Dr. Dan R. Littman, M.D., Ph.D., was the 2016 Theobald Smith lecturer for the Department of Immunology and Microbial Disease at Albany Medical College. Dr. Littman is an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Professor of Pathology and Microbiology at New York University School of Medicine, Elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Elected Member of the National Academy of Sciences and of the National Academy of Medicine, and immediate Past President of AAI.

Dr. Littman’s lecture took place on Thursday, November 10, 2016 in Wiggers Auditorium and was entitled, “Role of Microbiota in Shaping Immune Responses.” Following his lecture, a reception and dinner was held in his honor at Angelo’s 677 Prime in Albany, NY.

19th Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference

The 19th Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference (NYIC) was held October 24-27, 2016 at The Sagamore Resort and Conference Center in Bolton Landing, NY. Two Keynote Speakers, Dr. Thomas Braciare (University of Virginia) and Dr. Wayne Yokoyama (Washington University School of Medicine and AAI Vice President) gave talks entitled, “Dendritic Cells in the Host Response to Stress, or Dendritic Cells Can Do More Than Present Antigens,” and “Tissue-Resident Natural Killer Cells,” respectively.

Symposia speakers from each supporting institution were chosen by the NYIC Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). The American Association of Immunologist provided 10 (ten) Young Investigator Trainee Awards and eBioscience/Affymetrix provided 10 (ten) Trainee Travel Awards. Award winners were given an opportunity to give oral presentations in addition to poster presentations.

There were also a number of workshops covering a wide range of topics. Drs. Timothy Gondre-Lewis, Thomas J. Palker, B. Duane Price, and James Snyder, all from NIAID/NIH, presented “Grantsmanship, Funding, and Mock Peer Review.” Dr. Yokoyama’s workshop was entitled, “Opportunities to Study the Immunology of Human Disease,” and Dr. Braciare gave a workshop entitled, “The Business End of Academic Research.” Corporate Sponsors participated in an Industry Panel, “Careers Outside of Academia,” and shared their experiences working in a biotech setting.

The Conference was attended by 109 participants from ten different institutions and while the schedule was packed with scientific information, there were also several less formal recreational activities including a Welcome Reception, recreation center activities, and a cruise aboard The Morgan on scenic Lake George.

Next year’s meeting will be held at The Sagamore Resort and Conference Center on October 23-26, 2017, where we will celebrate out 20th Anniversary.
Dr. Robek Named Among Top Peer Reviewers for Three Consecutive Years

Michael D. Robek, Ph.D., was once again named as a top 25 reviewer for the Journal of Virology (JVI). JVI is the Number 1 cited journal in Virology. There were a total of 1,121 manuscripts published during 2015. The JVI editors and reviewers work hard to ensure that the review process is constructively critical, fair, and objective, and that the turnaround times are prompt. The average time from manuscript submission to the editors’ first decision letter is 26 days. The publication of the very best science depends upon expert reviewers being able to devote their time and effort. Congratulations Mike!

Grant Awards

Kate C. MacNamara, Ph.D., has received notification from the Department of Defense, Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), that she has been recommended for funding of her research entitled, “Macrophage-Mediated HSC Dysfunction in Bone Marrow Failure.”

Guangchun Bai, M.D., Ph.D., has received a one year, NIH sub-contract in the amount of $47,318 for research entitled, “Macrophage protection in pneumococcal pneumonia.” The project is under the direction of Dr. Joseph Mizgerd (Boston University).

Kouacou V. Konan, Ph.D., has received a one-year, $53,196 Albany Medical College (AMC) seed grant for research entitled, “Impact of Zika virus replication on placenta,” and a one-year, $25,000 AMC bridge grant for research entitled, “Lipid metabolism and Zika virus replication.”

Peer-reviewed Publications


MacNamara KC. Shedding light on HSC dormancy—a role for the DARC. Stem Cell Investig. 3:40, 2016.


Periasamy S, Le HT, Chin H, and Harton JA. Inflammasome-independent NLRP3 restriction of a protective early neutrophil re-

(Continued on page 4)
Conferences, Meetings, and Study Sections

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was an invited speaker in the Immunology COBRE Symposium at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Hanover, NH, May 9, 2016.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was invited to give a major symposium talk entitled, “Immune Dysfunction during Influenza and Susceptibility to Secondary Bacterial Lung Infections,” at the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) Annual Meeting held in Seattle, WA, May 13-17, 2016. In addition, AAI Trainee Abstract Awards were given to Dr. Sivakumar Periasamy and graduate student Samira Mansouri.


Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., served on the NIH Lung Cellular, Molecular, and Immunobiology (LCMI) Study Section in Baltimore, MD, June 1-2, 2016.

Jonathan A. Harton, Ph.D., served on the NIH Support for Conferences and Scientific Parent Meeting Review Committee in Washington, DC, June, 2016.

Dr. Metzger Invited to be a Keynote Speaker

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was invited to give a Keynote presentation entitled, “Mechanisms of Induced Resistance against Lethal Pulmonary Tularemia,” at the 14th Annual International Public Health and Emerging Microbial Threats Conference at the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Center in Albany, NY, September 19, 2016.

A number of Immunology & Microbial Disease graduate students presented posters. Don Steiner—“Innate Control of Pneumonic Francisella tularensis Infection through Macrophage Depletion and Polarization” (Dr. Metzger), Alicia Soucy—“Immune Tolerance against Pulmonary F. tularensis Infection” (Dr. Metzger), Kristen Holland—“Engineering a Targeted Vaccine Platform in Francisella tularensis” (Dr. Hazlett), and Jesse Rabinowitz—“HIV and the Antioxidant Transcription Factor, Nrf2: An Evolutionary Arms Race.” Alicia also received a Young Scholar Award of $250 for best poster presentation.

Kouacou V. Konan, Ph.D., chaired the Flaviviruses II: Virus-Host Interactions Workshop and was invited to give a presentation entitled, “Virus Co-opts the Function of Glycosphinogolipid Biosynthetic Proteins to Facilitate Virus Entry and Particles Assembly,” at the 35th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Virology in Blacksburg, VA, June 19, 2016.

Michael D. Robek, Ph.D., served on the NIH Genes and Drug Delivery (GDD) Study Section in Bethesda, MD, June 23-24, 2016.

Julianne Smith, Ph.D., gave a poster presentation entitled, “Type I Interferons Drive Hematopoietic Progenitor Cell Depletion via Necroptosis in a Model of Severe Rickettsial Infection,” at the 45th Annual International Society of Hematology Meeting in San Diego, CA, August 27, 2016.

Carlos de Noronha, Sc.D., participated in a program project grant application review for the NIH/NIAID Special Emphasis Panel ZRG1 AARR-K, September 29, 2016.


Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D., served on the NIH Vaccines Against Microbial Diseases (VMD) Study Section in Washington, DC, October 20-21, 2016.

Michael D. Robek, Ph.D., served on the NIH Hepatobiliary Pathophysiology (HBPP) Study Section in Seattle, WA, October 19-21, 2016.

Dana R. Crawford, Ph.D., was invited to give two lectures entitled, “Basic Concepts in Nutrigenomics and Nutrigenetics,” and “The Future of Nutrigenomics and Nutrigenetics,” at Sage College, Albany, NY, October 20, 2016.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., served as Co-chair for the NIH Immunity in Neonates and Infants (U01) Review Panel in Potomac, MD, December 6-8, 2016..

Jonathan A. Harton, Ph.D., served on the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases R13 Special Emphasis Panel in Washington, DC, December 5, 2016.
(Continued from page 2)


### 2016 IMD Annual Research Retreat

The Department of Immunology & Microbial Disease held its annual research retreat at Pat’s Barn, located in the Rensselaer Technology Park Campus in Troy, NY, on August 1, 2016. Incoming graduate students, Shanti D’Souza, Kelsi Hidde, Yasmine Karma, Brittany Kartchner and Anthony Marchese, were introduced and welcomed by the attendees.

After a continental breakfast, oral presentations were given by Dr. Jim Drake (faculty), Dr. Safiehkhatoon Moshkani (postdoctoral fellow), and Tiffany Zarrella (graduate student). Posters were viewed and feedback was provided to the presenters. Lunch was followed by table games and outdoor activities. The day concluded with prize raffles and the annual group picture.

### MDDR Student Receives Best Poster Award

**Shachi Srivatsa.** MDDR Student, received the best poster award for her work entitled, “Oxidized and Degraded Mitochondrial Polynucleotides are Potent Immunogenic Regulators,” at the Cancer Immuno- and Related -Therapies Symposium at the Hilton Garden Inn, Albany, NY, November 18, 2016.