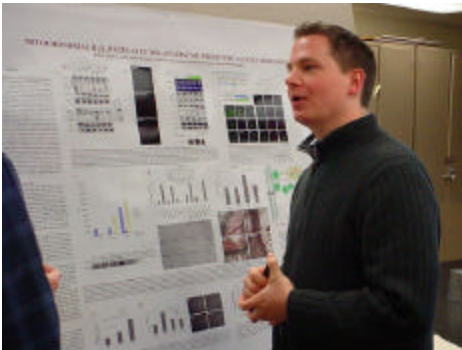


Dr. Zhang Receives \$1.7M Grant

Jing-Ren Zhang, Ph.D. has been awarded a five-year, \$1.7 million grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications Disorders in support of his research entitled, "Otitis Media-associated Pneumococcal Genes." Dr. Zhang is conducting basic research with the ultimate goal of developing a new vaccine for middle ear infections caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria, the most common cause of such infections.

Prizes Awarded to Graduate Student



Kip Connor, graduate student, was awarded the Dean's Certificate and Prize for Excellence in Research on Graduate Student Poster Day, February 2, 2005.

Kip's oral presentation won first place in the Richard Miller Alumni Prize for Outstanding Research Presentations. The presentation, given on March 3, 2005 was entitled, "Mitochondrial H₂O₂ Regulates the Angiogenic Phenotype via PTEN Oxidation."

(Mentor: **Dr. J. Andrés Melendez**)

Congratulations Kip!

CIMD Faculty Search Announced

The Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease has initiated a search for applicants interested in an Assistant/Associate Professor, tenure-track faculty position who have a doctoral degree, postdoctoral experience and demonstrated research productivity. The successful candidate will establish an independent, extramurally-funded research program and participate in teaching medical and graduate students. Preference will be given to candidates with an interest in bacterial pathogenesis.



Theobald Smith

2005 Theobald Smith Annual Lecture

Peter Palese, Ph.D.

Member, National Academy of Sciences
Professor and Chairman, Department of Microbiology
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

"Lessons Learned from the 1918 Influenza Pandemic"

Thursday, April 28, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in ME-700

8th Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference

We are pleased to announce the opening of the online registration site for the 8th Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference (NYIC) being held October 9-12, 2005. This year's Conference has been extended to three days and is taking place during the height of Fall foliage in the Adirondack Mountains. Accommodations are expected to fill quickly. If you plan on attending, please visit the website to register at www.amc.edu/NYIC.



Tularemia Workshop 2005

CIMD is organizing a *Francisella tularensis* Workshop to be held at Jiminy Peak in Hancock, MA on November 6-8, 2005. This Workshop will be by invitation only and on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in attending this Workshop, please contact Dawn Bellville at x25365 or bellvid@mail.amc.edu for more information.

Dr. Banas Presents at UCLA

Jeffrey A. Banas, Ph.D. presented to the Oral Biology Department at UCLA in Los Angeles, CA on March 18, 2005. His presentation was entitled, "Glucan Binding Protein-A of *Streptococcus mutans*."

Dr. Banas also attended the International Association for Dental Research Conference in Baltimore, Maryland on March 9-12, 2005. The Conference was sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology and the American Association for Dental Research.

Dr. Nashar Invited Speaker at Buffalo

Toufic Nashar, Ph.D. was invited to present at the University of Buffalo on January 28, 2005. His talk was entitled, "The Pathway of Antigen Uptake and Processing Dictates MHC II - mediated B cell Survival and Activation."

Dr. Nashar also presented at the AAI meeting that was held March 31-April 6, 2005 in San Diego, CA. His talk was entitled, "The Pathway of Antigen Uptake and Processing and MHC Class II Ligation by Different mAbs Dictate MHC Class II Mediated Signals and Their Functional Outcome in B Cells."

Dr. Metzger Serves on Review Committees

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D. served on the NIH/NIAID Regional Centers of Excellence in Biodefense & Emerging Disease Research Review Committee Special Emphasis Panel via telephone conference calls that took place on January 5, 19, and 25, 2005. A final review took place on February 17, 2005 in Gaithersburg, MD.

Dr. Metzger was appointed as Chair of the External Scientific Advisory Board of NIH's Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) at Dartmouth Medical School and reviewed the School's research programs on March 6-9, 2005.

He also served on the NIH/CSR Musculoskeletal Tissue Engineering Study Section March 17-18, 2005 in Bethesda, MD.

Dr. Gosselin Serves on Study Sections

Edmund Gosselin, Ph.D. served on two study sections, "Microbial Disease" and "Microbial Vaccine Development" in Washington, DC on March 28-29, 2005.

Dr. Lopez Presents at Symposium

Maria C. Lopez, Ph.D. attended the Keystone Symposium "Innate Immunity to Pathogens" on January 8-13, 2005 in Steamboat, CO and presented a poster entitled, "Mucosal Immunity to *Francisella tularensis* LVS After Pneumonic Infection."

Welcome Spring!

PREP Scholar Attends Symposium

Evonne Johnson, a PREP (Post-baccalaureate Research Education Program) scholar (Mentor: **Dr. Karen Duus**), attended the Tenth Annual Rocky Mountain McNair Research Symposium and Graduate Education Conference in Denver, CO on March 31-April 3, 2005. These potential graduate students, McNair Scholars, come from backgrounds under-represented at the graduate education level, namely, low income and first generation college students and/or Native American, Hispanic American or African American students. Evonne provided first-hand information to prospective applicants to the PREP program such as how to apply, the Interdisciplinary Research Centers at Albany Medical College, rotations, bench research and course work.

CIMD Welcomes Visiting Scientist

Vitaly Pavlov, Ph.D., a world renowned expert in the study of the biothreat agent *Francisella tularensis*, is serving as CIMD Visiting Scientist, March 7-May 5, 2005. In particular, Dr. Pavlov has developed the molecular tools and techniques required to genetically manipulate *F. tularensis* using an innocuous strain of *Escherichia coli* to transfer DNA to *F. tularensis*. A critical aspect of his visit is to facilitate the training of investigators involved in the NIH/Biodefense Program Project grant in the application of these techniques. The research efforts carried out by Dr. Pavlov are supported by the National Research Council through funds provided to **Dr. Timothy Sellati** as a participant in the Exchange Program with Former Soviet Union Institutes in the Biomedical Sciences.



Publications

Lopez MC and Holmes N. CD45 knockout mice, diet, and colitis. In the absence of CD45, colitis follows dietary changes. *Ann N Y Acad Sci* 1029:355-7, 2004.

Olmos S, Marquez MG, **Lopez MC** and Roux ME. The role of transforming growth factor β in a model of oral tolerance to the diet antigen dextrin. *Ann N Y Acad Sci* 1029:371-3, 2004.

Benhia MR, **Wroblewski D**, **Akhtar MN**, Patel RA, Lavezzi W, Gangloff SC, Goyert SM, Caimano MJ, Radolf JD and **Sellati TJ**. Signaling through CD14 attenuates the inflammatory response to *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the agent of lyme disease. *J Immunol* 174(3):1539-48, 2005.

Connor KM, **Subbaram S**, **Regan KJ**, **Nelson KK**, Mazurkiewicz JE, Bartholomew PJ, Aplin AE, Tai YT, Aguirre-Ghiso J, Flores SC and **Melendez JA**. Mitochondrial H₂O₂ regulates the angiogenic phenotype via PTEN oxidation. *J Biol Chem* 2005, in press.

NcNealy TL, Forsbach-Birk V, Shi C, and Marre R. The Hfq homolog in legionella pneumophila demonstrates regulation by LetA and RpoS and interacts with the global regulator CsrA. *J Bacteriol* 187(4):1527-32, 2005.

Duckett NS, **Olmos S**, **Durrant DM**, and **Metzger DW**. Protection against pneumonic infection with *Francisella tularensis* LVS by intranasal IL-12 treatment. *Infect Immun* 73:2306-2311, 2005.

Lopez MC, **Duckett NS**, **Baron SD**, and **Metzger DW**. Early activation of NK cells after lung infection with the intracellular bacterium, *Francisella tularensis* LVS. *Cell Immunol* 2005, in press.



2004 CIMD Research Retreat and Picnic

Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease
Albany Medical College
47 New Scotland Ave., MC-151
Albany, NY 12208-3479

Phone: 518-262-6750

Fax: 518-262-6161

Website: www.amc.edu/academic/research/imd

We're on the web!

If you have an item you would like included in the next Newsletter issue, please put them in my mail box or e-mail your items to me at: Bellvid@mail.amc.edu Thank you.

Deadline for submission: 06/15/05

Next print date: July 2005

Dawn Bellville, Editor

Spring Events

57th Annual Albany Tulip Festival

May 6-8, 2005

Washington Park, Albany

Music, food, crafts, children's activities, etc.

Fire and Spice Festival

May 8, 2005

Inlet, NY

Hot and Spicy food competition & festival.

Queen's Great Boat Race Weekend

May 20-22, 2005

Lake George Village; Bolton Landing

Cruise ship race, fireworks, music, etc.

For more information visit: www.iloveny.state.ny.us

Upcoming CIMD Seminars

April 18, 2005

(12:00 p.m. in MS-316)

Charles Kulpa, Ph.D.

Chairman, Department of Biological Sciences
University of Notre Dame

**"Assessing the 'Green' Nature of New Chemicals:
Microbial Toxicity and Antimicrobial Activity of Ionic Liquids,
Possible Replacements for Volatile Solvents"**

April 25, 2005

(12:00 p.m. in MS-316)

Jonathan A. Harton, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Medical Microbiology and Immunology
University of South Florida

**"CIITA to CATERPILLER: Regulators of Acquired
and Innate Immunity"**

April 28, 2005

(4:00 p.m. in ME-700)

Theobald Smith Annual Lecture

Peter Palese, Ph.D.

Member of the National Academy of Sciences
Professor and Chairman, Department of Microbiology
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

"Lessons Learned from the 1918 Influenza Pandemic"

May 2, 2005

(12:00 p.m. in MS-316)

Ralph R. Isberg, Ph.D.

Professor of Bioscience & Biotechnology
Drexel University, Philadelphia

**"Human Tissue Xenografts: Targets for Infection by
Fastidious Human Viruses"**

May 16, 2005

(12:00 p.m. in MS-316)

Meg Vickerkman, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Periodontics and Endodontics
SUNY Buffalo

"TBA"

For more information, please check our website.

Did you know....

Christopher Collins, graduate student, had his photography featured on the cover of the December-January edition of *"Student Perspectives"* (an AMC student newspaper). The picture was of St. Regis River in the Adirondacks. An additional photo can also be found on page 9 of *Student Perspectives, Edition 8*.