

**CIMD Has Major Representation at *Immunology 2006* Meeting**

The Center for Immunology & Microbial Disease had major representation at the annual American Association of Immunologist Meeting, *Immunology 2006*, which was held in Boston on May 12-16, 2006.

**Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.**, Professor, co-chaired the Vaccines and Adjuvants Block Symposium and gave a Guest Symposium lecture entitled, "Respiratory immune system for pneumococcal vaccine."

**James R. Drake, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, chaired the Antigen Processing-Intracellular Events Block Symposium.

**Chandra Shekhar Bakshi, D.V.M., Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, gave a Poster presentation entitled, "Infection with *Mycoplasma pulmonis* potentiate the T helper 2 inflammatory environment in T-bet deficient asthmatic mice."

**Girish Kirimanjeswara, D.V.M., Ph.D.**, postdoctoral fellow, gave Workshop and Poster presentations entitled, "Humoral immunity to *Francisella tularensis*." (Mentor: **Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.**)

**Sofia Olmos, Ph.D.**, postdoctoral fellow, gave Workshop and Poster presentations entitled, "Role of IL-12 in host defense against respiratory tularemia." (Mentor: **Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.**)

**Keer Sun**, graduate student, gave Workshop and Poster presentations entitled, "A requirement for signaling by TNF- $\alpha$ RII in IL-12 induced IFN- $\gamma$  production during innate immune responses to bacterial infection." (Mentor: **Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.**)

**Douglas Durrant**, graduate student, gave Workshop and Poster presentations entitled, "IL-12 treatment alleviates allergic lung inflammation in T-bet<sup>-/-</sup> mice." (Mentor: **Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.**)

**Adriana Caballero**, graduate student, gave Workshop and Poster presentations entitled, "Early kinase-mediated BCR signaling dispensable for internalization of BCR-antigen complexes but not for BCR trafficking." (Mentor: **James R. Drake, Ph.D.**)

**Justin Wilson**, graduate student, gave a Poster presentation entitled, "The effects of *F. tularensis* on the cell biology of antigen presentation in macrophages." (Mentor: **James R. Drake, Ph.D.**)

**Shawn Baron**, graduate student, gave a Poster presentation entitled, "Intranasal vaccination with inactivated *F. tularensis* LVS protects against respiratory tularemia." (Mentor: **Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.**)

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**Dr. Friedrich Receives Teaching Award**

**Thomas D. Friedrich, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, received the Second Annual "Faculty Teaching Scholar Award" from the Sosa Academy of Medical Sciences at the Albany Medical College. The award was presented at the 2006 Commencement ceremony.

**Congratulations Dr. Friedrich!**

## CIMD Graduate Students Earn Degrees

### Ph.D. Recipients

#### **Odeniel Sertil**

Thesis Title: "Regulatory Mechanisms of Anaerobic Gene Expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*: Role of Mot3 and Rpd3 in Adaptation to Anaerobic Growth"

Mentors: *Jeffrey A. Banas, Ph.D.*  
and *Charles V. Lowry, Ph.D.*

#### **Keer Sun**

Thesis Title: "IL-12 Induces Protective Innate and Adaptive Immunity Against *S. pneumoniae* Infection"

Mentor: *Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.*



### M.S. Recipients

#### **Shawn Baron**

Thesis Title: "Intranasal Vaccination with Inactivated *Francisella tularensis* LVS for Protection Against Respiratory Tularemia."

Mentor: *Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.*

#### **Justin Wilson**

Thesis Title: "Effects of *F. tularensis* Infection on the Cell Biology of Processing and Presentation in Macrophages"

Mentor: *James R. Drake, Ph.D.*

#### **Arvind Vemula**

Thesis Title: "The Role of the Histone Deacetylase RPD3 in the Regulation of Expression of the Anaerobic Gene DAN1 in *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae*"

Mentor: *Charles V. Lowry, Ph.D.*

## Study Sections

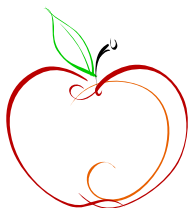
**James R. Drake, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, served on the American Heart Association "Molecular Signaling 2 Peer Review Study Group," on April 24, 2006 in Chicago, IL.

**Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, served on the National Institutes of Health "Topics in Bacterial Pathogenesis Study Section," in Washington, DC on June 15-16, 2006.

**Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, served on the National Institutes of Health "Innate Immunity and Inflammation Study Section," in Washington, DC on June 28-30, 2006.

**Jing-Ren Zhang, Ph.D.** Associate Professor, served on the National Institutes of Health "Bacterial Pathogenesis Study Section," in Washington, DC on June 28-30, 2006.

**J. Andres Melendez, Ph.D.** Associate Professor, has been invited to serve on the National Institutes of Health "Cancer Etiology Study Section." **Dr. Melendez** will serve for the next four years, attending Study Sections in February, June and October through June, 2010.



*Charles V. Lowry, Ph.D.*, Assistant Professor, was posthumously awarded the "2006 Golden Apple Teaching Award," which was voted on by all Albany Medical College graduate and medical students.

## Births

Congratulations to...

Anne & **Carlos de Noronha**, proud parents of Ava Susanne, born on June 18, 2006. Ava weighed 6 lbs., 8 ozs. And to **Daimin Zhao & Jing-Ren Zhang** proud parents of Robert Zhang, born on June 23, 2006. Robert weighed 8lbs., 9 ozs.



## Travel Awards

**Jaya Dasgupta**, graduate student, received a \$500 Travel Award from the American Aging Association to attend the 2006 Annual Meeting in Boston, MA on June 2-5, 2006. Jaya's poster presentation was entitled, "Redox-activation of Mitogen Activated Protein- and Phosphoinositol-3-Kinase Signaling Regulates Senescence-associated Increases in Matrix Metalloproteinase-1 Production." (Mentor: **J. Andres Melendez, Ph.D.**)

**Tamara McNealy, Ph.D.**, postdoctoral fellow, received a \$400 travel fellowship from the Eastern New York Branch of the American Society for Microbiology to attend its 106th General Meeting in Orlando, FL on May 21-25, 2006. Dr. McNealy's poster presentation was entitled, "Environmental Stimuli Cause Changes in *F. tularensis* LPS/OM that Affect Cytokine Expression in Mouse and Human Macrophages." **Dr. McNealy** also received a \$450 travel grant to attend the National Postdoc Association Meeting in Bethesda, MD on April 21-24, 2006. (Mentor: **Jeffrey A. Banas, Ph.D.**)



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

## CIMD Retreat News

The Annual CIMD Research Retreat and Picnic has been planned for Tuesday, August 29, 2006 at River Stone Manor in Scotia, NY. The Retreat is an all-day event including breakfast, oral presentations, a picnic luncheon, activities, poster presentations, judging and prizes. Everyone in CIMD is expected to attend. If you would like more information regarding the Retreat, please contact one of the organizing students (Douglas Durrant, Amanda Melillo and Justin Wilson) or visit the Manor website at <http://www.riverstonemanor.com/index.html>.

## Publications

**Paskaleva EE**, Lin X, Li W, Cotter R, Klein MT, Roberge E, Yu EK, Clark BW, Veille JC, Liu Y, Lee DY and **Canki M**. Inhibition of highly productive HIV-1 infection in T cells, primary human macrophages, microglia, and astrocytes by *Sargassum fusiforme*. *AIDS Res Ther*. 2006 May 25;3(1):15.

Nelson KK, **Subbaram S**, Connor KM, **Dasgupta J**, Ha XF, Meng TC, Tonks NK and **Melendez JA**. Re-dox-dependent matrix metalloproteinase-1 expression is regulated by JNK through Ets and AP-1 promoter motifs. *J Biol Chem*. 2006 May 19;281(20):14100-10.

Sabirov A and **Metzger DW**. Intranasal vaccination of neonatal mice with polysaccharide conjugate vaccine for protection against pneumococcal otitis media. *Vaccine*. In press, 2006.

**Malik M**, **Bakshi CS**, **Sahay B**, **Shah A**, **Lotz S** and **Sellati TJ**. Toll-like receptor 2 is required for control of pulmonary infection with *Francisella tularensis*. *Infect Immun*. 2006 Jun;74(6):3657-62.

**Lu L**, **Ma Y** and **Zhang JR**. Streptococcus pneumoniae recruits complement factor H through the amino terminus of CbpA. *J Biol Chem*. 2006 Jun 2;281(22):15464-74.

**Bakshi CS**, **Malik M**, **Regan K**, **Melendez JA**, **Metzger DW**, **Pavlov VM** and **Sellati TJ**. Superoxide dismutase-B (sodB) deficient mutants of *Francisella tularensis* demonstrate hypersensitivity to oxidative stress and attenuated virulence. *J. Bacteriol*. In Press. 2006.

**Bakshi CS**, **Malik M**, **Carrico PM** and **Sellati TJ**. T-bet deficiency facilitates airway colonization by *Mycoplasma pulmonis* in a murine model of asthma. *J. Immunol*. In press, 2006.

**Horacio G**, **Platz GJ**, **Forestal CA**, **Monfett M**, **Bakshi CS**, **Sellati TJ**, **Furie MB**, **Benach JL** and **Thanassi DG**. Deletion of TolC orthologs in *Francisella tularensis* identifies role in multidrug resistance and virulence. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. In press, 2006. (Collaboration with SUNY Stony Brook)

## Summer Events

### **Albany Alive at Five**

*Thursdays, 5-8 p.m.*

*6/1/06-8/10/06 Corning Preserve, Albany*

Free concerts! Food & beverages available.

### **Sterling Renaissance Festival**

*Sat/Sun, 10 a.m.—7 p.m.*

*7/1/06-8/13/06 Sterling, NY*

Reenactments, food, music and much more!

Admission: \$10-19

### **Boonville-Oneida County Fair**

*7/24/06-7/30/06 Boonville Oneida County Fairgrounds*

Old-fashioned county fair rides, games, petting zoo, truck pull, demolition derbies, and more!

### **18th Century Day**

*8/13/06, noon-5 p.m. Schuylerville, NY*

Family fun! Oxen cart rides, barn raising, quilting, tin-smithing, blacksmithing, live music and puppet shows.

### **Adirondack Wildlife Festival**

*8/13/06, 10-3 p.m. Paul Smiths, NY*

Children's activities, food, wildlife presentations, music, vendors, bird sculpture demonstrations and more!

FREE

### **Jazz Festival**

*9/9/06, noon-7 p.m. Albany River Front Park*

Hot Jazz performances!

*Empire State Plaza Events* can be found at:

<http://www.albanyevents.org/>

For more information, visit [www.iloveny.com](http://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: 9/15/06**

Next print date: October 2006

Dawn Bellville, Editor

## Upcoming CIMD Seminars

July 10, 2006

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

*Faculty Candidate*

### **Samithamby Jeyaseelan, D.V.M., Ph.D.**

Instructor, Department of Medicine

Division of Respiratory Infections

National Jewish Medical and Research Center

University of Colorado Health Sciences

***"The Lung: An Organ of Defense Against Invading Bacterial Pathogens"***

July 24, 2006

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

*Faculty Candidate*

### **Paul Christopher Roberts, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor

Department of Immunology/Microbiology

Wayne State University School of Medicine

***"TBA"***

July 31, 2006

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

*Faculty Candidate*

### **Michelle Wright Valderas, Ph.D.**

Assistant Research Scientist

Department of Veterinary Pathobiology

Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, Oklahoma State University

***"Global Stress Resistance and the Intracellular Life of Brucella"***

August 7, 2006

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

*Faculty Candidate*

### **Jason R. E. Shepard, Ph.D.**

Research Scientist

Division of Infectious Disease, Biodefense Laboratory

Wadsworth Center, NYS Department of Health

***"Quantum Dot-based Multiplexed Detection of Bio-agents"***

**For more information, please check our website.**

## Colloquium and Journal Clubs

New schedules for the next six months for the CIMD Colloquium and Journal Clubs have been sent out and posted. Please take time to review them. Every student is required to join a CIMD Journal Club and every second year graduate student, postdoctoral fellow and faculty member present at Colloquium and Journal Clubs. If you are unable to present on the date scheduled, please find a replacement by switching dates with that individual.