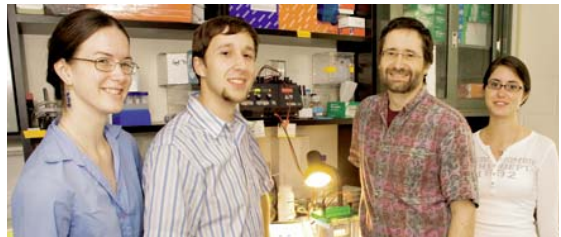


Dr. Metzger Receives \$1.8 Million to Continue Vaccine Research

Dennis W. Metzger, PhD, Professor, has received a \$1.8 million, 5-year grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for continued support of his vaccine research which specifically studies how to make safe, inhaled or oral vaccines that target areas where diseases enter the body.

Dr. Drake Receives \$2 Million to Study Role of Cellular Pathways in Fighting Infection

On August 23, 2007, the Albany Times Union newspaper featured Dr. James Drake, Associate Professor, and his research team in a recent article related to his \$2M grant from the National Institute of Health. The newspaper reported on the importance of the work Dr. Drake's lab is doing to unlock the mysteries behind the body's response to, and the antibodies produced as a defense against, bacterial or viral infection. They focus on B-cells or B-lymphocytes, which manufacture antibodies. This research could improve the vaccine engineering process or find ways to treat autoimmune disorders.



CIMD Scientists Report Major Discovery in NIH-Funded Biodefense Research

"Shield against an invisible threat," was the headline that appeared on the front page of the Times Union newspaper July 17, 2007. The article referred to the research work being done on *Francisella tularensis* in the lab of Dr. Dennis Metzger. Dr. Metzger's staff recently developed a serum that protects mice for 30 days. These results were reported in the July issue of The Journal of Immunology. As a weaponized bacterium spread through airborne delivery, *F. tularensis* would be a devastating bioterrorism agent, causing a 30-50% fatality rate and hundreds of thousands to become ill.



Dr. de Noronha Receives a \$1.4 Million Grant



According to the United Nations, there are currently some 42 million people worldwide who are living with HIV. Dr. Carlos de Noronha would like to change those statistics. Towards that end, Dr. de Noronha recently received a \$1.4 million, 4-year grant from the National Institute of Health for his project entitled, "Vpr as a Mediator of Proteosomal Degradation." This research focuses on the proteins produced by HIV. Vpr is one of them. It is already known that HIV gets into the body and wants to do two things. One is to hide out from the immune system and the second is to destroy the immune system. The more that is known about every part of the HIV virus, the better it can be combated.

CIMD Annual Research Retreat

The Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease held its Annual Research Retreat on August 21, 2007 at River Stone Manor in Scotia, NY. Presentations were given by **Dr. Deborah Fuller**, **Dr. Girish Kirimanjeswara** and **Douglas Durrant**. Talks were followed by a poster session and faculty were randomly assigned to judge two posters each. After a great lunch, everyone participated in an indoor or outdoor activity. **Bob Lord** provided musical entertainment playing the guitar and singing. The outdoor games were a big hit with lots of cheering and laughter!

Awards were presented to the following students for their poster presentations:

2nd Year Students

1st Place: **Matthew Haller**

2nd Place: **Bhuvana Katkere**

Senior Students

1st Place: **Jaya Dasgupta**

2nd Place: **Justin Wilson**

3rd Place: **Kathleen McCabe**



C onferences and Invited Seminars

Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D., Associate Professor, was invited to participate in the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases "Development of Reagents for TLR and Other Innate Immune Receptors: Present Challenges-Future Directions Workshop," in Bethesda, MD, June 27-29, 2007. Dr. Sellati was the discussion leader for the, "Pattern Recognition Receptors and Regulation of Immune Response" Session and gave a presentation entitled, "From the Outside In: Bridging the Reagent Gap Between TLRs and NLRs."

Karen Duus, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, was selected to present a poster entitled, "Development of an HHV-7-Specific Titer Assay" at the 32nd Annual International Herpesvirus Workshop in Asheville, NC, July 7-12, 2007.

J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D., Associate Professor, was invited to give a seminar at Purdue University, School of Health Sciences on September 11, 2007. Dr. Melendez' seminar was entitled, "Mitochondrial-derived reactive oxygen species: Molecular triggers of aberrant matrix metalloproteinase expression."

Carlos de Noronha, Sc.D., Assistant Professor, was selected to present a poster entitled, "HIV1 and 2 Vpr Block Cells in the G2 Phase of the Cell Cycle by Engaging a DCAF1- and Cullin-4A-containing Ubiquitin-Ligase Complex" at the NIAID's Ubiquitin and Ubiquitin-like Modifications in Viral Infection and Immunity Workshop in Bethesda, MD, August 28-30, 2007

Jing-Ren Zhang, D.V.M., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Attended the CSHL Microbial Pathogens Meeting in Cold Spring Harbor, NY, September 15-19, 2007. Three postdoctoral fellows from Dr. Zhang's lab, **Dr. Manoj Kumar**, **Dr. Odeniel Sertil** and **Dr. Jingliang Su**, also attended the Meeting and presented posters.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Girish Kirimanjwara, D.V.M, Ph.D, Postdoctoral Fellow, gave a presentation entitled, "Antibody-mediated protection against lethal respiratory Tularemia" at the NIAID Region II Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases, October 7-9, 2007, West Point, NY.

Publications

Fuller DH, Shipley T, Allen TM, Fuller JT, Wu MS, Horton H, Wilson N, Widera G and Watkins DI. Immunogenicity of hybrid DNA vaccines expressing hepatitis B core particles carrying human and simian immunodeficiency virus epitopes in mice and rhesus macaques. *Virology*. 2007 Aug 1;364(2):245-55.

Bewry NN, Bolick SC, Wright KL and **Harton JA**. GTP-dependent Recruitment of CIITA to the Class II Major Histocompatibility Complex Promoter. *J Biol Chem*. 2007 Sept 7;282(36):26178-26184.

Wen X, Duus KM, Friedrich TD and de Noronha CM. The HIV1 protein Vpr acts to promote G2 cell cycle arrest by engaging a DDB1 and Cullin4A-containing ubiquitin ligase complex using VprBP/DCAF1 as an adaptor. *J Biol Chem*. 2007 Sept 14;282(37):27046-57.

Kirimanjwara GS, Golden JM, **Bakshi CS** and **Metzger DW**. Prophylactic and therapeutic use of antibodies for protection against respiratory infection with *Francisella tularensis*. *J Immunol*. 2007 July 1;171(1):532-9.

Kirschner KN, Lexa KW, Salisburg AM, Alser KA, Joseph L, Andersen TT, **Bennett JA**, **Jacobson HI** and Shields GC. Computational Design and Experimental Discovery of an Antiestrogenic Peptide Derived from α -Fetoprotein. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2007 April 19;129(19), 6263-6268.

Yousef Abu Kwaik, **Dennis W. Metzger**, Francis Nano, Anders Sjostedt and Richard C. Titball (Editors). *Francisella tularensis: Biology, Pathogenicity, Epidemiology and Biodefense*, Blackwell Publishers, Massachusetts, 2007. (This is a first-ever book published on tularemia.)

Study Sections & Review Panels

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., Professor, served on the National Institutes of Health "Musculoskeletal Tissue Engineering Study Section" and the "MOSS G 52 Tissue Engineering BRP Special Emphasis Panel" in Bethesda, MD, July 8-10, 2007.

Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D., Associate Professor, was invited to serve on the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, "Microbial Vaccines Study Section, ZRG1IMM-K(12)B" in Washington, DC, July 9, 2007.



Bank of America Great Art Series

Daily 11/01/07-3/2/08

New York State Museum Albany, NY

Various artists.

www.nysm.nysed.gov

24th Annual Swap Meet: DIRT Swap Meet

Sunday 11/4/07, 8am-4pm

Route 20 West Lebanon, NY

Participants from NY, Mass., Vermont, Conn.

www.lebanonvalley.com

Capital Holiday Lights in the Park

11/25/07-1/1/08

Washington Park Albany, NY

Sun-Thurs., 6-9pm; Fri-Sat., 6-10pm

Visit Santa at the Lakehouse

www.capitalholidaylights.com

Troy Victorian Stroll

Sunday 12/2/07

255 River St. Troy, NY

Music, entertainment, shopping and more!

www.troyvictorianstroll.com

Winterfestival

Saturday 12/29/07

Downtown Albany

Fireworks, music, activities for the entire family.

www.albanyevents.org

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

Many are free!

For more information, visit**www.iloverny.com**

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If 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: 12/15/07

Next print date: January 2008

Upcoming CIMD Seminars

November 5, 2007

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

Michael D. Weiden, M.D.

Associate Professor

Department of Medicine and Environmental Medicine

New York University Medical Center

"HIV/TB Interaction in the Lung"

November 9, 2007

Faculty Candidate

(12:00 p.m., MS-169)

Sasha H. Shafikhani, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Fellow

Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases

University of California, San Francisco

**"Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Host Cell Interactions
 (New insights into Pseudomonas pathogenesis and
 mammalian cell biology)"**

November 12, 2007

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

Jenny P.-Y. Ting, Ph.D.

Alumni Distinguished Professor of Microbiology and Immunology

Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**"Genomic Identification and Functional Analysis of
 New Genes in Innate and Adaptive Immunity"**

November 19, 2007

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

James E. Crowe, Jr., M.D.

Professor of Pediatrics, Microbiology and Immunology

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**"Molecular and Genetic Basis for Development of High
 Affinity Human Antibodies That Inhibit Viruses"**

November 26, 2007

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

Andrea Cooper, Ph.D.

Associate Member

Trudeau Institute, Inc.

"IL-12 and Tuberculosis: An Old Story Revisited"

December 3, 2007

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

David Artis, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of Pathobiology

University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

"Balancing Immunity and Inflammation in the Gut"**For more information, please check our website.**