CIMD Winners at Graduate Studies Poster Day 2007

1st & 2nd Year Students
Amanda Melillo  -  2nd Place
(Mentor: J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D.)

“The Role of *Francisella tularensis* Intracellular Growth Locus C (IgIC), Superoxide Dismutase and Catalase in Regulating Reactive Oxygen and Nitrogen Species Toxicity”

3rd Year Students
Xiaoyun Wen  -  1st Place*
(Mentor: Carlos de Noronha, Sc.D.)

“HIV1 Protein Vpr Causes G2 Cell Cycle Arrest by Recruiting Host Ubiquitin Ligase Complex”

3rd Year Students
Douglas Durrant  -  2nd Place
(Mentor: Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.)

“IL-12 Treatment Alleviates Allergic Lung Inflammation in T-bet-/- Mice”

4th Year Students
Justin Wilson  -  2nd Place*
(Mentor: James R. Drake, Ph.D.)

“*Francisella tularensis* Infected Macrophages Produce Prostaglandin E2 that Skews T cell Responses”

*Invited to give an oral presentation on Awards Day

*Congratulations to all graduate students for their hard work and participation!*

28th Annual Graduate Student Research & Awards Day

Graduate Student Research & Awards Day will honor and recognize the achievements of AMC Graduate Students. Oral research presentations will be made and awards given on Thursday, April 5, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in ME-700.
Dr. Gosselin Receives NIH Grant

Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D., Associate Professor, was awarded a $275,000 two-year grant from the National Institutes of Health for his research entitled, “Protective Activity of a Multi-Functional Immunogen.”

Study Sections & Review Panels

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., 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 15-16, 2007 in Lebanon, NH.

J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D., served on the NIH, National Cancer Institute’s “Cancer Etiology Study Section” in Bethesda, MD on February 12-13, 2007.

Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D., was asked to review grants for the Lupus Research Institute during the month of February 2007.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health “Systems Approach to Immunity and Inflammation Study Section” in Washington, DC on February 12-13, 2007.

Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D., served on the NIH Study Section “Microbial Vaccine Development” on February 26, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations to Xiaoyun Wen and her husband, Sheng Luo, as they celebrate the birth of their daughter, Erinn Luo. Erinn weighed 7 lbs. and was 19 inches tall.
Paper Noted in the “Spotlight” Section of *Infection and Immunity*

A recent published paper, authored by Keer Sun, Ph.D., was spotlighted in “Articles of Significant Interest Selected from This Issue by the Editors” in the March 2007 issue of *Infection and Immunity*. (Mentor: Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.)

The review appears below.

**Protective Role of Interleukin-12 in Host Defense against Pneumococcal Infection**

Current vaccines against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* provide only limited protection to selected serotypes, and procedures to induce effective innate immunity are hampered by the lack of information regarding the cells required for defense against this pathogen. Sun et al. (p. 1196-1202) now demonstrate that intranasal interleukin-12 (IL-12) treatment of mice can significantly improve protection against pneumococcal respiratory infection. Their findings show that IL-12 induces gamma interferon production in the lung, which in turn promotes recruitment of neutrophils and, ultimately, bacterial clearance. These results indicate that protection against extracellular bacterial pathogens in the lung represents another important function of IL-12.

**Publications**


**Conferences and Invited Seminars**


Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D., gave a presentation entitled, “Chronic Lyme Disease: When the Inflammatory On/Off Switch is Broken” at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY on February 12, 2007.

Jing-Ren Zhang, Ph.D., was asked to present at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY on February 12, 2007. Dr. Zhang’s presentation was titled, “*Francisella tularensis*—the genetic basis of its extreme infectivity.”

Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D., was invited by the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY on March 22, 2007 to give his presentation entitled, “Neutrophil Recruitment and Tularemia Pathogenesis: A Single-Edged Sword?”
Albany Tulip Festival  
Fri-Sun                5/11/07-5/13/07  
Washington Park        Albany, NY  
A celebration of arts & crafts, food, stages, music and children’s’ activities.  
www.albanyevents.org

Animals & Acrobatcs  
Sat-Mon                5/26/07-5/28/07  
Van Cortlandt Manor    Croton-on-Hudson, NY  
Experience the early American traveling circus!  
www.hudsonvalley.org

Fairport Canal Days  
Fri-Sun                6/1/07-6/3/07  
6 North Main St.       Fairport, NY  
300 artisan booths, food, music and fun!  
www.fairportcanaldays.com

Antique Machinery & Rural Life Festival  
Sat-Sun                6/9/07-6/10/07  
Dutchess County Fairgrounds   Rhinebeck, NY  
Old-time engines, Century Museum, motorcycle swap!  
www.CMVCA.org

Hudson Valley Wine & Food Fest  
Sat-Sun                9/7/07-9/9/07  
The Greig Farm          Redhook, NY  
Sample regional wines and food; gifts and music.  
www.hudsonvalleywinefest.com

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

For more information, visit www.iloveny.com

Upcoming CIMD Seminars

April 2, 2007  
(12:00 p.m., MS-316)  
**Biodefense Series**

*Martin S. Pavelka, Ph.D.*  
Associate Professor  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
Director, BSL3 Facility  
University of Rochester Medical Center  
"Genetic Manipulation of Francisella tularensis"

April 10, 2007  
(11:00 a.m., Huyck Auditorium)  
Faculty Candidate

*Makio Iwashima, Ph.D.*  
Associate Professor  
Immunotherapy Center  
Medical College of Georgia  
"Selective Enrichment of Regulatory T cells by PLD Signal Inhibition"

April 16, 2007  
(12:00 p.m., MS-316)  
**Biodefense Series**

*Thomas R. Kozel, Ph.D.*  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine  
University of Nevada  
"Targeting the Clostridium neoformans and Bacillus anthracis Capsules for Immunoprotection"

April 23, 2007  
(12:00 p.m., MS-316)  
**Biodefense Series**

*J. Edwin Blalock, Ph.D.*  
Professor  
Department of Physiology and Biophysics  
University of Alabama, Birmingham  
"TBA"

May 7, 2007  
(12:00 p.m., MS-316)  
*Jian-Dong Li, M.D., Ph.D.*  
Professor  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
University of Rochester  
"Bacteria-Induced Host Cell Signaling Networks in Airway Infection"

May 14, 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  
"Oxidative Stress and Redox Regulation of Histone Acetylation/Deacetylation in Lung Inflammation"

For more information, please check our website.

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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 Assistant

Center 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/imd

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: 6/15/07  
Next print date: July 2007