MLnews
The E-newsletter of Einstein’s MI Department
Fall 2010
Editors: Teresa DiLorenzo, Arturo Casadevall

A Message from the Editors
In an effort to encourage correspondence from the department and to provide an outlet for members to air their views, we will now be happily accepting Letters to the Editor which will be published in MLnews beginning with the Spring 2011 issue. We look forward to hearing from you! Please send all Letters to the Editor and all other newsletter-related mail to our new address: MLnews@einstein.yu.edu

News from the Chair
Forchheimer Renovations. The first phase of the Forchheimer renovation has been completed and work is about to begin on the second phase. The original plan called for a three-phase approach, which would minimize disruption. The current (second) phase will see the renovation of the common equipment spaces near the kitchen and several small rooms in the central isle. Steve Porcelli has taken a leadership role in overseeing these renovations and making sure that the space is optimally used. Antonio Nakouzi has helped coordinate some of the logistics of equipment moves that have been critical to make sure the process moves along. I thank Steve and Antonio for all their efforts personally and on behalf of a grateful department.

Course Requirements. Over the past year, the faculty met several times and discussed departmental course requirements. MI faculty head three major courses in the graduate school: Microbial Pathogenesis, Virology, and Immunology. After considerable discussion, the faculty voted to implement the requirement that all MI graduate students beginning their training in Fall 2010 or later take at least one of these courses as part of their total course requirements for the PhD degree. This requirement formalizes what is already done by most MI students. The goal of this requirement is to make sure that our graduates receive didactic exposure to at least one of the major disciplines housed in the department.

Microbiologists and Immunologists. Many institutions in this country combine the great disciplines of Immunology and Microbiology into one administrative and academic unit. This co-habitation is sometimes not easy since the disciplines come from very different intellectual traditions. At Einstein I am happy to note that faculty from both disciplines have worked together productively since the creation of the department and that we are happy with this arrangement. However, the same cannot be said of all departments and tension regarding intellectual focus has led to their separation in some institutions. If you are interested in these issues, I refer you to a recent editorial co-written by Christine Biron and published in mBio this week on this subject. Here is the link to the PDF:
http://mbio.asm.org/content/1/5/e00260-10.full.pdf+html
Recognition of Postdoctoral Researchers by the U.S. House of Representatives

By means of House Resolution 1545, the U.S. House of Representatives officially recognized the week beginning with the third Monday in September as “National Postdoc Appreciation Week.” To read more about this milestone, and to watch the House proceedings, please go here: http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/no-modules/470-resolution2

Monday Night Immunology

Five years ago, Laura Santambrogio, Steve Porcelli, and Teresa DiLorenzo organized a monthly Immunology Journal Club jointly sponsored by the Departments of Pathology and MI. Meetings are held one Monday per month at 6 PM in 714 Belfer and are open to all. A light dinner is served. Please send an e-mail to jeffrey.babad@phd.einstein.yu.edu if you would like your name added to the e-mail list for this Journal Club. To read more about it, please go here: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/microbio/home.aspx?id=23139

Please Welcome the New MI Department Members!

Jose Valle Casuso, Research Fellow (Diaz-Griffero)
Harini Laxminarayan, Research Fellow (Prasad)
Sheila Nardelli, Research Fellow (Kim)

News from the Students

Jeff Babad (DiLorenzo Lab)


Yael Saden Barach (Zang Lab)


*equal contributors

Matt Croken (Kim Lab)

Poster presentation, Molecular Parasitology Meeting, Woods Hole, MA, September 2010.

Dhivya Ramalingam (Prasad Lab)

Dhivya was selected to present her work as a poster at the NIH National Graduate Student Research Festival in Bethesda, MD, held in October 2010. Learn more about the Festival here: https://www.training.nih.gov/events/recurring/nih_national_graduate_student_research_festival
Dhivya defended her thesis entitled “RNA aptamers directed to the HIV-1 Gag polyprotein as inhibitors of HIV replication and as tools to dissect viral replication mechanisms” on October 28, 2010.


Beza Seyoum (Pirofksi Lab)


Iset Vera (Kim Lab)

Iset won an award for outstanding oral presentation at the annual Molecular Parasitology Meeting in Woods Hole in September. She was invited to give her presentation at the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Meeting in Atlanta in November.

News from the Research Fellows

Tony Baughn (Jacobs Lab)

Tony is now Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.


Dinesh Chandra (Gravekamp Lab)

At the recent Dennis Shields Postdoctoral Research Prize Symposium, Dinesh won a Travel Award for his poster entitled “Listeria controls MDSC in the tumor microenvironment.”
Sarah Hochman (Kim Lab)
Sarah was awarded a five-year K08 Physician Scientist Award from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to study "HIV/malaria coinfection effects on immune dysfunction and the blood-brain barrier."

Jun Sik Lee (Zang Lab)
*equal contributors

Luis Martinez (Nosanchuk Lab)
Luis received a Travel Award for his poster entitled “Antimicrobial and healing efficacy of sustained release nitric oxide nanoparticles against Staphylococcus aureus skin and soft-tissue infection” at the 2010 Dennis Shields Postdoctoral Research Prize Symposium.

News from the Associates

Vasudev Rao (Prasad Lab)
Vasudev has been appointed as Associate Faculty on Faculty of 1000 and will be assisting Prasad in the evaluation of research papers.

Li-Min Ting (Kim Lab)
Poster presentation, Molecular Parasitology Meeting, Woods Hole, MA, September 2010.

News from the Instructors

Scott Garforth (Prasad Lab)
Scott has been appointed as Associate Faculty on Faculty of 1000 and will be assisting Prasad in the evaluation of research papers.

Oral presentation, "The position of HIV-1 reverse transcriptase on the template-primer is a determinant of primer mispair extension efficiency," The RNase H 2010 Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, September 2010.
News from the Faculty

**Arturo Casadevall**

Invited lectures:
Frank N. Nelson Distinguished Lecture, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy


Kate Dadachova
Kate was awarded an R56 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to study "Interaction of opportunistic microbes with targeted radiation."

Kate was invited to serve on the National Cancer Institute’s Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) panel "Radioprotector/mitigator development to decrease normal tissue injury during radiotherapy."

Invited lectures:
“Radioimmunotherapy of fungal infection with $^{213}$Bi-labeled antibody,” Annual Meeting of The American Nuclear Society, Las Vegas, NV, November 2010.

Ekaterina Revskaya, a Research Fellow in the lab, was promoted to Instructor in Nuclear Medicine.


Luciano D'Adamio


Teresa DiLorenzo
Teresa was awarded an R56 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to study "T cell tolerance by DEC-205-mediated islet antigen delivery to dendritic cells."
As her first (and probably last!) foray into politics, Teresa was recently elected Secretary of the Einstein Senate.


**Harris Goldstein**


**Claudia Gravekamp**


**Kami Kim**

Kami was awarded a three-year NIH RC4 grant to study "A Systems biology approach to the model apicomplexan *Toxoplasma gondii.*"

Kami was lead organizer for the Molecular Parasitology Meeting in Woods Hole this year and will be co-organizer for 2010-2012. She also moderated several sessions at the annual Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) meeting in Vancouver as part of her duties as a member of the IDSA program committee.

The Kim laboratory welcomes new Research Fellow Sheila Nardelli, Ph.D. She will work on *Toxoplasma* epigenomics.

The IVIS Spectrum is up and running. Emily Spaulding (Lauvau lab) and Li-Min Ting have some great pictures of luminescent and fluorescent mice infected with malaria. Come check it out!

surface processing of micronemal adhesive complexes and efficient adhesion of tachyzoites. *Cell Microbiol (in press).*


**Tom Leyh**

Tom is a member of the STREND A (STAndards for the Reporting of ENzymological DAta) committee, which is a project of the Beilstein Institute. One of their current initiatives is to assist the scientific community in developing a protein function database to complement the sequence and structure databases that are already available. The goal is to have journals require authors to submit protein function data to the database using an electronic data submission form. The proposed data submission form can be viewed here: [http://www.beilstein-institut.de/STRENDA/eform/eform.html](http://www.beilstein-institut.de/STRENDA/eform/eform.html)

Tom and the STREND A committee recently published this position paper on the initiative:


To read more about the protein function database project and to provide input regarding the proposed data submission form, please go here: [http://www.beilstein-institut.de/en/projects/strenda/e-form/](http://www.beilstein-institut.de/en/projects/strenda/e-form/)

**Stan Nathenson**


**Josh Nosanchuk**

201:1436-1440.


Debbie Palliser

Invited lecture, "siRNA-based microbicides targeting sexually transmitted diseases," Biology Department, Villanova University, Villanova, PA, September 2010.

Vinayaka Prasad

Prasad recently became a Contributing Member of Faculty of 1000.

Prasad successfully renewed the institutional T32 AIDS training grant “HIV, AIDS and Opportunistic Infections.” This grant has now entered its 16th year of funding starting September 2010. Prasad was the founding P.I. of this training grant.

A new Research Fellow, Harini Laxminarayan, has joined the Prasad laboratory. Harini did her Ph.D. at the Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai, India, which has sent many postdocs to the MI department.


Bettie Steinberg


**Xingxing Zang**


*equal contributors