A Message from the Editors

Welcome to MI news, now beginning its sixth year! Thank you for your continued efforts in support of our departmental newsletter. Please continue to share your news with us and encourage your colleagues and lab members to do the same.

News from the Chair

The weather has not felt like spring, but this issue of MI news is the spring issue so it must be spring! Perhaps the greatest bit of news is the convocation being held on April 15th by our Dean called “Transforming Einstein” where many faculty members are being invested with endowed chairs or named as scholars. Two faculty members from our department are being honored: Dr. Teresa DiLorenzo is being invested as the Diane Belfer, Cypress & Endelson Families Scholar in Diabetes Research and Dr. Betsy Herold is being invested as the Harold and Muriel Block Chair in Pediatrics. Dr. Herold is also being invested as Director of the Translational Prevention Research Center. Congratulations to Drs. DiLorenzo and Herold on this well-deserved recognition and honor.

With regard to departmental activities, our Friday work-in-progress sessions continue to present outstanding work. However, I have noted that attendance has eased off a bit in recent weeks and I remind everyone that it is a departmental responsibility to attend wip. By attending wip you learn what is going on in the department and those presentations are opportunities for scientific discussion and making new collaborations and connections. Please make every effort to attend and remember that we start on time. I look forward to seeing you there.
Congratulations to Bill Jacobs!

The seventh annual Marshall S. Horwitz, M.D. Faculty Prize for Research Excellence was presented to Bill Jacobs at a ceremony in Robbins Auditorium on February 4, 2013. The title of Bill’s inspiring Prize Lecture was “Unmasking the Houdini Traits of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*: Persistence in the Presence of Drugs and Immune Effectors.” To read more about this event, go here: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/features/around-campus/226/horwitz-prize-lecture-details-dr-bill-jacobs'-excellent-tb-adventure/.

MI Service Recognition Honorees

On December 6, 2012, Annie Dai and John Kim, both from the Jacobs lab, were honored for 15 years of service to Einstein at a celebration and dessert reception in Lubin Dining Hall. Congratulations, Annie and John! The list of all honorees can be found here: http://www.yu.edu/uploadedFiles/Offices_and_Services/HR/News_and_Events/2012EinsteinHonorees.pdf

Please Welcome the New MI Lab Members!

Riyasat Ali, Research Fellow (DiLorenzo)
Fabrizio Biundo, Research Fellow (D’Adamio)
Dolores Del Prete, Research Fellow (D’Adamio)
Eva Mittler, Research Fellow (Chandran)

News from the Office

The MI Office will be welcoming an Assistant Administrator, Garry Graham, in early April. Garry comes to us from SUNY Downstate Medical Center, where he served as Deputy Director of Patient Relations.

Susan Nuccio reports some important information for all faculty hiring research fellows from outside the United States. Changes in software and procedures at Einstein are resulting in the inappropriate deduction of taxes from the paychecks of some fellows. In brief, here is the problem. The United States has tax treaties with certain countries according to which a research fellow is not required to pay taxes if in the U.S. for a fixed amount of time, *e.g.*, two years for Country X in our example. In the past, even if the visa papers and letter of offer for a fellow from Country X were for three years, taxes were not deducted from the fellow’s paycheck for the first two years. However, as a result of recent changes here, a research fellow invited for three years will now have taxes deducted FROM THE START. Faculty are urged to contact Alexia Pakiela (Office of International Services) regarding the tax treaty status of the home country of their candidate so that they can prepare visa papers and offer letters that will avoid the inappropriate deduction of taxes from the paycheck of their fellow.
News from the Students

**Esther Ndungo** (Chandran)


**Kieran Seay** (Goldstein)


**Tynisha Thomas** (Goldstein)


Tynisha was awarded a Keystone Symposia Underrepresented Minority Scholarship to attend this meeting.

**Dina Tsukrov** (Dadachova)

Poster presentation: A radiolabeled monoclonal antibody to gp41 eliminates HIV-1 infected monocytes after passing through a human blood brain barrier model, 20th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI), Atlanta, GA, March 2013.

**Jing Wen** (Putterman)

Jing received a travel award to attend the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) 2013 meeting in Honolulu, HI in May. She will deliver an oral and poster presentation: The role of B cells in neuropsychiatric disease in murine systemic lupus erythematosus.


News from the Research Fellows

**Dinesh Chandra** (Gravekamp)

Dinesh received a travel award to speak at the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) 2013 meeting in Honolulu, HI in May. The title of his talk will be “STING ligand c-di-GMP improves vaccine efficacy in a metastatic breast cancer model.”

**Thomas Jandl** (Dadachova)


**Rahul Pawar** (Putterman)


Poster presentations:


**Saidi Soudja** (Lauvau)

Saidi received a travel award to speak at the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) 2013 meeting in Honolulu, HI in May 2013.

**Yumin Xia** (Putterman)


**News from the Research Assistant Professors**

**Eszter Lazar-Molnar**

Eszter has filed a patent application entitled “A Selective High-Affinity Immune Stimulatory Reagent and Uses Thereof,” US Provisional Patent No. 61/761,755, 2013. Steve Almo (Biochemistry) is also an inventor on the application.

**News from the Faculty**

**Arturo Casadevall**


Arturo has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Pasteur Institute.

Invited lectures:
Jenner Lecture, St. George’s Hospital, London
Michael Apicella Lecture, University of Iowa


**Kartik Chandran**

Kartik has received funding through a US Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) contract for the development of anti-filovirus therapeutics targeting the viral receptor, NPC1. He also recently received an Irma T. Hirschl/Monique Weill-Caulier Trust Career Scientist Award.

Invited lectures:
Duke University, January 2013
University of Utah, February 2013

The Chandran Lab extends a warm welcome to **Rohan Biswas** (MSTP student) and **Eva Mittler** (Research Fellow).


**Kate Dadachova**

In collaboration with Hyun-Soon Chong from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Kate received an R01, “New Bifunctional Ligands for Radioimmunotherapy,” from NCI.

Kate served on an NIH/NIAID Special Panel concerning, “Development of Medical Countermeasures to Mitigate or Treat the Gastrointestinal Acute Radiation Syndrome after a Nuclear or Radiation Incident.”

Invited lectures:
Radioimmunotherapy as a cure strategy for systemic and CNS HIV, Rockefeller University, New York, NY, December 2012

**Rebecca Phaeton**, a physician-scientist in the lab working on the radioimmunotherapy of cervical cancer, has received an additional 3 years of funding for her K12 award.

**Alicia McFarren**, a clinical research fellow in the lab, presented a poster “A radionabeled
monoclonal antibody to gp41 eliminates HIV-1 infected monocytes after passing through a human blood brain barrier model” at the 20th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) in Atlanta, GA, in March 2013.


**Teresa DiLorenzo**

US Patent 8,318,670, “Antigens Targeted by Pathogenic Al4 T Cells in Type 1 Diabetes and Uses Thereof,” was issued in November 2012. Besides Teresa, the other inventors are Scott Lieberman, her first graduate student, and David Serreze, her long-time collaborator at The Jackson Laboratory.

Teresa has accepted an invitation to join the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* for a five-year term beginning in July 2013. She will attend training (yes, training!) in Boston in April.


**Claudia Gravekamp**

Claudia received funding from Reliable Cancer Therapies to test artesunate, artemisia, and other compounds against metastatic breast cancer. She also received a grant from the Nathan Shock Center to investigate the curing of spontaneous cancer by *Listeria*-based immunotherapy at older age.


Claudia served on the Cancer Target Discovery and Development (CTDD) NIH/NCI study section in October 2012. She also reviewed grants for NCI in March 2013.


**Kami Kim**

Kami was elected to the American Academy of Microbiology in recognition of her “outstanding contributions to microbiology.” To read more about the Academy, go here: [http://academy.asm.org/index.php/about-aam](http://academy.asm.org/index.php/about-aam)

Kami was also recently elected to the Association of American Physicians, whose goals include “the pursuit of medical knowledge, and the advancement through experimentation and discovery of basic and clinical science and their application to clinical medicine. Each year, individuals having attained excellence in achieving these goals are recognized by nomination for membership by the Council of the Association.” To learn more about the Association, go here: [http://aap-online.org/about-aap/](http://aap-online.org/about-aap/)

**Natalie Silmon de Monerri**, a Research Fellow in the Kim lab, was selected to give an oral presentation of her work at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) in Boston in April 2013.


**Gregoire Lauvau**

Gregoire was awarded a new R01 from NIH/NIAID to investigate the mechanisms of memory T cell reactivation.

Invited lectures:
Mechanisms of protective CD8\(^+\) T cell memory responses in vivo, University of Nantes, France, October 2012
Roles of monocytes in the immune response to microbial pathogens, King’s College London, UK, October 2012
Inflammatory monocytes activate memory and NK lymphocytes in an inflammasome and type I IFN dependent manner during microbial pathogen invasion, Cambridge Healthtech Institute, April 2013

In February 2013, Gregoire served as a temporary member of an NIH review panel for Immunology Fellowships (F07) and Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA; R15).

Laura Santambrogio
Laura has been promoted to Professor. Congratulations!

Laura served as an ad hoc member of the Cellular and Molecular Immunology B (CMIB) NIH study section in October 2012.

Invited lectures:
International Conference on Clinical and Cellular Immunology, Chicago, IL, October 2012
Segal North American Osteoarthritis Workshop, Chicago, IL, October 2012
NIH/NIAID Workshop: Lymphatics Function and the Immune Response to Microbial or Viral Infection, Bethesda, MD, November 2012
University of Texas, Austin, TX, January 2013

Brian Scharf, a Research Fellow in the Santambrogio lab, was awarded the Dennis Shields Prize for Outstanding Postdoctoral Research. Read more about Brian here: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/features/stories/876/dr-brian-scharf-netting-success-in-science/

The Santambrogio lab welcomes new members Maya Tanase (Visiting Scientist), Aleksandra Urbanska (Research Fellow), and Valerio Zolla (Visiting Student).


Andy Yates
Invited lecture: Immunity, host pathogen ecology and information, University of Exeter, UK


Xingxing Zang
Invited lecture: Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY, January 2013