The Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease held its 10th Annual Research Retreat at River Stone Manor in Scotia, NY on August 10, 2010. Selection of three oral presentations by one faculty member, one postdoctoral fellow, and one graduate student was decided by a CIMD-wide vote, and the presenters were:

Carlos de Noronha, Sc.D.
“Turning HIV Against HIV”

Bikash Sahay, Ph.D.
“CD14 Signaling Restrains Chronic Inflammation Through Induction of p38-MAPK/SOCS-Dependent Tolerance”

Kathleen McCabe
“Identification and Regulation of the Endocytosis Motifs for the B cell Receptor”

Senior Students

1st Place
Kathleen McCabe
“Identification and Regulation of the Endocytosis Motifs for the B cell Receptor”
(Mentor: Dr. James R. Drake)

2nd Place
Maninjay Atianand
“Uncoupling POP2 Mediated Regulation of NF-κB and the Inflammasome”
(Mentor: Dr. Jonathan A. Harton)

3rd Place
Bhuvana Katkere
“Physiological Range Temperature Changes (PRTC) Selectively Impacts BCR-mediated Antigen Processing and Presentation”
(Mentor: James R. Drake, Ph.D.)

Junior Students

1st Place
Nicole Flaherty
“Defining the Antioxidant Determinants of Francisella tularensis Virulence”
(Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez)

2nd Place
John Sharifi
“A Tale of Two Cullins and the Viral Protein That Binds Them”
(Mentor: Dr. Carlos de Noronha)

3rd Place
Don McCarthy
“The Redox Dependent Role of IL-1α in Senescence Associated Inflammation”
(Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez)
Peer-reviewed Publications


**Bhoiwala D, Kannabiran V, Hushmendy S,** Hahn A, Bhoiwala D, **Heuring JM,** and **Crawford DR.** The calcineruin inhibitor RCAN1 is involved in cultured macrophage and in vivo immune responses. *FEMS Immunology & Medical Microbiology.* In press.


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CIMD Faculty Promotions

Albany Medical College’s APT Committee met recently and congratulations are in order for the following CIMD promotions:

**Girish Kirimanjeswara, D.V.M., Ph.D.,** Assistant Professor (non-tenure track), (pending formal AMC Board approval November 3, 2010)

**Nadine Hempel, Ph.D.,** Assistant Professor (non-tenure track), (pending formal AMC Board approval March 2, 2011)

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Welcome New CIMD Employees

Postdoctoral Fellows: **Radha Gupta, Ph.D.** and **Kristen Porter, Ph.D.**

Research Technician: **Kelly Hughes**
**Awards and Grants**

**Chandra Shekhar Bakshi, D.V.M., Ph.D.,** Assistant Professor, has received a $316,000, one-year R56 bridge grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in support of his research entitled, “Modulation of Macrophage Function by F. tularensis.”

**Anju Singh, Ph.D.,** Postdoctoral Fellow, was invited to give an oral presentation of her research at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Society for Leukocyte Biology (SLB) & International Endotoxin and Innate Immunity Society (IEIIS) in Vancouver, Canada, October 7-9, 2010.

Dr. Singh was selected to receive a $750 Travel Award to present her work entitled, “MMP-9 Mediated Neutrophil Migration—Broad Spectrum Immune Based Therapeutic Target in Respiratory Tularemia.” Anju subsequently won a $300 SLB Presidential Award (2nd Place) in the Faculty/Postdoctoral Category for her oral presentation. (Mentor: Dr. Timothy J. Sellati)

**Laurieann Casey, Ph.D.,** Postdoctoral Fellow, was selected to give an oral presentation of her research at the 17th West Coast Retroviruses Meeting in Palm Springs, California, October 7-8, 2010. Laurieann’s presentation was entitled, “Degradation of Human Dicer by HIV1 Vpr Enhances HIV1 Viral Replication in Macrophages.” Laurieann won a $100 award for “Best Oral Presentation by a Postdoctoral Fellow.” (Mentor: Dr. Carlos de Noronha)

**Nadine Hempel, Ph.D.,** Postdoctoral Fellow, has received $228,213 for the initial two years of a five-year K99 career development grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute in support of her research entitled, “Mitochondrial Redox Control of Metastasis.” (Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez)

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**Conferences, Meetings, Invited Talks, and Study Sections**

**Dana R. Crawford, Ph.D.,** was invited by the Biology Department of the University of Massachusetts to give a seminar entitled, “Rational Gene Targeting with Dietary Botanicals to Treat Disease,” in Boston, MA, September 24, 2010.

**J. Andrés Melendez, Ph.D.,** was invited to give a presentation entitled, “Mitochondrial Redox Signals Controlling Matrix Turnover and Metastasis,” at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 20, 2010. Dr. Melendez also gave this presentation at New York University, Department of Environmental Health Sciences in New York, NY, October 1, 2010.

**Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.,** served on the National Institutes of Health Special Emphasis Advisory Panel to review grant applications submitted in response to the Broad Agency Announcement on Protective Immunity in Special Populations in Alexandria, VA, October 5-6, 2010.

**Edmund J. Gosselin, Ph.D.,** served on the National Institutes of Health Vaccines Against Microbial Disease Study Section, in Arlington, CA, October 6-8, 2010.

**Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D.,** was invited to give an oral presentation of his research at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Society for Leukocyte Biology (SLB) & International Endotoxin and Innate Immunity Society (IEIIS), in Vancouver, Canada, October 7-9, 2010. Dr. Sellati’s talk was entitled, “Localized Regulation of Innate Immunity in Respiratory Tularemia.” Dr. Sellati also served as Chair of the Role of Non-Conventional, Non-Myeloid Cells in Bridging Innate and Adaptive Immunity Session.

Sixteen faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students from CIMD attended the 13th Annual Upstate New York Immunology Conference at The Sagamore Resort and Conference Center in Bolton Landing, NY, October 24-26, 2010. Three CIMD attendees were invited to give oral presentations:

**Dennis W. Metzger, Ph.D.**
“Mechanisms Responsible for Secondary Bacterial Infections Following Influenza”

**Kathleen Busman-Sahay**
“Identification and Regulation of the Endocytosis Motifs for the B cell Receptor.”
(Mentor: Dr. James R. Drake)

**Mohammad Rashel, Ph.D.,**
“Exploring the ROS Mediated Signal Transduction Pathways to Design Improved Vaccine Strategies Against Tularemia.”
(Mentor: Dr. J. Andrés Melendez)
Four CIMD-Mentored Medical Students Recognized for Their Research

The Seventh Annual Medical Students Investigations Day, a poster day event sponsored by the Graduate Studies Program, was held on September 30, 2010. Several CIMD faculty members were mentors for students enrolled in joint medical/research programs, and the students who received awards were:

- **RPI-AMC Physician Scientist Program**
  - **First Year Students**
    - **Jessica Martinolich**
      “CIITA Expression in B16 Mouse Melanoma Cells”  
      (Mentor: Dr. Jonathan Harton)

- **Union College—AMC Leadership in Medicine Program**
  - **Sidney Olefson**
    “No Such Thing as a Free Lunch, The Value of Free Health Care”  
    (Mentor: Dr. James Bennett)

- **RPI-AMC Physician Scientist Program**
  - **Second Year Students**
    - **Annette George**
      “Toward a Novel HIV-1 Vaccine Modality: Characterization of HIV-1 Virus-like Particles Produced in Murine Cells”  
      (Mentor: Dr. Karen Duus)
    - **Ragisha Gopalakrishnan**
      “A Promising Universal Vaccine Strategy Against Influenza A”  
      (Mentor: Dr. Deborah Fuller)

Upcoming CIMD Seminars

- **November 15, 2010**, 12 Noon, MS-316
  - **Ronald Swanstrom, Ph.D.**
  - Professor of Virology, Lineberger Cancer Center
  - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
  - “HIV Transmission, Evolution, and Pathogenesis Seen Through the Viral Surface Protein Env”

- **November 22, 2010**, 12 Noon, MS-316
  - **Peter Jindra, Ph.D.**
  - Postdoctoral Fellow
  - Transplant Immunology Laboratory
  - Albany Medical Center
  - “Anti-MHC Class I Antibodies Can Activate Endothelial Cell Survival or Proliferation Pathways Depending on Their Concentration”

- **November 30, 2010**, 4 pm, ME-700
  - **Arturo Casadevall, M.D., Ph.D.**
  - Professor, Department of Medicine, Infectious Diseases
  - Professor and Chairman, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
  - Leo and Julia Forchheimer Chair in Microbiology and Immunology
  - Albert Einstein College of Medicine
  - “Rethinking Microbial Virulence”

- **December 6, 2010**, 12 Noon, MS-316
  - **George Drusano, M.D.**
  - Co-Director, Biodefense & Emerging Infections
  - Ordway Research Institute, Albany
  - “Suppression of Resistance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis”

[www.amc.edu/academic/research/imd.html](http://www.amc.edu/academic/research/imd.html)