exiting or entering campus buildings. This alert can be used for several types of events that may be happening either inside or surrounding the AMC campus. It can include (but not be limited to) a health threat outside the facility, activation of the US Postal Service Anthrax Detection System, a security threat surrounding AMC buildings, or in situations designated by Security Services, Hospital Administration or Incident Command. When a Code Orange is announced, all employees/students should remain in their Center and await further instructions.