



Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease

Albany Medical College Albany, NY

## 2004 CIMD RESEARCH RETREAT AND PICNIC



*Oral presentations were given by:*

**Carlos de Noronha, Sc.D.**

“Dissecting the Functions of HIV-1 Vpr”

**Karen M. Duus, Ph.D.**

“Adventures in Viral Pathogenesis”

**Toufic Nashar, Ph.D.**

“Understanding Antigen Uptake, Processing and Presentation: Signaling Pathways and Functional Significance”

**Wen Yang, Ph.D.**

“Experimental Allergic Lung Inflammation and Airway Responsiveness in FcγRIIB Deficient Mice”

**Keer Sun, M.S.**

“The Role of Respiratory Antibody in Protection Against Streptococcus pneumoniae Infection”

**Kip Connor, M.S.**

“Hydrogen Peroxide Regulates the PI3K Signaling Cascade via Oxidation of the Tumor Suppressor PTEN”

*CIMD Students, technicians and undergraduates presented posters. The prizes for outstanding presentations based on faculty judging were:*

### Undergraduates and Lab Technicians

**Jana Hoffmeister**

### First and Second Year Graduate Students

First Prize - **Cherie Fontaine**

Second Prize - **Shawn Baron** and **Justin Wilson** (tied)

### Third, Fourth and Fifth Year Graduate Students

First Prize - **Lori DeFreest**

Second Prize - **Adriana Caballero**

Third Prize - **Erica McGovern**

## CIMD Receives NIH/NIAID Funding for Immunology Conference

The **Center for Immunology & Microbial Disease** has received a 5-year \$45,000 renewal grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to support the Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference (NYIC) held at The Sagamore in Bolton Landing, NY. This nationally recognized Conference began in 1998 to promote interactions among immunologists in Upstate New York and has grown to include over 120 participants from AMC, Trudeau Institute, Wadsworth Center, Cornell University, Roswell Park Cancer Center, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Upstate Medical University and University of Rochester. For more information about this year's Conference (November 14-16, 2004), please go to <http://www.amc.edu/NYIC>.

## Dr. Sellati Collaborates with Former Soviet Researchers

Timothy Sellati, Ph.D., heard a story on his recent trip to Russia as part of an exchange program designed to draw bioterror scientists from the former Soviet Union into mainstream pursuits. Researchers who once helped the Soviet Union engineer biological weapons are now so badly paid that they often head to the market to sell vegetables to support their families after working at the lab. Dr. Sellati's trip was sponsored by the Pentagon's Defense Threat Reduction Agency. The exchange focuses on four deadly diseases: anthrax, plague, brucellosis and tularemia. Tularemia, also called rabbit fever, is caused by the bacterium *Francisella tularensis*, which is typically found in rabbits and rodents.

The basic idea is to "move bioweaponers into civilian pursuits," according to Dr. Sellati. In Russia, Dr. Sellati toured two research facilities - one that was relatively advanced and another where the "laboratory structure was literally caving in around them." Dr. Sellati stated, "There are junior high school labs here in the U. S. that have better equipment."

## Dr. Gosselin Receives Bridge Grant

Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D., received a Bridge Grant from AMC in the amount of \$36,000 for his research entitled, "Enhanced Immunity to Bacterial Pathogens Using Anti-FcgRI-Ag Fusion Proteins."

***Congratulations Dr. Gosselin!***

## Dr. Sellati Receives New Grant

Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D., has been selected to receive a \$20,000 research grant from the National Research Council's Exchange Program with Former Soviet Union Institutes in the Biomedical Sciences in support of his collaboration with a Russian scientist also performing research on tularemia. This is follow-up to Dr. Sellati's five day trip to Russia and Kazakhstan in July.

***Congratulations Dr. Sellati!***

## Dr. Bakshi Receives Travel Award

Shekhar Bakshi, D.V.M., Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, was selected to give an oral presentation based on his paper entitled, "T-bet Deficiency Facilitates Airway Colonization by *Mycoplasma pulmonis*" at the 37th Annual Meeting of the Society for Leukocyte Biology. Dr. Bakshi also received a \$350 student/travel award from the Society to attend this meeting which was held in Toronto, Canada on October 21-23, 2004. Co-authors on the paper are his mentor, Dr. Timothy Sellati, and Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Meenakshi Malik.

## Odeniel Sertil Receives Award

Odeniel (Dan) Sertil, CIMD Ph.D. graduate student, has received a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) from the NIH in the amount of \$71,700 for two years to support his thesis work, "Oxygen Regulation of Gene Expression in Yeast." (Mentor: Charles V. Lowry, Ph.D.)

***Congratulations, Dan!***



### Publications

Barnes WG, Grinde E, [Crawford DR](#), Herrick-Davis K and Hough LB. Characterization of a New mRNA Species From the Human Histamine N-methyltransferase Gene. *Genomics* 83:168-71, 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. *Journal of Immunology* 173:4576-4581, 2004.

### 12 from CIMD Attend International Congress of Immunology Meeting in Montreal

Twelve CIMD faculty, lab assistants and graduate students attended the 12th International Congress of Immunology in Montreal, July 18-23, 2004. Attendees to the Congress included approximately 10,000 immunologists from around the world. [Dr. Maria Lopez](#) was invited to give an oral presentation. All CIMD students presented posters and [Paul Arnaboldi](#) and [Keer Sun](#) were also invited to give oral presentations.

### Kip Connor Gives Two Research Presentations

[Kip Connor](#), a Ph.D. graduate student, was recently invited to give two presentations on his research entitled "Redox Regulation of the Tumor Suppressor PTEN Controls the Angiogenic Switch," at Children's Hospital of Harvard Medical School on June 30th and Ohio State University on July 20-25, 2004. (Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez)

### Dr. Melendez Invited to Give Presentation

[J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D.](#), was invited to give a presentation at the James Brown Cancer Center, University of Louisville, Kentucky on June 17, 2004. The talk was entitled, "The Role of Mitochondrial Superoxide Dismutase in Cancer: Friend or Foe?"

### Dr. Metzger Gives Presentation on Biodefense Research at Harvard

[Dr. Dennis W. Metzger](#) was invited to give a presentation entitled, "Mucosal Immunopathogenesis of *Francisella tularensis*" at the second annual New England Regional Symposium, Frontiers in Mucosal Immunology (FIMI) "Mucosal Vaccines" on September 20, 2004 at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

### Research Associate Joins Dr. Zhang's Lab

[Zhuo Ma, D.V.M., Ph.D.](#), joined Dr. Zhang's lab in July 2004. Dr. Ma received his Ph.D. in pathology at the Nanjing Agricultural University (China) in 1996. He came to the U.S. in 1999 and did his postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. John Foster at the University of Southern Alabama in Mobile. He studied *E. coli* acid resistance mechanisms and published six research papers, including four first author publications. Dr. Ma's current research project involves gene regulation of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in response to environmental stress.

***Welcome Dr. Ma!***





2004 CIMD Research Retreat and Picnic

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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](mailto:Bellvid@mail.amc.edu) Thank you.

**Deadline for submission: 12/15/04**

Next print date: January 2005

Dawn Bellville, Editor

## Fall Events in the Capital Region

### *Hadley-Luzerne Community Fall Festival*

*White-water rafting, October fest, & Fireworks*

**Lake Luzerne, NY**

*10/8/04-10/10/04*

### *Pumpkin Festival*

*Fun for all!*

**Norwich, NY**

*10/29/04-10/30/04*

### *Adirondack Christmas Train*

*Christmas caroling and characters*

**Utica, NY**

*11/26/04*

### *Nutcracker Ballet*

**Chenango Ballet Theater-Oneonta, NY**

*12/17/04*

For more information visit: [www.iloveny.state.ny.us](http://www.iloveny.state.ny.us)

## Upcoming Events in CIMD...

### Seminar Speakers

October 18, 2004

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

BIODEFENSE SERIES

**Bret Purcell, Ph.D., M.D.**

Infectious Disease Physician

Chief, Bacterial Therapeutics, Bacteriology Division

USAMRIID

**"USAMRIID: The Home of Biodefense"**

November 1, 2004

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

**Andrea J. Sant, Ph.D.**

Professor of Microbiology and Immunology

David H. Smith Center for Vaccine Biology & Immunology

**"TBA"**

November 22, 2004

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

**Anthony Szema, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine & Surgery

SUNY Stonybrook

**"Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide (VIP) and Asthma"**

December 6, 2004

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

**Richard S. Blumberg, M.D.**

Associate Professor of Medicine

Harvard Medical School

**"Regulation of Antigen Transport Across Epithelial Barriers Mediated by Neonatal FcReceptor"**

*For more information, please check our website.*

## Poster Printing for 2004 NYIC Meeting

Anyone planning to present a poster at the 2004 Upstate New York Immunology Conference (November 14-16, 2004) and need a new poster printed, must schedule time with Dawn. No posters will be printed the week of November 8-12, 2004.

## Notice to Third Year Graduate Students

This is a reminder that all current third year graduate students are due to present their thesis proposal to their Thesis Committee before January 15, 2005.