JULY 2010
VOLUME VIII
ISSUE III

Center for Immunology & Microbial Disease at Albany Medical College

CIMD Newsletter

Record Levels of 2009 Federal Funding Highlight the Continued Success of CIMD’s Research Programs

NIH funding data for fiscal year 2009 were recently published and the results continue to spotlight the outstanding success of CIMD’s scientific programs. While funding is critical to maintain and grow our research operations, success at the peer-review level most importantly points to the high level of recognition for CIMD among fellow scientists across the country who judge our scientific achievements.

In FY09, NIH research funding for CIMD increased to a current all-time high level of $8.4M/yr (FY09 direct costs), an amount that represents 55% of total NIH funding to AMC. In FY09, NIH funding to CIMD ranked 46 out of 99 medical schools that reported in the Microbiology and Immunology category. This was up from a rank of 55 in 2008 and 58 in 2007. CIMD’s 2009 Micro/Immunol NIH funding level places it ahead of such medical schools as University of Pittsburgh, Brown University, University of Illinois at Chicago, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, University of Vermont, University of Southern California, Boston University, Texas A&M, University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, George Washington University, Georgetown, and the University of Florida.

Such ranking is indicative of the tremendous success of CIMD’s research programs. Indeed, one recent NIH reviewer stated that AMC has become “an internationally-recognized infectious disease research institution”. Everyone in CIMD should feel great pride in directly contributing to this success!! Congratulations to all!!

CIMD Welcomes Incoming 2010 Graduate Students

CIMD welcomes six incoming graduate students, four of whom are already here performing summer rotations. They are:

Andrea Marias (Ph.D.) - Metzger Lab
Amanda Potter (Ph.D.) - TBD
Don Steiner (Ph.D.) - Harton Lab
Heidi Tucker (Ph.D.) - Sellati Lab
Lydia Civello (M.S.) - TBD
Martina Svetlik (M.S.) - Drake Lab

Important dates to remember:
August 9, 2010—Welcome to CIMD
August 10, 2010—CIMD Annual Research Retreat
August 11-12, 2010—New Student Orientation
August 16, 2010—First Day of Classes

APT Committee Approves Promotions

Albany Medical College’s APT Committee met recently regarding the following CIMD promotions (pending AMC Board approval July 7, 2010): Dana R. Crawford, Ph.D., was promoted to Associate Professor (non-tenure track); Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D., was promoted to Associate Professor (tenured) Congratulations!
If you are planning to attend the 13th Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference being held October 24-26, 2010 at The Sagamore Resort and Conference Center, in Bolton Landing, NY be sure to register on line at: http://www.amc.edu/NYIC/index.html.

Accommodations are limited and available on first-come, first-served basis. Also, if you are going to give a poster presentation, there is a limited number of poster slots that will be available. Pre-registration of posters is also required.

Peer-reviewed Publications


Metzger DW. Interleukin-12 as an adjuvant for induction of protective antibody responses. *Cytokine*. In press.


Conferences, Meetings and Study Sections

J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D. and Nadine Hempel, Ph.D., were invited to give poster presentations at the American Association for Cancer Research 101st Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, April 16-21, 2010. Dr. Melendez’ poster was entitled, “Differential Regulation of Erk Signaling by Mitochondrial Superoxide Controls the Metastatic Potential of Bladder Cancer Cells” and Dr. Hempel’s poster was entitled, “A Role for Mitochondrial Derived Reactive Oxygen Species in Regulating Pro-migratory Signaling Pathways via p130cas.”

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was invited to give a presentation at Albany Medical College’s Reunion Weekend 2010, Mini Med School Sessions, entitled, “Research Advances in Prevention of Acute Microbial Disease,” in Albany, NY, April 24, 2010.

James R. Drake, Ph.D., attended the Society for Thermal Medicine Meeting in Tampa, FL, April 23-26, 2010.

Karen M. Duus, Ph.D., attended the AMSMIC 13th Microbiology and Immunology Educational Strategies Workshop in Myrtle Beach, NC, April 26-28, 2010.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Special Emphasis Panel In Vitro Assessments for Antimicrobial Activity in Silver Spring, MD, May 2-3, 2010.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., gave a presentation entitled, “Mechanisms Responsible for Secondary Bacterial Infections Following Influenza,” at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC, May 5-6, 2010. He was a guest of the Wake Forest Graduate Student Organization.

James R. Drake, Ph.D., served on the Abstract Programming Committee and attended the American Association of Immunologists Meeting in Baltimore, MD, May 7-11, 2010.


Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., served on the External Advisory Board of the National Institutes of Health Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) at Dartmouth Medical School to review the school’s research programs in Lebanon, NH, May 18-19, 2010.

Jing-Ren Zhang, Ph.D., and Guangchun Bai, Ph.D., attended the 110th American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, held in San Diego, CA, May 23-28, 2010. Dr. Bai presented a poster entitled, “Characterization of Mycobacterium tuberculosis Rv0805 as a Phosphodiesterase.”

Karen M. Duus, Ph.D., attended the Workshop in Communicating Science that was sponsored by the Center for Communicating Science in cooperation with Cold Springs Harbor Laboratory in Cold Springs Harbor, CO, May 24, 2010.

J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D., attended a planning meeting with the University of Tampa Labs, L.L.C., to discuss high throughput screening platforms to identify novel matrix modulating nutraceuticals in St. Petersburg, FL, May 24, 2010.

Karen M. Duus, Ph.D., served as judges at the 2010 STANYS State Science Congress at the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY, June 12, 2010.

Jing-Ren Zhang, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Host Interaction and Bacterial Pathogen Study Session in Chicago, IL, June 10-11, 2010.


CIMD MDDR Student Receives Scholarship

Annette George, a 2nd year MDDR student, has received a 2010 IDSA Medical Scholarship in the amount of $1,500 from the Infectious Diseases Society of America to continue her research characterizing the HIV virus-like particles that she has been able to successfully produce in mouse cells. Completion of Annette’s project will enable Dr. Karen Duus’ lab to perform proof-of-principle vaccine studies in mice in collaboration with Dr. Deborah Fuller’s lab in CIMD. (Mentor: Karen M. Duus, Ph.D.)

Welcome New CIMD Employees

Faculty Members: Guangchun Bai, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellows: Amanda Melillo, Ph.D., and Sivakumar Periasamy, Ph.D.
Senior Research Technicians: Ellen Duffy, Ph.D.
Laboratory Assistants: Lina Bagepalli, Jane Drake, and Michael Taylor

Upcoming CIMD Seminars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker and Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 16, 2010</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>MS-316</td>
<td>Kevin M. McBride, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Research Associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Laboratory of Molecular Immunology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Rockefeller University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Regulating Activation Induced Cytidine Deaminase (AID) DNA Damage in Immunity and Cancer</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 23, 2010</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>MS-316</td>
<td>Damian Kovalovsky, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Immunology Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>PLZF and the Innate Functions of Lymphocytes</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26, 2010</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>MS-316</td>
<td>Joseph F. Petrosino, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assistant Professor of Molecular Virology and Microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Human Genome Sequencing Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Baylor College of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Infectious Disease Research in the Era of Metagenomics and the Human Microbiome</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13, 2010</td>
<td>12 Noon</td>
<td>MS-316</td>
<td>Katherine Fitzgerald, M.D., Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Infectious Diseases and Immunology Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>University of Massachusetts, Worcester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>TBA</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.amc.edu/academic/research/imd.html