

2004 CIMD, A YEAR IN REVIEW

We welcomed two new faculty, **Carlos de Noronha** from the Gladstone Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology, Univ. of California and **Karen Duus** from the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the School of Dentistry, University of North Carolina.

Faculty appointments included **Jeff Banas**: Professor (tenure track, tenured), **Mario Canki**: Assistant Professor, (tenure track, non-tenured), **Jim Drake**: Associate Professor, (tenure track, tenured) and **Jim McSharry**: Professor Emeritus

Faculty funding totaled **\$3.7 million** including \$3.44M in NIH funding. The new institutional rankings for NIH funding in fiscal year 2003 were published and out of all Microbiology/Immunology/Virology departments in the nation, **CIMD ranked 56 out of 99**. That is up from #70 in 2002. CIMD is clearly on the right track because of everyone's hard work!

M.S. Degrees awarded: **Adriana Caballero, Jaya Dasgupta, Ling Lu, David Lynch, Ekaterina Petrova, Elizabeth Ricciardi, Odeniel Sertil,** and **Keer Sun**

Ph.D. Degrees awarded: **Diana Albu, Kristin Nelson,** and **Mark Preissler**

Graduate student funding included **Odeniel (Dan) Sertil** who received \$71,700 for two years from the NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) in support of his thesis work entitled "Oxygen Regulation of Gene Expression in Yeast."

Graduate Student Poster and Research Day Awards:

- **Paul Arnaboldi** received 2 awards:
 - Dean's Certificate and Prize in Recognition of Excellence in Research
 - The Richard Miller Alumni Prize for the Most Outstanding Research Presentations
- **Lori DeFreest**: Dean's Certificate and Prize for Excellence in Extramural Research Activities
- **Erica McGovern**: Alumni Research Award
- **Kristen Nelson**: Graduate Student Alumni Award
- **Mark Preissler** received 2 awards:
 - Dean's Certificate
 - Dr. Frank C. Ferguson, Jr. Award for Excellence in the Quality of Science

Paul Arnaboldi received a \$500 travel award from the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies.

Kip Connor received the \$700 Ethel Burack-Cohn Alumni Memorial Scholarship Award from the AMC Alumni Association.

Kip Connor and **Kevin Regan** (SUNYA undergraduate student and research technician) each received a \$500 travel award from the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine.

Emily Roberge, a junior at SUNY Albany and research technician, received the Department of Biological Sciences Excellence in Research Award at SUNYA's Undergraduate Research Symposium for her poster entitled, "Inhibition of HIV-1 Replication in T cells by Aqueous Extracts from *Prunella vulgaris* and *Sargassum fusiforme*." Emily is mentored by Dr. Canki.

Annual CIMD Research Retreat Prizes for Outstanding Posters:

Undergraduates and Lab Technicians—**Jana Hoffmeister**

1st and 2nd Year Graduate Students —**Cherie Fontaine**: 1st Place; **Shawn Baron and Justin Wilson**: 2nd Place tie

3rd, 4th and 5th Year Graduate Students —**Lori DeFreest**: 1st Place; **Adriana Caballero**: 2nd Place; **Erica McGovern**: 3rd Place

CIMD Students Pass Oral Exam For Admission to Candidacy

Christopher Collins

“Mechanisms of phagocytosis of
Francisella tularensis in macrophages.”
Mentor: James R. Drake, Ph.D.

Jaya Dasgupta

“Defining Signaling Pathways that Regulate Age-Dependent Increases in MMP-13 Production”
Mentor: J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D.

Sita Subbaram

“Redox Regulation of Pre-initiation Complex Formation During MMP-1 Transcription”
Mentor: J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Eight AMC Faculty Invited to Attend NIH/NIAID Tularemia Meeting in Montana

Eight AMC faculty members were invited to participate in the NIH/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Tularemia Workshop held at the NIAID Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton, Montana on October 3-4, 2004. [Maria Lopez, Ph.D.](#), [J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D.](#), [Dennis Metzger, Ph.D.](#) and [Timothy Sellati, Ph.D.](#) gave presentations at the meeting. Also attending were [James Drake, Ph.D.](#), [Edmund Gosselin, Ph.D.](#), [Michelle Lennartz, Ph.D.](#) (CCBCR) and [Jing-Ren Zhang, Ph.D.](#)

Dr. Sellati Travels to Japan

[Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D.](#), gave a talk entitled, “Pattern Recognition Receptor Deficiency Compromises Host Resistance to Pneumonic Tularemia” at the 8th Annual Conference of the International Endotoxin Society in Kyoto, Japan on November 15-18, 2004.

Dr. Gosselin Asked to Give Presentation

[Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D.](#) gave a presentation at Utica College on November 22, 2004 entitled, “Human Immune Responses to *Francisella Tularensis*.”

Dr. Sabirov Receives Award

[Albert Sabirov, Ph.D.](#) received an award of \$900 from the 11th Japanese Rhinologic Society for outstanding merit based on his publication, “Intranasal Immunization with Outer Membrane Protein P6 and Cholera Toxin Induces Specific Sinus Mucosal Immunity and Enhances Sinus Clearance of Non-typeable *Haemophilus Influenzae*” (*Vaccine* 22:3112-3121, 2004).

Dr. Metzger Presents at Biodefense 2004 in Boston

[Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.](#) was invited to give a presentation at the 2004 Biodefense meeting on September 20, 2004 at Harvard Medical School in Boston. The presentation was entitled, “Mucosal Immunopathogenesis of *Francisella tularensis*.”

Dr. Crawford Receives Grant

[Dana Crawford, Ph.D.](#) was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Bender Foundation to study the “Role of Adapt78 in Down Syndrome”.

Dr. Crawford Presents in St. Thomas

[Dr. Crawford](#) attended the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine 11th Annual meeting in St. Thomas and gave a presentation entitled, “Adapt78, an oxidative and calcium-mediated inhibitor of calcineurin.”

Travel Awards

[Elena Paskalvea, Ph.D.](#) received a travel scholarship to attend the 12th Annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections to be held in Boston, Massachusetts on February 22-25, 2005 and will present a poster entitled "Regulation of HIV-1 Transcription by NF- κ B, SP-1 and Histone Acetylation in Primary Human Astrocytes."

[Kip Connor](#), a graduate student, and [Kevin Regan](#), a University at Albany student and CIMD research technician both received travel awards in the amount of \$500 from the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine. The award allowed them to attend the organization's 11th annual meeting in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands on November 17-21, 2004. Kip gave two presentations entitled, "Mitochondrial-derived H2O₂ Mediates the Cellular Redistribution of Phosphoinositides" and "Mitochondrial H2O₂ Regulates the Angiogenic Phenotype via PTEN Oxidation." Kevin's presentation was entitled, "Critical Role of Fe-SOD in Bacterial Bioterrorism Agent *Francisella tularensis*." (Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez)

[Kip Connor](#) also received the Ethel Burack-Cohn Alumni Memorial Scholarship from the AMC Alumni Association in the amount of \$700 which he will receive yearly until he graduates.

[Albert Sabirov, Ph.D.](#) received a travel award in the amount of \$500 to participate in the Association for Research in Otolaryngology Mid-Winter Meeting to be held February 19-24, 2005 in New Orleans, Louisiana. His presentation will be entitled, "Intranasal Vaccination Against Pneumococcal Otitis Media in Neonatal Mice."

Congratulations!!

Publications

[Lopez MC](#) and [Holmes N.](#) Phenotypical and Functional Alterations in the Mucosal Immune System of CD45 Exon 9 KO Mice. *International Immunology* 17(1):15-25, 2005.

[Nashar TO](#) and [Drake JD.](#) The Pathway of Antigen Uptake and Processing Dictates MHC Class II-mediated B Cell Survival and Activation. *J Immunol*, 2005 (in press).

[Hodde J](#), [Hiles M](#), [Sillings N](#) and [Metzger D](#) Host Accommodation of Acellular Xenogeneic Matrix. *Immunology* 2004, pp. 429-432.

[Fernandez AD](#), [Elmore MK](#) and [Metzger DW.](#) Azithromycin Modulates Murine Immune Responses to Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and Inhibits Nasal Clearance of Bacteria. *J. Infect. Dis.* 190:1762-1766, 2004.

[Nelson KK](#) and [Melendez JA.](#) Mitochondrial Redox Control of Matrix metalloproteinases. *Free Radic Biol Med.* Sept 15;37(6):768-84, 2004.

[Sun K](#), [Johansen FE](#) and [Metzger DW.](#) An Important Role for Polymeric Ig Receptor-Mediated Transport of IgA in Protection Against Streptococcus pneumoniae Nasopharyngeal Carriage. *J Immunol* 173:4576-4581, 2004.

[Preissler MT](#), [Kaiser L](#), [Drake JR](#) and [Gosselin EJ.](#) Low Level Signaling Generated by Fc γ RIIB-B Cell Receptor Co-Ligation Establishes a State of Global B Cell Receptor Non-responsiveness. *J Immunol* 173(7):4576-81, 2004.

[Ao X](#), [Sellati TJ](#) and [Stenken JA.](#) Enhanced Microdialysis Relative Recovery of Inflammatory Cytokines Using Antibody-coated micropheres Analyzed by Flow Cytometry. *Anal Chem* 76(13):3777-84, 2004.

[Meissner EG](#), [Duus KM](#), [Gao F](#), [Yu XF](#) and [Su L.](#) Characterization of a Thymus-tropic HIV-1 Isolate From a Rapid Progressor: Role of the Envelope. *Virology* 328(1):74-88, 2004.



2004 CIMD Research Retreat and Picnic

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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: 03/15/05
Next print date: April 2005
Dawn Bellville, Editor

Spring Events

Dance Flurry

Saratoga Springs, NY

02/18/2005 - 02/20/2005

Traditional dance festival, Dancing, performances, workshops, crafts and more for entire family.

The Fantastiks Dinner Theatre

Fly Creek, NY 03/11/2005

Portabello's Restaurant in Fly Creek is presenting The Fantastik's Dinner Theatre. Come view this great production while dining on their fine Mediterranean Cuisine.

6th Annual Epicurean Food Tasting Festival

Cooperstown, NY 03/20/2005

Over thirty restaurants and catering facilities showcase their specialties! Come bid on unique auction items!! Call for advance tickets.

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

Upcoming Events in CIMD...

Seminar Speakers

January 10, 2005

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

P. Bryon Backenson

Acting Director

Anthropod-Borne Disease Program
NYSDOH, Albany

*"Tick-Borne Disease Research at the
New York State Department of Health"*

January 31, 2005

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

David D. Roberts, Ph.D.

Chief, Biochemical Pathology Section
Laboratory of Pathology, CCR, NCI

*"Sensing the Host Environment by an
Opportunistic Pathogen, Candida albicans"*

February 7, 2005

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

Mary K. Howett, Ph.D.

Professor of Bioscience & Biotechnology
Drexel University, Philadelphia

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

February 14, 2005

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

Howard Shuman, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Microbiology
College of Physicians & Surgeons, Columbia

*"Intracellular Growth of Legionella pneumophila in
Macrophages and Protozoa"*

For more information, please check our website.

Birth Announcements

Dr. Chuck Lowry's wife, Natasha, gave birth to twin boys, Michael and Matthew, on September 20, 2004.

Dr. Jing-Ren Zhang and his wife Daimin also celebrated the birth of their son, Howard, on December 29, 2004.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Poster Printing for Student Poster Day

All graduate students who need a new poster printed for the Annual Graduate Student Poster Day (February 2, 2005) must schedule a printing time with Dawn. Time slots are given on a first come, first served basis.