Dr. Hazlett Receives $3.1M Defense Department Grant

Karsten R.O. Hazlett, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, has received a $3.1 million 5.5-year grant from the U.S. Department of Defense in support of his research entitled "Protein and Lipid Signatures of Francisella tularensis and Acinetobacter baumannii". This research will be performed in collaboration with the University of Maryland and the University of Chicago.

2010 Federal Funding Levels Highlight the Continued Success of CIMD’s Research Programs

The research program based within the Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease (CIMD) has brought together a diverse group of investigators with expertise in the fields of microbiology, cell biology, and immunology who explore, in an integrated fashion, the pathogenesis of infectious diseases, novel platforms for protection from such diseases, and the role of infectious agents in exacerbating other medical conditions. Areas of research interests include immunology, microbial and viral pathogenesis, and molecular mechanisms responsible for human disease. For fiscal year 2010, AMC programs with this particular focus in CIMD were awarded $8.8M in NIH funding, which included $5.5M in non-ARRA funding and $3.3M in ARRA funding. This represents 55% of total annual NIH funding to Albany Medical College. In FY 2010, AMC’s rank for NIH funding among medical schools in the Microbiology and Immunology category was 41 out of a total of 95, which was up from a rank of 43 in 2009, 50 in 2008, 52 in 2007 and 55 in 2006. This ranking is indicative of the tremendous, continuing success CIMD has had since reorganization of basic sciences at AMC. Indeed, recent NIH grant reviewers have stated that AMC has become “an internationally-recognized infectious disease research institution”.

While many research programs in the Capital Region and Upstate New York are struggling to continue existence, our level of success has been achieved with involvement of only 20% of total College faculty and reflects the long-term, close working relationships that exist among these investigators, relationships that are enhanced by the multidisciplinary structure of the IRCs. Such integration has provided the basis for the long-standing award of an NIH/NIAID PO1 Program Project grant in Biodefense and Emerging Infections to AMC.
**Dr. Bai Receives Grant**

Guangchun Bai, M.D., Ph.D., received a six-month, $24,000 grant from The Potts Memorial Foundation in support of his research entitled, “Biological Roles of c-di-AMP and c-di-GMP in Mycobacterium Tuberculosis.”

**Dr. MacNamara Receives One-Year Grant**

Katherine C. MacNamara, Ph.D., received a one-year, $65,500 grant from the National Blood Foundation for her project entitled, “IFNγ-Mediated Control of Hematopoietic Stem and Progenitor Cell Differentiation.”

**Dr. Metzger Invited to Serve as JI Associate Editor**

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was invited to serve as an Associate Editor of The Journal of Immunology. The invitation was extended in recognition of his outstanding performance as a knowledgeable, fair, and prompt referee. The appointment is effective for a two-year period which began July 1, 2011.

**Dr. Sun Receives Pfizer’s ASPIRE Award**

Keer Sun, Ph.D., pictured here with Blair Capitano, PharmD, Pfizer, Inc., recently was one of only five scientists nationwide to receive Pfizer’s 2010 ASPIRE Young Investigator Award in Antibacterial Research. The $100,000 award supports one year of her research that focuses on using the antibiotic linezolid (which is manufactured as Zyvox by Pfizer) as a means to prevent bacterial pneumonia following the flu. (Mentor: Dr. Dennis W. Metzger)

**Dr. MacNamara Receives Travel Grant**

Katherine C. MacNamara, Ph.D., was selected to receive a $1,250 Junior Faculty Travel Grant to speak at the 98th American Association of Immunologists (AAI) Annual Meeting IMMUNOLOGY 2011, May 13-17, 2011 in San Francisco, CA. Kate’s talk was entitled, “Hematopoietic Stem Cells Undergo an IFN gamma-dependent, MyD88-independent Transition from Dormancy to Activity During Acute Bacterial Infection.”
Conferences, Meetings and Study Sections

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was invited to be a seminar speaker for the Department of Immunology and Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Pittsburgh, PA, May 10, 2011 and for the Department of Veterinary Science at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA, May 10, 2011. His presentation for both was entitled, “Secondary Bacterial Infections as the Primary Cause of Death from Influenza.”

Kristen A. Porter, Ph.D., was invited to give two poster presentations at the 98th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Immunologists, IMMUNOLOGY 2011 in San Francisco, CA, May 13-17, 2011. Her posters were entitled, “Pyrin-only Protein 3 (POP3): A Pseudogene Product in the Human Genome Regulating NF-kB Activity,” and “CIITA Enhances HIV-1 Attachments to CD4+ T-cells Leading to Enhanced Infection and Cell Depletion.”

Guangchun Bai, M.D., Ph.D., was selected to give a poster presentation at the 98th American Society for Microbiologists (ASM) Annual Meeting IMMUNOLOGY 111th General Meeting (ASM2011), in New Orleans, LA, May 23-25, 2011. Dr. Bai’s poster was entitled, “Dysregulation of Serine Biosynthesis Contributes to the Growth Defect of a Mycobacterium tuberculosis CRP Mutant.”

Jennifer Wilson-Welder, Ph.D., was invited to give an oral presentation entitled, “Mice Lacking IgA Exhibit Defective IgG Antibody Responses to Polysaccharide Immunizations,” at the 15th International Congress of Mucosal Immunology in Paris, France, July 5-9, 2011.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was invited to be a Scientific Advisory Group Member of the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases “Human Immunology Project Consortium (HIPC),” and participates in its July 18-19, 2011 and November 10-11, 2011 meetings in Bethesda, MD, to review the progress on >$100M NIH grants previously awarded to study immune responses in humans.


Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Vaccines Against Microbial Disease Study Section in Washington, DC, June 9-10, 2011.

Karen M. Duus, Ph.D., was invited to give an oral presentation entitled, “MHC class II Transactivator (CIITA) Enhances Cytoplasmic Processing of HIV-1 Pr55Gag,” at the American Society for Virology 30th Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN, July 16-20, 2011. Dr. Duus was also asked to chair the session Retroviruses I: Gene Expression, Replication, and Pathogenesis.

Peer-reviewed Publications


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: 9/15/10
Next Issue: October 2010

Dr. Bhoiwala Receives AMC House Staff Scholarly Research Prize

Dipti L. Bhoiwala, M.D., 2nd Year Resident in the Department of Medicine at Albany Medical Center, who is performing research in the Center for Immunology & Microbial Disease at Albany Medical College, has been informed that her research paper entitled, “The calcineurin inhibitor RCAN1 is involved in cultured macrophage and in vivo immune response,” has been awarded 1st Place 2010-2011 House Staff Scholarly Research Prize from AMC’s Graduate Medical Education and The Executive Committee of the Medical Staff. This award was presented at the Semi-Annual Meeting of The Medical Staff on June 7, 2011 in the Huyck Auditorium at AMC. (Mentor: Dr. Dana R. Crawford)

(Continued from page 3)


Upcoming CIMD Seminars

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 22, 2011</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>MS-316</td>
<td>Guangchun Bai, Host</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moon H. Nahm, M.D.</td>
<td>Professor, Department of Microbiology &amp; Pathology</td>
<td>University at Alabama, Birmingham</td>
<td>“Pneumococcal Capsule Diversity and Adaptability”</td>
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<td>September 12, 2011</td>
<td>12 Noon</td>
<td>MS-316</td>
<td>Dennis Metzger, Host</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xilin Zhao, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Public Health Research Institute Center</td>
<td>Department of Microbiology &amp; Molecular Genetics</td>
<td>New Jersey Medical School-UMDNJ</td>
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<td>October 10, 2011</td>
<td>12 Noon</td>
<td>MS-316</td>
<td>Dennis Metzger, Host</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guo-yun Chen, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Research Investigator, General Surgery Section</td>
<td>Department of Surgery</td>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
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<td>August 29, 2011</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>MS-316</td>
<td>Dennis Metzger, Host</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youjun Feng, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Research Associate</td>
<td>School of Molecular and Cellular Biology</td>
<td>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign</td>
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<td>September 19, 2011</td>
<td>12 Noon</td>
<td>MS-316</td>
<td>Dennis Metzger, Host</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan A. McCullers, M.D.</td>
<td>Associate Member</td>
<td>Department of Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital</td>
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<td>October 17, 2011</td>
<td>12 Noon</td>
<td>MS-316</td>
<td>Dennis Metzger, Host</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indranil Biswas, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, Molecular Genetics, &amp; Immunology</td>
<td>University of Kansas Medical Center</td>
<td>“TBA”</td>
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www.amc.edu/academic/research/imd.html