Mlnews
The E-newsletter of Einstein’s MI Department
Fall 2014
Editors: Teresa DiLorenzo, Arturo Casadevall

A Message from the Editors

This will be the last issue of Mlnews prepared by the current editorial team. We have enjoyed working together to distribute twenty-one issues of the newsletter over the past seven years. We thank all of you who supported our efforts to spread good news and information and bring unity to our large and diverse department.

News from the Chair

As all of you undoubtedly know, I have accepted a position as chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore. It is very difficult for me to leave Einstein, which has been my academic home for 26 years. It has been my privilege and honor to have been your chair for the past 9.5 years and I am very proud of the growth and development of the department, during which time Drs. Kartik Chandran, Felipe Diaz-Griffero, Gregoire Lauvau, Claudia Gravekamp, Debbie Palliser, Tom Leyh, and Xingxing Zang joined us and established laboratories. The dean will appoint an interim chair and that process is currently underway. I will work with whoever is appointed to insure a smooth transition. As I transition to the new position you can be sure that I take Einstein in my heart and I hope that each of you knows that in me you continue to have a friend. I look forward to cheering for the continued success of the department from afar, and I have no doubt that the excellence that has characterized MI since its inception will continue to define this outstanding community of students, postdocs, faculty and administrators in the years ahead.

Remembering Stanley Nathenson

The Second Annual Dr. Stanley G. Nathenson Memorial Lecture was held on October 22, 2014, in the LeFrak Auditorium, Price Center. This year’s speaker was Arlene Sharpe, an internationally recognized expert on T cell costimulatory molecules from Harvard Medical School. She gave a beautiful seminar on her work regarding the roles of the PD-1 pathway in controlling humoral and tumor immunity. We thank those of you who contributed to the Dr. Stanley G. Nathenson Memorial Lectureship Fund which helps to support this event. Additional support was provided by the Office of the Dean and the Departments of MI and Cell Biology.

New Immunology Journal Club!

David Fooksman and Gregoire Lauvau have restructured the Immunology Journal Club, a joint venture between MI and Pathology that has been continuously running since 2005. The new Club meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30 AM in 551 Price and two papers from the recent
immunological literature are discussed. The restructured format was launched this September, and it has been a terrific success, marked by excellent presentations and impressive attendance. If you are not currently participating, please contact David or Gregoire to be added to the list. To learn more about the Journal Club, and to view the schedule, please go here: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/departments/microbiology-immunology/events/journal-clubs.aspx

Please Welcome the New MI Department Members!

Evan Der, Graduate Student (Putterman)
Leah Guthrie, Graduate Student (Kelly)
Tracy Keiser, Research Fellow (Jacobs)
Mayami Sengupta, Associate (Jacobs)
Kayla Weiss, Research Fellow (Jacobs)

News from the Students

Samantha Chalmers (Putterman)
Samantha will give a poster presentation, “Macrophage depletion ameliorates nephritis induced by pathogenic antibodies,” at The 2014 American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting in Boston in November.

Jordan Chinai (Zang)
Jordan presented a poster of his work at the Cancer Research Institute’s annual Cancer Immunotherapy Symposium in October. The title of his poster was “HHLA2 and TMIGD2 are a new B7/CD28 pathway and a new target for cancer immunotherapy.”


Catherine Manix Feintuch (Daily)
Catherine gave an oral presentation at The 63rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in New Orleans in November 2014. The title of her talk was “Children with CM [cerebral malaria] manifest marked differences in global stress responses which are associated with cerebral parasite sequestration and underlying pathophysiology.”
Kim Ohaegbulam (Zang)

Kim was awarded a Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (F31) from the National Cancer Institute. His project is entitled “Tumor-expressed B7x accelerates disease and is a novel target for immunotherapy.”

Kim presented a poster entitled “Structure and cancer immunotherapy of the B7 family member B7x (B7-H4/B7S1)” at The 22nd Annual International Cancer Immunotherapy Symposium sponsored by the Cancer Research Institute in October 2014.


Jennifer Schloss (DiLorenzo)


Emily Spaulding (Lauvau)


Ariel Stock (Putterman)

Ariel’s research, entitled “The pathogenesis of neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus is dependent on brain intrinsic factors,” was accepted for a poster presentation at The 2014 American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting in Boston to be held in November.

Sabriya Stukes (Casadevall)

Sabriya defended her thesis, which was entitled “Investigations on the Morphology and Mechanism of Non-lytic Exocytosis of Cryptococcus neoformans,” in July.
**Jing Wen** (Putterman)

Jing will give a poster presentation, “Neuropsychiatric lupus is substantially unaffected by B-cell deficiency - inhibiting TWEAK (TNF-like weak inducer of apoptosis) signaling improves blood brain barrier integrity and protects from neuronal damage in murine neuropsychiatric lupus,” at *The 2014 American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting* in Boston in November.

**News from the Research Fellows**

**Riyasat Ali** (DiLorenzo)


**Leandro Carreno** (Porcelli)


In it, he discusses his research and his hopes to establish his own laboratory in Chile following his postdoctoral fellowship at Einstein.

**Laurent Chorro** (Lauvau)

Laurent was awarded a Careers in Immunology Fellowship from the American Association of Immunologists (AAI). See a picture of Laurent and his mentor here: [http://www.aai.org/Awards/Docs/CIIF/AAI_CIIF_AWARDEES_2014.pdf](http://www.aai.org/Awards/Docs/CIIF/AAI_CIIF_AWARDEES_2014.pdf)


**Rahul Pawar** (Putterman)


**Yumin Xia** (Putterman)


**News from the Associates**

**Gayatri Mukherjee** (DiLorenzo)


*co-corresponding authors

**News from the Research Faculty**

**Michael Berney**


*co-corresponding authors


*co-corresponding authors


Greening, C., S. G. Villas-Boas, J. R. Robson, **M. Berney**, and G. M. Cook. 2014. The growth and survival of *Mycobacterium smegmatis* is enhanced by co-metabolism of atmospheric H₂.


**News from the Faculty**

**Arturo Casadevall**

Arturo has been elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, which is among the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. To read more about this honor, go here:


Meeting presentations:

Keynote Speaker, Upstate NY Immunology Conference, Lake George

Keynote Speaker, ASM Eastern NY Branch, Albany, NY

Symposium on Microbes in Health and Disease at Weill Medical College

Keynote Speaker, XII International Meeting on Paracoccidioidomycosis, Brasilia, Brasil


consequences of research misconduct resulting in retracted publications. eLife 3:e02956.


Kartik Chandran


Teresa DiLorenzo

Teresa was invited to give Pediatric Rheumatology Grand Rounds at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore in September. Her talk was entitled “Antigen-specific T cells in mouse models of type 1 diabetes.”

Teresa has accepted an invitation to serve as a member of Einstein’s Committee on Appointments and Promotions (for Professors).


David Fooksman

David received a Sinsheimer Scholar Award from the Alexandrine and Alexander L. Sinsheimer Fund in 2014. The Scholar Awards are given to researchers who demonstrate great potential to make a major contribution to the prevention or cure of a human disease.

Claudia Gravekamp

Claudia gave a talk at The 14th International Conference on Progress in Vaccination Against Cancer that was held in Rome in September 2014. Her talk was entitled “The importance of innate immune responses in cancer immunotherapy at older age.”

Claudia was a member of an NIH study section (ZRG1 OTC-J 55) that reviewed grant applications concerning mouse models for translational research in October 2014.


Betsy Herold

Betsy was recently named Chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore and Einstein. Go here to read more about Betsy and her new role: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/news/releases/1029/dr-betsy-herold-named-chief-of-the-division-of-pediatric-infectious-diseases-at-the-childrens-hospital-at-montefiore-and-albert-einstein-college-of-medicine/

Ganjam Kalpana

Kalpana was invited to give a keynote presentation at The Consensus Meeting on Rhabdoid Tumors, which was held in December 2013 in Paris, France, at Institut Curie. She was also invited to give a presentation at The 5th International Conference on Retroviral Integration, which took place in October 2014 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA.

Yoshiki Katsumi, M.D., Ph.D., is a pediatric oncologist from Kyoto, Japan, who has joined the Kalpana lab to study rhabdoid tumors.
**Libusha Kelly**

Libusha was awarded a National Science Foundation grant from the Division of Ocean Sciences entitled “Collaborative research: How can bacterial viruses succeed in the marine environment?” This project is a collaboration with Martin Polz in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at MIT.

Libusha was invited to give a seminar by the Cornell University Microbiology Department in October. She spoke on “Information flow and functional plasticity in microbial ecosystems.”

Graduate student **Leah Guthrie** has joined the Kelly lab. Welcome, Leah!

**Gregoire Lauvau**

Gregoire was invited to speak at the University of Pennsylvania in September 2014 as part of the *Prokaryotic Seminar Series 2014*.


**Vinayaka Prasad**

Prasad served as Chair of the NeuroAIDS and other End-organ Diseases (NAED) member conflicts study section (AARR-E04) in August 2014.

Prasad is currently serving on the Einstein Senate Faculty Review Committee. According to the Senate bylaws, the purpose of the Committee is to “consider grievances brought to it by individual members of the faculty. The Committee shall make recommendations to the appropriate persons or groups for equitable resolution of the issues or problems.”


Chaim Putterman

Chaim, in consortium with Dr. Jill Buyon at NYU and Dr. Thomas Tuschl at Rockefeller University, is one of four awardees across the United States selected by the National Institutes of Health to establish the Accelerating Medicines Partnership in Lupus (AMP Lupus) Network. Joined by Dr. Anna Broder in the Division of Rheumatology and Dr. Beatrice Goilav in the Division of Pediatric Nephrology, the project will focus on analyzing biological pathways in the skin and kidney using novel genetic and immunologic approaches, to study the pathogenesis of lupus and identify promising approaches to treatment.

The Putterman Lab welcomes Evan Der (PhD student) to the lab! Evan was born in Oakland, California, and completed his undergraduate work at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Xingxing Zang

Xingxing joined the Type 1 Diabetes TrialNet Biomarkers & Mechanisms Panel. As a member of this panel, he will be an active participant in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical research in type 1 diabetes.

Xingxing served on the NIH Cancer Immunopathology and Immunotherapy Study Section, the Special Emphasis Panel Study Section ZRG1 OCT-X (Metabolic Reprogramming in Immunotherapy), and the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Immunology Peer Review Panel.

Xingxing has received a secondary appointment in the Department of Medicine (Oncology).

Invited talks:
Pfizer Inc., NY, July 2014
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, October 2014

The Zang lab welcomed Dr. Xiaoshen Dong, a surgeon and visiting scholar from China Medical University.

