The 15th Annual New York Immunology Conference was held October 21-24, 2012 at the Sagamore Resort in Bolton Landing, NY. This meeting, which is organized primarily through Albany Medical College, includes participation from ten (10) additional institutions including Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Pennsylvania State University, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Trudeau Institute, University of Buffalo, University of Rochester, University of Vermont, and the NY State Department of Health Wadsworth Center. Financial support is provided by each of these sponsor institutions, as well as the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, NIH, and various corporate sponsors. Attendance at the meeting was outstanding, with 115 participants including the following from Albany Medical College: Faculty: James R. Drake, Ph.D., Karen Duus, Ph.D., Jonathan A. Harton, Ph.D., Jin Lei, Ph.D., Kate MacNamara, Ph.D., Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., William O’Connor, Ph.D., and Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D.; Postdoctoral Trainees: Yoichi Furuya, Ph.D.*, Quang-Tam Nguyen, Ph.D.*, Sivakumar Periasamy Ph.D.*, Giang Pham, Ph.D.*, Anju Singh, Ph.D.*, and Yubin Zhang, Ph.D.*; graduate students: Brian Franz*, Nicole Johnson*, Amanda McCabe*, Princess Rodriguez*, Alan Sanfilippo*, Don Steiner*; and research staff: Steven Blaauboer and Ellen Duffy, Ph.D.* (*attendees who presented a poster.)

The Conference was highlighted by two (2) Keynote Talks given by Drs. Gail A. Bishop (University of Iowa), President of the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) and Edith M. Lord (University of Rochester). Dr. Bishop also presented 20 AAI Young Investigator Awards for trainee research abstracts that were judged to be outstanding out of the 46 total submitted abstracts. Two CIMD graduate students, Amanda McCabe (Mentor: Dr. MacNamara) and Don Steiner (Mentor: Dr. Metzger), were recipients of these AAI Awards. Their posters were entitled “Macrophage-dependent Activation of Hematopoietic Stem Cells during Intracellular Bacterial Infection,” and “The Role of Macrophages and Neutrophils in Pulmonary Francisella tularensis Infection,” respectively. All award winners gave oral workshop presentations of their work. In addition, CIMD faculty member, William O’Connor, Jr., Ph.D., gave a presentation on “Th17 Cells in Health and Disease” in the Mucosal Immunity Symposium.

In addition to multiple symposia and four (4) oral poster presentation workshops, Drs. Alison Deckhut-Augustine and Duane Price from NIAID hosted two (2) workshops on grant writing, funding, and review, which included a mock study section organized by PIs from four of our sponsor institutions. In the spare time between scientific sessions, participants enjoyed a boat cruise on Lake George as well as the 15th anniversary gala celebration. All of these activities provided ample opportunity for informal discussions among young and senior scientists, some of which have already led to formal scientific collaborations.

Planning has already begun for the 2013 NYIC. Please watch for further news on our website: http://www.amc.edu/NYIC/index.cfm.

(Continued on page 2)
Bai Y, Yang J, Zhou X, Eisele LE, and Bai G. Mycobacterium tuberculosis Rv3586 (DacA) is a diadenylate cyclase that converts ATP or ADP into c-di-AMP. PLoS One. 7:e35206, 2012.


Dr. Konan Receives 2-year Grant from NIH

Kouacou V. Konan, Ph.D., received a $434,500, two-year Exploratory/Development R21 Grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, in support of his research entitled, “Nonstructural 4B Protein and Hepatitis C Virus Production.”

CIMD Graduate Student Receives Award

Anthony Franchini, graduate student, received the Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Student Poster which was entitled, “NOX2-Generated Reactive Oxygen Species are Necessary for FcγR Mediated Activation of Macrophages by Immune Complexed Francisella tularensis,” at the 7th International Conference on Tularemia in Breckenridge, CO, September 17-20, 2012. (Mentor: Dr. James Drake)

Peer-reviewed Publications

Bai Y, Yang J, Zhou X, Ding X, Eisele LE, and Bai G. Mycobacterium tuberculosis Rv3586 (DacA) is a diadenylate cyclase that converts ATP or ADP into c-di-AMP. PLoS One. 7:e35206, 2012.


Conferences, Meetings and Study Sections

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was recently appointed to serve another 3-year term on the Editorial Board of Clinical and Vaccine Immunology, effective January 1, 2013, in recognition of his valuable support of the journal, and with endorsement by the CVI Editors. CVI has recently been designated a Rising Star by Thompson Reuters Science Watch for professional journals. Dr. Metzger was also recently invited to become a Member of the Vaccine journal’s “Council of 100,” for a 3-year term to begin January 1, 2013.

Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D., attended the 7th International Conference on Tularemia and Co-Chaired Session 10 - Francisella Interactions: The Interface with Other Cells and Hosts. Dr. Sellati also gave a talk entitled, “Respiratory tularemia: Reconsidering What the Host Recognizes and Responds to and When.” Postdoctoral fellow, Anju Singh, Ph.D., presented a poster entitled, “Francisella tularensis Triggers Lipoxin A4-induced Programmed Necrosis and Bax-dependent Mitochondrial Apoptosis/secondary Necrosis.” The Conference was held in Breckenridge, CO, September 17-20, 2012.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was asked to serve as Chair for the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases P01 Special Emphasis Review Panel, September 18, 2012.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was invited to give a seminar entitled, “Death from Influenza - Secondary Bacterial Infections are the Culprit,” at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, United States Military Malaria Research Program in Silver Springs, MD, October 2, 2012. Dr. Metzger was also invited to give this seminar to the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Montana State University, Bozeman, MT, October 8-10, 2012.

Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D., served on the National Institutes of Health Vaccines Against Microbial Disease (VMD) Study Section in Washington, DC, October 10-12, 2012.

James R. Drake, Ph.D., was invited to serve on the National Institutes of Health, Center for Scientific Review Cellular & Molecular Immunology (CMI-A) Study Section in Washington, DC, October 4-5, 2012.

Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D., is a collaborator with Lead Researcher, JoEllen Welsh, Ph.D., on a research project entitled, “Control of Inflammation-associated Cancer by Vitamin D and CD14.” This joint research collaboration received $50,000 in funding from the New York Capital Region Research Alliance (NY Cap) which was announced October 4, 2012. NY Cap was established in 2012 by Albany Medical Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the University of Albany with a $950,000 grant as part of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s Regional Council initiative.

Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D., has been elected to be the Scientific Councilor for the Immunology Section of the International Endotoxin and Innate Immunity Society (IEIIS) for a 4-year term starting October 2012.

Karen M. Duus, Ph.D., was invited to give a presentation at the Natural Sciences Collo-
Conferences, Meetings and Study Sections

(Continued from page 3)


Karsten R.O. Hazlett, Ph.D., was invited to give a seminar entitled, “Host-adaptation of Francisella tularensis: Implications for Microbiology, Immunology and Vaccinology,” to the Biology Department at Union College in Schenectady, NY, November 1, 2012.

Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D., was re-appointed as a Member of the Editorial Board of Infection and Immunity in recognition of his valuable support of the journal and with the endorsement of the IAI Editors. Dr. Metzger will serve another 3-year term, effective January 1, 2013.

Faculty Promotion

Congratulations to Guangchun Bai, M.D., Ph.D., who was promoted to Assistant Professor (Tenure track, non-tenured).

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Beth Ruggiero and her husband, Anthony, on the birth of their son, Leo James Ruggiero who was born on October 20, 2012.

December 7, 2012
4:00 p.m., ME-700 Dennis Metzger, Host

Theobald Smith Annual Lecture

Jean-Laurant Casanova, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, The Rockefeller University
Head, St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics and Infectious Diseases
Physician, Rockefeller University Hospital

“Toward a Genetic Theory of Infectious Diseases”