

CIMD, A Year in Review

Faculty Recruitment: Jonathan A. Harton, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, joined CIMD from the University of South Florida, Tampa. Jon and his wife, Janna, have two sons and live in Slingerlands.

New Appointments/Promotions:

- Dr. J. Andrés Melendez was promoted to Associate Professor (tenure track, non-tenured)
- Dr. Michelle Lennartz (CCBCR) secondary appointment as Professor in CIMD
- Dr. Daniel Loegering (CCS) secondary appointment as Professor in CIMD.

Degrees Awarded:

Ph.D.	M.S.
Odeniel Sertil (Mentor: Dr. Charles V. Lowry)	Shawn Baron (Mentor: Dr. Dennis W. Metzger)
Keer Sun (Mentor: Dr. Dennis W. Metzger)	Arvind Vemula (Dr. Charles V. Lowry)
Ling Lu (Mentor: Dr. Jing-Ren Zhang)	Justin Wilson (Dr. James R. Drake)

Peer-reviewed Publications: 15 faculty articles and three first-author papers for Ph.D. graduate students Adriana Caballero, Jaya Dasgupta, and Ling Lu.

Faculty Funding of **\$5.7 million** in 2006 including new awards to:

- Dr. James A. Bennett (\$113,545 for five years)
- Dr. Mario Canki (\$111,386 for two years)
- Dr. Thomas Friedrich (\$188,600 for one year)
- Dr. Dana Crawford (\$10,000 for one year)

Institutional Rankings for NIH funding in fiscal year 2005 were published and out of all the Microbiology/Immunology/Virology departments in the nation, CIMD ranked **58 out of 99**, having obtained **\$6.3 million**.

Faculty served on a total of 11 **NIH Study Sections and Review Panels**.

2006 Graduate Student Poster and Research Day Awards:

- Top Honors, 1st and 2nd Year Basic Science Category: Shawn Baron (Mentor: Dr. Dennis W. Metzger) and Xiaoyun Wen (Mentor: Dr. Carlos de Noronha)
- 3rd Year Basic Science Category: Justin Wilson (Mentor: Dr. James R. Drake) and Keer Sun (Mentor: Dr. Dennis W. Metzger) took 2nd and 3rd place, respectively.

Graduate Student Travel Awards:

- Jaya Dasgupta (Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez) \$500 from the American Aging Association to attend its 2006 Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.
- Kathleen McCabe (Mentor: Dr. Timothy J. Sellati) \$200 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.
- Amanda Melillo (Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez) \$500 to attend the American Society for Microbiology 106th General Meeting, May 19-21, 2006 in Orlando, FL.
- Sita Subbaram (Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez) \$750 to attend the Experimental Biology Annual Meeting, April 1-5, 2006 in San Francisco, CA.
- Sita was also awarded \$500 by the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine to attend its 2006 Annual Meeting November 15-19, 2006 in Denver, CO.

Postdoctoral Trainee Travel Awards:

- **Dr. Meenakshi Malik** (Mentor: Dr. Timothy J. Sellati), Research Associate, \$250 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. Meenakshi subsequently received the “Young Investigators Award” and an additional \$500 cash prize.
- **Dr. Tamara McNealy** (Mentor: Dr. Jeffrey A. Banas), Postdoctoral Fellow, \$400 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. Tamara also received a \$450 travel grant to attend the National Postdoc Association Meeting in Bethesda, MD on April 21-24, 2006.
- **Dr. Bikash Sahay** (Mentor: Dr. Timothy J. Sellati), Postdoctoral Fellow, \$200 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. Chandra Shekhar Bakshi, Assistant Professor, received the American Association of Immunologists Junior Faculty Award in the amount of \$500. This award recognized young investigators in the field of immunology and provided financial assistance to participate in the AAI Annual Meeting **Immunology 2006** which was held May 12-16, 2006 in Boston, MA.

Teaching Awards:

- **Dr. Thomas Friedrich**, Associate Professor, received the Second Annual “Faculty Teaching Scholar Award” from the Sosa Academy of Sciences at Albany Medical College.
- **Dr. Charles V. Lowry**, Assistant Professor, posthumously received the “2006 Golden Apple Teaching Award,” which was voted on by all AMC graduate and medical students.

CIMD Annual Research Retreat: August 29, 2006 at the River Stone Manor in Scotia, NY. Oral presentations by: **Dr. Carlos de Noronha**, **Dr. Zhuo Ma**, and **Jaya Dasgupta**.

Prizes for outstanding posters were awarded to:

- 1st & 2nd Year Students: 1st Place—**Kathleen McCabe** (Mentor: Dr. Timothy J. Sellati) and 2nd Place—**Amanda Melillo** (Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez)
- Senior Students: 1st Place—**Sita Subbaram** (Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez), 2nd Place—**Xiaoyun Wen** (Mentor: Dr. Carlos de Noronha) and 3rd Place—**Justin Wilson** (Mentor: Dr. James R. Drake)

2006 Theobald Smith Annual Lecture: April 27, 2006. Ralph M. Steinman, M.D. Henry G. Kunkel Professor, The Rockefeller University, lecture entitled, “Harnessing Dendritic Cell Biology in Vaccine Design.”

9th Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference: October 15-18, 2006 at The Sagamore Resort and Conference Center in Bolton Landing, NY; 142 attendees from the Northeastern United States, India and Israel. Keynote speakers were David M. Mosser, Ph.D. and Marc K. Jenkins, Ph.D. Partial funding for this Conference includes a CIMD NIH/NIAID grant to reduce fees for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

International Tularemia Meeting: November 1-4, 2006, Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. Four faculty, two postdoctoral fellows and three graduate students were among approximately 250 attendees, including representatives from institutions across the United States, Canada, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and Kazakhstan. Partial funding for this Conference was provided by CIMD’s NIH/NIAID grant.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A VERY PRODUCTIVE YEAR!



Publications

Woolard MD and Wilson JE, Hensley LL, Jania LA, Kawula TH with Drake JR and Frelinger JA. *Francisella tularensis* infected macrophages release Prostaglandin E2 that blocks T cell proliferation and promotes a Th2-like response. *J. Immunol.* In press, 2006.

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 secretion of inflammatory cytokines by macrophages in vitro. *Microb. Pathog.* 2006;41:218-225.

Drake L, McGovern-Brindisi EM and Drake JR. BCR ubiquitination controls BCR-mediated antigen processing and presentation. *Blood* 2006 Dec;108(13):4086-93.

Caballero A, Katkere B, Wen X, Drake L, Nashar TO and Drake JR. Functional and structural requirements for the internalization of distinct BCR-ligand complexes. *Eur. J. Immunol.* 2006. 36:3131-45.

Malik M, Bakshi CS, McCabe K, Catlett SV, Shah A, Singh R, Jackson PL, Gaggar A, Metzger DW, Melendez JA, Blalock JE and Sellati TJ. Matrix Metalloproteinase 9 Activity Enhances Host Susceptibility to Pulmonary Infection with Type A and B Strains of *Francisella tularensis*. *J. Immunol.* 2007, 178:1013-1020.

Conferences

Girish Kirimanjeswara, D.V.M., Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, was invited to give a presentation at the New England Regional Symposium on Frontiers in Mucosal Immunology on September 25, 2006 in Boston, MA. Girish's talk was entitled, "B cells: Friend or Foe to the intracellular bacterium *Francisella tularensis*?" Girish also presented at the Third Annual North East Biodefense Center meeting in conjunction with the New England RCE on October 30, 2006 at The Sagamore in Bolton Landing, NY. His presentation was entitled, "Humoral Immunity to *Francisella tularensis*."



Vishnu Kannabiran, first year MDDR student, was invited to give an oral presentation of his research at the 5th Annual Joint Research Poster Symposium sponsored by the American Medical Association-Medical Student Section, November 10, 2006 in Las Vegas, NV. Vishnu's research presentation was entitled, "The Role of Adapt78 in Macrophage Function." (Mentor: Dr. Dana Crawford)

Dana Crawford, Ph.D., attended the Symposium on Cancer and Stem Cell Signaling held at RPI in Troy, NY in November 2006. Dr. Crawford's oral presentation was entitled, "Separate origins of hepatitis B virus negative foci and hepatocellular carcinomas in transgenic HBsAg (alb/psx) mice."

Graduate Studies Poster Day and Awards Day

On March 7, 2007 the Graduate Student Program will host its Annual Poster Day. All student should have received general guidelines and instructions regarding abstract submission and related timelines for this event. If you have not received this notification, please contact the Graduate Studies Program Office at x25253. This event is mandatory for all graduate students in their second year and beyond. Please contact Dawn (x25365, MS-231, bellvid@mail.amc.edu) to schedule a time to print your poster.

Graduate Student Awards Day will be on April 5, 2007. Several students will be given awards and nominated to give oral presentations of their research. This is a great opportunity for graduate students to receive recognition of and feedback on their research projects.

Due Date Changes for Annual Health Requirements and Safety Education Modules

Everyone in CIMD is now required to do their Annual Health Requirements in Employee Health during the months of March and April. Disregard any notices you may receive in January or February. Also, Safety Education Modules, are available on line (<http://academic.amc.edu/safety/>) are due for this year by February 28, 2007. If you have any questions, please see Lynn Arnold.

Winterfest '07

Fri-Sun 2/2/07-2/5/07

Spa State Park Saratoga Springs, NY

Family fun weekend, many activities for all!
www.saratoga.org**Winter Carnival & Snowflake Derby**

Fri-Sun 2/9/07-2/11/07

McCauley Mountain Old Forge, NY

Outdoor competitions, ski races, fireworks, dance, etc.
www.oldforgeny.com**Fire on the Mountain**

Friday 2/16/2007

West Mountain Ski Area Queensbury, NY

Family fun, tubing, torch light parade, food & fireworks.
www.skiwestmountain.com**Bands-N-Beans**

Sunday 3/4/2007

Roaring Brook Ranch Resort Lake George, NY

Chili contest and music festival.
www.lakegeorgearts.org**Chocolate and Coffee Festival**

Sunday 3/18/2007

Adirondack Community College Queensbury, NY

Sample and purchase products of 20 vendors,
30 basket raffle, live entertainment.
www.glensfallssymphony.orgThese are just a few of the activities in New York State.
Many are free!**For more information, visit****www.iloverny.com**

CIMD Administrative Staff

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., Professor and Director
Lynn Arnold, IRC Coordinator
Rich Filkins, IRC Coordinator
Dawn Bellville, Administrative Coordinator & Editor
Wendy Cragan, Administrative AssistantCenter for Immunology & 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/imdIf you have an item you would like considered for the
next Newsletter issue, please put it in my mail box or e-
mail your item(s) to me at: Bellvid@mail.amc.edu
Thank you.**Deadline for submission: 3/15/07**

Next print date: April 2007

Upcoming CIMD Seminars

January 25, 2007

(10 a.m., MS-316)

Faculty Candidate

Jacob D. Estes, Ph.D.

Research Associate

Department of Microbiology

University of Minnesota

***"Early Induction of an Immunosuppressive Treg Response
In Acute SIV Infection and the Consequences to the Host"***

February 12, 2007

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

Charles R. Brown, Ph.D.Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology and
Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, University of Missouri***"Regulating Inflammation During B. burgdorferi Infection"***

February 19, 2007

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

David A. Lawrence, Ph.D.

Research Scientist

Clinical and Experimental Endocrinology and Immunology

Professor, School of Public Health

Biomedical Sciences and Environmental Health Sciences

Wadsworth Center, NYSDOH

"Beta1-adrenoceptor Signaling Inhibits Host-Defenses "

February 26, 2007

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

David J. Mock, M.D.

Clinical Associate Professor

University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

Head, Infectious Disease Unit, Park Ridge Hospital

Rochester, NY

***"HHV-6 in Oligodendroglial Precursor Cells-Silent Saboteurs
of Repair in White Matter Damage?"***

March 5, 2007

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

Carl F. Nathan, M.D.

Professor of Medicine

Chairman, Microbiology and Immunology

Cornell University, Weill Medical College

***"Can Immunology Contribute to Chemotherapy?
Challenges of Tuberculosis"***

March 19, 2007

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

Irfan Rahman, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of Environmental Medicine

Lung Biology Program

University of Rochester Medical Center

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