The 21st Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference (NYIC) was held at The Otesaga Resort Hotel, October 15-18, 2018, in Cooperstown, NY. The move of venue allowed the meeting to be more centrally located for the twelve (12) participating institutions and the nearly one-hundred (100) attendees. It was a pleasure to welcome two new supporting institutions, Penn State University and McGill University, and their representatives Girish Kirimanjeswara and Jörg Fritz, respectively, to the NYIC Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

The conference hosted two Keynote Speakers, Dr. Jeremy Boss (Emory University) and Dr. Thomas Wynn (Pfizer). Each keynote gave a presentation, a workshop, chaired a session, attended the oral poster presentations, and participated in presenting trainee awards. Trainees also had ample opportunities throughout the meeting to discuss their research with Drs. Boss and Wynn.

With the location change came a number of program changes, including oral poster presentations on Tuesday and the post-er session/vendor fair mixer moving to Wednesday. Attendees also enjoyed a trolley ride to two off-site activities, Ommegang Brewery and the Fly Creek Cider Mill.

Post meeting survey results have been tallied and attendees are enthusiastic to return to The Otesaga in 2019.

**AAI Young Investigator Award** winners *(left to right)*: Oyesola Oyebola, Kristel Yee Mon, Sally Demirdjian, **Allison Seyfried**, Marija Landekic, **Shanti D’Souza**, Dr. Jeremy Boss, Barbara C. Mindt, Shivana Lightman, Guanxi Qiao, and Bradley Mills.

**ThermoFisher Travel Award** winners *(left to right)*: Abhinit Nagar, Dr. Thomas Wynn, Riddhi Falk-Mahapatra, G. Aaron Holling, Minhui Chen, **Anthony Marchese**, Catherine G. Burke, **Amit Singh**, Stacey Ceron, Janelle Veazey, and Americo Lopez-Yglesias.

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**Dr. Yang Receives Highly-Competitive Sinsheimer Foundation Grant**

Qi Yang, Ph.D., was awarded a highly competitive $200,000 two-year grant from the Sinsheimer Foundation for her research entitled, “Innate Lymphoid Cells in Severe Asthma.”

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**Dr. Metzger Appointed to AAI Finance Committee**

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was invited to serve a three-year term (October 2018-September 2021) on the American Association of Immunology Finance Committee which oversees all fiscal activities and budgets for the association.
Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Special Emphasis Panel to review Phase II SBIR Programs via teleconference, May 30, 2018.

Wei Sun, Ph.D., gave a poster presentation entitled, “Immunogenicity of Outer Membrane Vesicles from Recombinant Yersinia pestis,” at the American Society for Microbiology ASM Microbe 2018 meeting in Atlanta, GA, June 7-11, 2018.

Xiuran Wang, Ph.D., gave a poster presentation entitled, “Immunology of Outer Membrane Vesicles from Recombinant Yersinia pestis,” at the American Society for Microbiology ASM Microbe 2018 meeting in Atlanta, GA, June 7-11, 2018.

James R. Drake, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Cellular and Molecular Immunology A (CMI-A) Study Section in Washington, DC, June 14, 2018.

James R. Drake, Ph.D., served on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration study section Proposals for Flight and Ground Space Biology Research in Washington, DC, June 18, 2018.

Michael D. Robek, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Hepatobiliary Pathophysiology Study Section in Seattle, WA, June 20-22, 2018.

Kate C. MacNamara, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Study Section Limited Competition: Small Grant Program for NHLBI Recipients in Washington, DC, June 21-22, 2018.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., chaired the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, National Institutes of Health Special Emphasis Review Panel on Maintaining Immunity after Immunization in Washington, D.C., July 11-12, 2018.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., chaired the National Institutes of Health Special Emphasis Review Panel for review of NIAID Investigator Initiated Program Project Applications via teleconference, July 13, 2018.

Kouacou V. Konan, Ph.D., gave an oral presentation entitled, “Distinct Sphingolipid Species Modulate Zika Virus Particles Production,” at the American Society for Virology 37th Annual Meeting at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD, July 14-18, 2018.

Qi Yang, Ph.D., had her work highlighted during the opening remarks at the 24th Annual Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology Update Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY, July 19, 2018.

Qi Yang, Ph.D., gave a presentation entitled, “Notch Signaling Promotes the Plasticity of Group 2 Innate Lymphoid Cells,” at the 2018 Gordon Conference in Lewiston, ME, July 21-27, 2018. Dr. Yang also served as a Q&A mentor for a session entitled, “From Surviving to Thriving in Research.”

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., served on the Department of Defense Peer Review Medical Research Program Discovery Award Review Panel via online, August 9-17, 2018.

Qi Yang, Ph.D., was invited to give a lecture entitled, “Transcriptional and Translation Control of Innate Lymphoid Cells,” at Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC, August 30, 2018.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., chaired the National Institutes of Health Special Emphasis Review Panel on Cooperative Centers for Human Immunology (CCHI), Washington, DC, September 10-11, 2018.

Michael D. Robek, Ph.D., was invited to give a seminar entitled, “Virus-based Vaccine Platforms for HBV Therapeutic Immunization,” at the University of Kansas Medical School in Kansas City, KS, September 18, 2018.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was invited to give a seminar entitled, “Role of Interferon-gamma and ILC2s in Susceptibility to Influenza A Infection,” at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, September 24, 2018.

Kate C. MacNamara, Ph.D., chaired a Q&A Forum with the Albany Prize winners, Drs. Rosenberg, Allison, and June at the Hilton Garden Inn at Albany Medical Center, September 25, 2018.

Qi Yang, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Lung, Cellular, Molecular, and Immunobiology (LCMI) Study Section in San Diego, CA, September 29-30, 2018.

Peer-reviewed Publications


(Continued from page 2)

Shanti D’Souza, graduate student, was awarded an Estee Lauder Scholarship at the Mechanisms of Aging Conference for her poster abstract entitled, “The Effect of Aging on Tissue-Resident Lymphocytes at Homeostasis and During Pulmonary Infection,” at Cold Spring Harbor, NY, October 1-5, 2018.

A number of IMD staff and students gave oral and poster presentations at the Upstate New York Immunology Conference. Bibhuti Mishra, Ph.D., gave a symposium talk entitled, “Inflammation During TB: Good, Bad, and the Ugly.” Postdoctoral Fellows, Tarani Barman, Ph.D. and Sudeep Kumar, Ph.D., and graduate students Jesse Bonin, Carolina Chiale, Jennifer Howard, Nicole Nelson, gave poster presentations. Amit Singh, Ph.D., Shanti D’Souza, Anthony Marchese, Abhinit Nagar, and Allison Seyfried gave both oral and poster presentations and each won either an AAI Young Investigator Award or a ThermoFisher Travel Award. The conference was held in Cooperstown, NY, October 15-18, 2018.

Kristen Tummino, graduate student, presented a poster entitled, “Engineering a Targeted Vaccine Platform in Francisella tularensis,” at the 9th International Conference on Tularemia in Montreal, Canada, October 16-19, 2018.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Center for Scientific Review Immunity and Host Defense (IHd) Study Section in Washington, DC, October 17-18, 2018.

Michael D. Robek, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Virology B (VIRB) Study Section in Alexandria, VA, October 22-23, 2018.
Kate C. MacNamara, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health grant review panel Small Grant Program of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute via teleconference, October 22, 2018.

Kouacou V. Konan, Ph.D., was invited to give a talk entitled, “Lipids and Zika Virus Infection of Placental Cells,” at Albany Medical Center Pediatric Grand Rounds, October 24, 2018.

Kate C. MacNamara, Ph.D., presented a poster entitled, “Type I IFNs Drive Hematopoietic Progenitor Cell Loss Via RIPK3-Dependent IL-18 Production and RIPK1-Dependent Cell Death” at the International Cytokine and Interferon Conference in Boston, MA, October 27-30, 2018.

James R. Drake, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Fellowships and R15 Study Section in Bethesda, MD, November 1-2, 2018.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., chaired the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) Focused Award Program via video conference, November 9, 2018.

Kate C. MacNamara, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health grant review panel Small Grant Program of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute via teleconference, October 22, 2018.

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