CIMD Faculty Serve on Multiple Federal Advisory Boards

A number of faculty members from the Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease have recently been asked to serve on National Institutes of Health Study Sections. Members are chosen based on their expertise and experience with the subject matter. Agreeing to serve on study sections requires extensive review of multiple grant submissions, travel, and a commitment to participate in both teleconferences and on-site meetings. CIMD participants include:

- **Dorina Avram, Ph.D.** - served on the National Institutes of Health, Cellular and Molecular Immunology Study Section in Los Angeles, CA, February 18-20, 2015.
- **Mario Canki, Ph.D.** - served on the National Institutes of Health, AIDS & Related Research Study Section via teleconference on November 13, 2014.
- **Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D.** - served on the National Institutes of Health, Vaccines Against Microbial Diseases Study Section in Washington, DC, October 30, 2014.
- **Kate C. MacNamara, Ph.D.** - served on the National Institutes of Health, NIAID Prevention Innovation Program Special Emphasis Review Panel via teleconference on November 14, 2014. Dr. MacNamara also served on the National Institutes of Health, Molecular and Cellular Hematology Study Section in Seattle, WA, February 9-10, 2015.
- **Michael D. Robek, Ph.D.** - served on the National Institutes of Health, Immunity and Host Defense Study Section in Los Angeles, CA, February 18-20, 2015.

Dr. Robek Joins CIMD Faculty

**Michael Robek, Ph.D.,** joined the CIMD Faculty as an Associate Professor (tenure track, non-tenured) in January 2015. Dr. Robek received his Ph.D. in Molecular Microbiology and Microbial Pathogenesis from Washington University (St. Louis, MO). Following his Postdoctoral Fellowship at The Scripps Institute (La Jolla, CA), he was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology at Yale School of Medicine and promoted to Associate Professor in 2010.

Dr. Robek’s particular expertise is related to the pathogenesis of Hepatitis B virus and the immune response to this microbe. Current funding for his research includes two NIH R21 grants. He has published 33 peer-reviewed papers, as well as 8 reviews/chapters on this topic. He was also named as a 2014 'Top 25 Reviewer' for the *Journal of Virology*, the flagship publication in virology.

In recent years, Dr. Robek has been invited to give presentations at national and international conferences, as well as to serve on multiple NIH study sections and the Editorial Boards of *Journal of Virology* and *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*. He has also served on several Ph.D. Committees and has been active in directing and teaching courses for both medical and graduate students.
Recent Grant Submissions

- **Dorina Avram, Ph.D.**, Transcriptional Control in Peripheral Tolerance (5 years), NIH, $1,975,000
- **Dana R. Crawford, Ph.D.**, Liver Cancer Risk Factors and the Role of Oxidative Stress (5 years), NIH, $593,338
- **Yoichi Furuya, Ph.D.**, The Role of TGF-B in Mediating Protection to Viral Bacterial Co-Infections in Asthmatics (4 years), AHA, $308,000
- **Yoichi Furuya, Ph.D.**, Identifying Protective Immune Mechanism(s) Against Viral-Bacterial Co-Infection (3 years), ALA, $240,000
- **Karsten R.O. Hazlett, Ph.D.**, Viability of Aerosolized Gram Negative Bacteria; Impact of Growth Media and Atmospheric Conditions (4 years) DOD-DTRA, $2,136,851
- **Lei Jin, Ph.D.**, Cyclic Dinucleotides Mucosal Adjuvant Activity Influenced by Human STING Variations (2 years), NIH, $434,500
- **William O’Connor, Ph.D.**, The Role of IRF3 in Regulations Antimicrobial Peptide Expression, (2 years), NIH, $434,500

Dr. Metzger Receives Fellow Award From American Association for the Advancement of Science

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was recently elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). This award was given in recognition of Dr. Metzger’s distinguished contributions in the field of pulmonary immunity, particularly in explaining how secondary bacterial infections develop following influenza, and in developing new mucosal vaccination approaches. He was presented an official certificate, along with a gold and blue (representing science and engineering, respectively) rosette pin at the AAAS Annual Meeting in San Jose, CA, February, 14, 2015.

Dr. Drake Selected as Member of Faculty of 1000

In the role of Faculty Member, **James R. Drake, Ph.D.**, contributes recommendations and reviews to the Antigen Processing & Recognition Section in the Immunology Faculty, writing brief accessible comments to summarize the value of the articles and adding rating score.

The F1000 Faculty is a body of over 10,000 peer-nominated experts that selects and recommends top articles to the life sciences. The Faculty comprises Heads of Faculty, Heads of Sections, Faculty Members, and Associate Faculty Members, as well as an International Advisory Board.

NYIC 2015 Update

The Upstate New York Immunology Conference (NYIC) has secured dates with the Sagamore Resort and Conference Center for **October 25-28, 2015**. The event will include Keynote Speaker, Dr. Yasmine Belkaid from the National Institutes of Health, (a second keynote speaker to be identified shortly), workshops, selected oral poster presentations, and a vendor fair/poster session. Look for more news on this annual event in the coming months. If you are not on the email list and would like to be, please notify Dawn Bellville at: bellvid@mail.amc.edu
Grant Awards

- **Lei Jin, Ph.D.**, received a five-year, $1,715,429 RO1 grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in support of his research entitled, "Mechanisms of STING-Mediated Mucosal Vaccine Adjuvant Activity of Cyclic di-GMP.

- **Carlos de Noronha, Sc.D.**, received a two-year, $434,500 R21 grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine in support of his research entitled, “Sulforaphane as an Inhibitor of HIV Infection.”

- **Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D.**, received a $40,000 grant ($20,000 from AMC Alumni, Dr. David Nalin, and $20,000 from Merck) to continue research entitled, "The Use of Antigen-pulsed PBMCs as a Vaccine Platform.”

Conferences, Meetings, and Study Sections

**Dana R. Crawford, Ph.D.**, was invited by the Nutrition Science Department at Sage College to give a seminar entitled, “Rational Gene Targeting with Dietary Botanicals to Treat Disease,” Albany, NY, October 24, 2015.

**Dana R. Crawford, Ph.D.**, was invited to give a seminar at the Down Syndrome Aim High Resource Center entitled, “The Therapeutic Benefits of Diet in Down Syndrome and a Novel Treatment Strategy,” in Albany, NY, October 29, 2014.

**Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D.**, was invited to give a seminar entitled, “Fc Receptor-Targeted Vaccines: An Adjuvant-Independent Approach for Mucosal Vaccination,” at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD, November 13, 2014.


**Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.**, served on the External Advisory Board for NIH’s Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) at Dartmouth Medical School to review the school’s research programs in Hanover, NH, February 8-9, 2015.

Peer-reviewed Publications


Graduate Studies Student Awards Day 2015

Graduate Studies Student Awards Day will be held on Thursday, April 16th in ME-700. The program will start at 1:00 pm. Come show your support for the students who will be giving oral presentations based on the scientific quality of their posters. Mark your calendar!
March 5, 2015—11:00 a.m., MS-169

Faculty Candidate

Byron Au-Yeung, Ph.D.
Adjunct Instructor, Department of Medicine
University of California School of Medicine

“Titration of T cell Antigen Receptor Signal Strength Reveals Thresholds for T cell Responses”

March 19, 2015—11:00 a.m., MS-169

Faculty Candidate

Gilad Doitsh, Ph.D.
Staff Research Investigator
Head, HIVE Pathogenesis Research Group
Department of Virology and Immunology—Gladstone Institutes
University of California School of Medicine

“Intrinsic Cellular Defense to HIV-1 Infection Drives CD4 T-Cell Depletion and Progression to AIDS”

March 26, 2015—11:00 a.m., MS-169

Faculty Candidate

Yoichi Furuya, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow
Center for Immunology & Microbial Disease
Albany Medical College

“Susceptibility of Asthmatic Mice to Influenza A Virus Challenge”

April 9, 2015—11:00 a.m., Huyck Auditorium

Sebastian Joyce, Ph.D.
Professor of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

“A Border Patrol Gone Awry: NKT Cell Activation by Francisella leads the Host Astray Toward Pathology”

April 23, 2015—11:00 a.m., Huyck Auditorium

Clara Abraham, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine
Yale School of Medicine

“TBA”