2012 CIMD Accomplishments

Once again, faculty, trainees, and staff in the Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease contributed greatly to the success of not only the Center, but also to Albany Medical College. While there were numerous accomplishments, some of the highlights include:

- **CIMD received a $10.2M NIH Program Project Grant** to fund years 9-13 of its current biodefense research against *Francisella tularensis*, the largest research grant ever awarded to AMC.
- Funding totaling $4.6 Million (rank of 45/99 in NIH funding among all U.S. medical school microbiology and immunology programs) including individual awards to:
  - Kouacou V. Konan, Ph.D., received a 1-year, $392,758 NIH Bridge Grant in support of his research entitled, “Nonstructural 4B Protein and Hepatitis C Virus Replication Complex,”; as well as, a 2-year, $434,500 NIH Grant in support of his research entitled, “Nonstructural 4B Protein and Hepatitis C Virus Protection.”
  - Thomas D. Friedrich, Ph.D., received a 2-year, $437,389 NIH grant in support of his research entitled, “The DNA Damage Response as a Therapeutic Target in BK Virus Nephropathy.” (David J. Conti, M.D., F.A.C.S., Co-Investigator)
  - James R. Drake, Ph.D., received a 2-year, $434,500 Exploratory/Development grant from NIH in support of his research entitled, “Characterization of the MHC Class II Peptide Loading Complex.”
  - Guangchun Bai, M.D., Ph.D., received a 4-year, $308,000 AHA Scientist Development grant in support of his research entitled, “Interaction Between TB Bacilli and Host via Cyclic Nucleotides.”
  - Dana R. Crawford, Ph.D., received a 5-year, $200,174 NIH subcontract award in support of his research entitled, “Alfaxoxin B1 Hepatocarcinogenesis in GSTA3 Knockout Mice.”
- 28 papers were published in peer-reviewed journals
- Faculty members participated in 19 study sections, review panels, and national advisory boards
- Karsten R.O. Hazlett, Ph.D., was promoted to Associate Professor (tenure track, non-tenured)
- Guangchun Bai, M.D., Ph.D., was promoted to Assistant Professor (tenure track, non-tenured)
- William O’Connor, Jr., Ph.D. and Lei Jin, Ph.D., joined the CIMD faculty
- Six Postdoctoral Fellows joined CIMD
- Four graduate students received degrees. They are: Bhuvana Katkere (Ph.D.), Kathleen Busman-Sahay (Ph.D.), Lydia Civello (M.S.), and Martina Svetlik (M.S.)
- Nine research support staff joined CIMD
CIMD staff attended the Annual Holiday Party at the Mohawk River County Club in Rexford, NY on December 10, 2012. Everyone enjoyed a relaxing evening of socializing. Festivities closed with a slide show presentation by Dr. Metzger of this year’s many accomplishments (see page 1.).
Conferences, Meetings and Study Sections

Dana R. Crawford, Ph.D., was invited to give a seminar entitled, “Bioinformatics and Rational Gene Targeting,” at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rensselaer, NY, October 11, 2012.


Mario Canki, Ph.D., was appointed as a Member of the Editorial Board of Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases. The appointment was effective in November 2012.

Mario Canki, Ph.D., was invited to serve on the National Institutes of Health, Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel Small Business: AIDS/HIV Innovative Research Applications, via IAM (internet assisted meeting, November 27-28, 2012.

Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D., was invited to give a seminar entitled, “Fc Receptor-Targeted Vaccines: An Adjuvant-Independent Approach for Mucosal Vaccination Against Intracellular and Extracellular Mucosal Pathogens,” for the Center for Genetics & Pharmacology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY, December 10, 2012.

William O’Connor, Jr., Ph.D., was invited to participate as an external working group member.

(Continued on page 4)

Dr. Jin Receives Sub-Contract Award

Lei Jin, Ph.D., received a two-year, $94,595 sub-contract award from the University of Colorado in support of his work entitled, “Mouse Modeling of a Human STING Gene Variant for Infectious Disease.

Peer-reviewed Publications


(Continued on page 4)
Knowledge is our goal, Teamwork and Excellence is our standard.

If you have an item you would like considered for the next edition, please submit it to Dawn Bellville at: Bellvid@mail.amc.edu Thank you.

Deadline for submission: 5/15/13

Next Issue: May 2013

(Continued from page 3)

for the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Modeling Immunity for Biodefense Program (MIB), in Bethesda MD, December 11, 2012. Group members work directly with NIAID staff to improve overall success of the MIB Contract Program and provide recommendations regarding Program progress and future directions.

Dana R. Crawford, Ph.D., was appointed as Associate Editor of the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease, effective January 1, 2013.

(Continued from page 3)

Blutt SE, Miller AD, Salmon SL, Metzger DW, and Conner ME. IgA is important for clearance and critical for protection from rotavirus infection. Mucosal Immunol. 5:712-9, 2012.


Welcome New Staff Members

Postdoctoral Fellows: Kathleen Busman-Sahay, Ph.D. Kun Liu, Ph.D. Thi Hong Nga Le, Ph.D.

Research Staff: Divya Sai Katikaneni Martina Svetlik

Upcoming CIMD Seminars

February 25, 2013

12 Noon, MS-316 Timothy Sellati, Host

Lee Ann Allen, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease
University of Iowa Health Care

“Manipulation of Human Neutrophil Function and Lifespan by Francisella tularensis”

www.amc.edu/Research/IMD