The 18th Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference was held October 25-28, 2015 at The Sagamore Resort and Conference Center in Bolton Landing, NY. The event was attended by over 100 participants and included two keynote speakers, Dr. Kristin A. Hogquist (University of Minnesota) and Dr. Yasmine Belkaid (NIAID/NIH). There were also symposium presentations, American Association of Immunologists (AAI) Young Investigator Awards and eBioscience Trainee Travel Awards (given to trainees based on the scientific content of their poster abstracts), short oral poster presentations, a cruise on Lake George, and several team-building activities.

Financial support was provided by corporate sponsors (including three platinum level sponsors - BD Biosciences, BioLegend, Inc., and Taconic Biosciences), supporting academic institutions, and an R13 NIH Conference grant.

Next year’s Conference is schedule for October 24-27, 2016 at The Sagamore Resort. Check the website in the Spring for more information at: http://www.amc.edu/NYIC/index.cfm

Two recent Theobald Smith Lecturers have been elected to the highly prestigious National Academy of Medicine.

Keith Paul Klugman, M.D., Ph.D., director for pneumonia, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle; emeritus William H. Foege Professor of Global Health, Emory University, Atlanta; and honorary professor, University of the Bitwatersand Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit, Johannesburg, South Africa

Jean-Laurent Casanova, M.D., Ph.D., investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute; and professor and senior attending physician, St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases, The Rockefeller Institute, New York City.

Election to the Academy is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine, recognizing individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.
**CIMD Annual Research Retreat**

The Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease held its Annual Research Retreat on August 3, 2015, at Birch Hill Catering, Castleton-on-Hudson, NY.

This year’s format included short presentations by faculty member, Dr. Michael Robek, postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Julianne Smith, and graduate student, Travis Walrath. We also welcomed Ph.D. student, Carolina Chiale Ferreira.

Poster presentations were viewed and feedback was provided by faculty and postdoctoral fellows.

Lunch was followed by a number of activities including volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, and board games. Everyone gathered for the yearly CIMD group picture and raffle winners were presented a variety of prizes.

**Grant Awards**

- Yoichi Furuya, Ph.D., received a one-year, $40,000 Biomedical Research Grant from the American Lung Association for his research entitled, “Identifying protective immune mechanisms against viral-bacterial co-infections.”
- Thomas Andersen, Ph.D., James A. Bennett, Ph.D., and Herbert I. Jacobson, Ph.D., received a three-year, $1,075,420 grant from the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity for their work entitled, “Prevention and Treatment of Breast Cancer.”

**Peer-reviewed Publications**


Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Vaccines against Microbial Disease Study Section in Washington, DC, June 18-19, 2015.

James R. Drake, Ph.D., was invited to serve as a reviewer for the NIH Immunology Fellowship and Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) R15 grant applications for predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees, in Rockville, MD, June 25-26, 2015.


Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was invited to present a lecture on Vaccines at the 2015 AAI Advanced Course in Immunology, in Boston, August 7, 2015.


Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was invited to serve as a Symposium Speaker and Workshop Director at the 1st International Meeting on Respiratory Pathogens, in Singapore, September 2-4, 2015.

Jonathan A. Harton, Ph.D., served as the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) Committee on Public Affairs (CPA) representative at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) Roundtable on Reproducibility in Research Using Antibodies, held September 10, 2015.

William O’Connor, Ph.D., was invited to give a seminar in honor of Dr. Richard A. Flavell entitled, “Gene Regulation and Cell Signaling in Immunity and Pathophysiology,” at Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, CT, September 10-11, 2015.

Michael D. Robek, Ph.D., chaired the Innate Immune Response Session at the 2015 International Hepatitis B Virus Meeting in Germany, October 5-9, 2015.

Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Vaccines against Microbial Disease Study Section in Washington, DC, October 14-16, 2015.

James R. Drake, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Cellular and Molecular Immunology—Area B (CIIMB) Study Section in Washington, DC, October 15-16, 2015.

Dana R. Crawford, Ph.D., was invited to give two lectures at the Nutrition Science Department of Sage College entitled, “Basic Concepts in Nutrigenomics and Nutrigenetics,” and “The Future of Nutrigenomics and Nutrigenetics,” in Albany, NY, October 22, 2015.

James R. Drake, Ph.D. and Michael D. Robek, Ph.D., each gave symposium talks entitled, “MHC Class II Subsets in B-Cell Biology,” and “Virus-based Therapeutic Vaccine Vectors to Cure Chronic HBV Infection,” respectively, at the 18th Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference in Bolton Landing, NY, October 25-28, 2015. Postdoctoral Fellow, Julianne N.P. Smith, Ph.D., was also invited to give an oral and poster presentation entitled, “Type I IFNs Directly Promote Hematopoietic Progenitor Cell Death and Lead to Bone Marrow Failure in Severe Bacterial Infection.”

Michael D. Robek, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Virology Study Section—Area B in Washington, DC, October 29-30, 2015.

Dana R. Crawford, Ph.D., was invited to give a seminar at the Down Syndrome Innovations 2015 Conference entitled, “Dietary Targeting of RCAN1 and Chromosome 21 Genes to Treat Individuals with Down Syndrome,” at the Arkansas Children’s Hospital in Little Rock, AK, October 29, 2015.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., served as Acting Chair for the NIH Special Emphasis Panel on Adaptive and Innate Immune Response in Bethesda, MD, November 5, 2015.

Kate C. MacNamara, Ph.D., was invited to give a seminar to the Microbiology & Immunology Department at the University of Rochester entitled, “Macrophages: Key Regulators of Hematopoiesis in Disease and at Steady State,” in Rochester, NY, November 9, 2015.

REMINDER: Mark your calendars for the Annual CIMD Holiday Party, being held December 1, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Albany Shaker Ridge Country Club, in Albany, NY.

If you haven’t already done so, please RSVP to Joanne George, x25908 or email her at georgej4@mail.amc.edu

Congratulations to Andrea and Yoichi Furuya on the birth of their son, Kai Marias Furuya, born July 23, 2015, 8 lbs., 8 oz.
November 9, 2015—2:00 p.m., Huyck Auditorium

Dr. Dennis W. Metzger, Host

CIMD Faculty Candidate

Patricia Q. Cortes, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Medicine, Immunology Institute
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

“Insights into the Mechanism of V(D)J Recombination”

November 12, 2015—11:00 a.m., Huyck Auditorium

Dr. William O’Connor, Host

Christian Jobin, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Medicine
Division of Gastroenterology, College of Medicine
University of Florida

“Microbes and Colorectal Cancer: The Search for a Drug Target”

January 14, 2016—11:00 a.m., Huyck Auditorium

Dr. Kouacou V. Konan, Host

Guangxiang Luo, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham

“Cellular Factors Important for Hepatitis C Virus Infection and Replication in vitro and in vivo”