A Message from the Editors

Thank you for your continued efforts in support of our departmental newsletter. Please continue to share your news with us...and submit photos, too!

News from the Chair

As we say goodbye to the 2012-2013 academic year and welcome the summer, the department is readying for the challenges of the coming year which include the implementation of a new curriculum and continuing to operate in a time of great fiscal constraints. However, it is also a time for celebration, for our own Bill Jacobs was elected to the National Academy of Sciences based on his work on mycobacterial genetics and vaccine development. I note that Bill’s transformative work was all done at Einstein. We also congratulate Robert Singer, co-chair of Anatomy and Structural Biology, for election to the National Academy of Sciences. We are thrilled at his election and congratulate them on this tremendous achievement. The department is planning a celebration sometime this summer and I hope all will join us to congratulate Bill in person.

The department also congratulates Drs. Liise-anne Pirofski and Kami Kim for election to the American Academy of Physicians. This is an honorific society that recognizes scientific accomplishments by physician scientists and is considered one of the highest honors in academic medicine. Dr. Pirofski is also the recipient of the Maxwell Littman Award from the New York Medical Mycology Society for her contributions to our understanding of host defense mechanisms against fungi. Congratulations to both!

In an effort to bolster our immunology programs, Dr. Gregoire Lauvau has organized a Distinguished Immunology Lecture Series to begin in the Fall of 2013. The goal is to bring luminaries in the field to tell us about their work and to learn about Einstein. We need your help in making this program successful through your participation in lectures and in meeting with invited speakers when requested by Dr. Lauvau. I believe this is a very important effort, and we are indebted to Dr. Lauvau for his leadership and initiative.

Dr. Robbie Burk is heading a search to recruit an investigator with a research program focused on the microbiome. The search has just begun and we hope to have a successful recruitment in the coming academic year.
Honoring Stan Nathenson

The Dr. Stanley G. Nathenson Memorial Lectureship Fund has been established at Einstein in the hope that it will allow us to honor Stan’s memory with a lecture in his name each year. This effort is being led by Teresa DiLorenzo and Matty Scharff. To those of you who have already contributed to the fund, we thank you. If you have not yet done so, please consider making a donation today in recognition of Stan’s contributions to each of us and to Einstein.

To contribute online, please visit www.einstein.yu.edu/donate and note the following points. In order for your contribution to go to the Nathenson Fund, you should choose “Where the need is greatest” from the drop-down menu. You must also indicate that you are making your gift in memory of Dr. Stanley Nathenson. Alternatively, you may send a check payable to “Albert Einstein College of Medicine” to Emily Snyder, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 1300 Morris Park Ave., Block Building, Room 715, Bronx, NY 10461. Please indicate on your check that your gift is in memory of Dr. Stanley Nathenson. Thank you for your support of this important effort.

New Graduate School Curriculum

The new graduate school curriculum is expected to be implemented in Fall 2013. The new curriculum features three eight-week course “blocks” per year, separated by rotation periods that are four weeks long. The three MI-run courses, which will now be called Microbes, Viruses, and Immunology, are all being redesigned to accommodate these changes. At a recent departmental faculty meeting, the tentative MI departmental requirements that were agreed upon were one of the three MI-run courses and one of Biochemistry, Gene Expression: Beyond the Double Helix, Molecular Genetics, and Molecular Cell Biology (Parts A and B). However, this is still a “work-in-progress,” as the possibility of a school-wide “core curriculum” that includes some of these courses is still under consideration.
A New MI Faculty Member!

The Departments of Pathology and MI welcome new Assistant Professor David Fooksman. David comes to us from New York University School of Medicine where he trained with Michael Dustin. David is an expert in intra-vital multi-photon imaging, which he uses in his studies concerning in vivo plasma cell differentiation, migration, and physiology. His office is located within his lab in 131 Forchheimer. Why not stop by and introduce yourself?

Publications on Departmental Website

The lists of student and postdoc publications on the departmental website have recently been updated. Please check to be sure your publications have been included. Please send any missing publications to teresa.dilorenzo@einstein.yu.edu and they will be added to the site.

Please Welcome the New MI Lab Members!

Ariola Bardhi, Graduate Student (Goldstein)
Nina Flerin, Graduate Student (Goldstein)

News from the Office

The MI Office has re-opened the search for an Assistant Administrator. The Office also announces that Linda Loparrino will be retiring at the end of September after many years of devoted service to the department. Linda, we all wish you well!

News from the Students

Jorge Aguilar (Fries)
Jorge received a grade of “Honors” for his qualifying exam.

Jeffrey Babad (DiLorenzo)

Poster presentation: Using lentivirally transduced human T cells to generate an improved mouse model of type 1 diabetes, Keystone Symposium on Immunopathology of Type 1 Diabetes, Whistler, British Columbia, Canada, April 2013.

Mukherjee, G., A. Geliebter, J. Babad, P. Santamaria, D. V. Serreze, G. J. Freeman, K. V. Tarbell, A. Sharpe, and T. P. DiLorenzo. DEC-205–mediated antigen
targeting to steady-state dendritic cells induces deletion of diabetogenic CD8 T cells independently of PD-1 and PD-L1. *Int Immunol* (in press).

**Jessica Doerner** (Putterman)
Poster presentation: Elucidating the role for TWEAK in the pathogenesis of cutaneous lupus, Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) meeting and Trainee Satellite Symposium, Boston, MA, June 2013.

**Jennifer Schloss** (DiLorenzo)
Jenn received a grade of “Honors” for her qualifying exam.

**Kieran Seay** (Goldstein)

**Jing Wen** (Putterman)
Oral and poster presentation: Hold the rituximab: Neuropsychiatric disease in murine lupus is not B cell-dependent, American Association of Immunologists (AAI) meeting, Honolulu, HI, May 2013.
Jing received a travel award to attend this meeting.

**News from the Research Fellows**

**Gayatri Mukherjee** (DiLorenzo)

**Rahul Pawar** (Putterman)
Poster presentation: Neutrophil Gelatinase Associated Lipocalin (NGAL) regulates the onset of serum autoantibodies in pristane induced lupus, American
Association of Immunologists (AAI) Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, May 2013.

Rahul received an AAI Trainee Abstract Award to attend this meeting.

**Dibyendu Samanta** (Nathenson)


**News from the Associates**

**Neena Jain** (Fries)


**Vasudev Rao** (Prasad)

Poster presentation: Clade C HIV-1 isolates from southern Africa bear a unique genetic signature in Tat and display a higher frequency of dicysteine motif-containing variants that cause increased neurovirulence, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Meeting on Retroviruses, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, May 2013.


**News from the Instructors**

**Catherine Vilcheze** (Jacobs)


News from the Faculty

Joan Berman

Joan was elected as a Councilor for the International Society on Neuroimmune Pharmacology.

Joan was the student-invited speaker for the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) in May 2013. Her talk was entitled, “Mechanisms of neuroinflammation and toxicity: Critical roles in neuroAIDS.”


Arturo Casadevall

Arturo was appointed to the Scientific Council of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, France; reappointed to the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity; and became Program Chair for the General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology.

Arturo was recently invested as the Director of Einstein’s Center for Immunological Sciences. Learn more about this new center here: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/research/highlights/25/strengthening-einsteins-efforts-in-human-immunology/

Invited lectures:
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
Columbia University (Responsible Conduct of Research course)
Texas A&M, College Station, TX
University of Texas at San Antonio
University of Texas at Austin
American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, Denver, CO


Kate Dadachova

Kate was named among the Top 10 faculty members at Einstein by the Dean.

Kate gave two invited talks at the Targeted Alpha Therapy Meeting in Oak Ridge, TN: “Treatment of experimental pancreatic cancer with 213-Bismuth-labeled chimeric antibody to single-strand DNA in combination with cisplatin and gemcitabine” and “213-Bismuth-labeled antibody to gp41 glycoprotein kills ART-treated lymphocytes from HIV patients and HIV-infected monocytes in human blood-brain barrier model.”

Kate served on a National Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel concerning “Innovative and Applied Emerging Technologies in Biospecimen Science.”

Kate will give an invited talk at Columbia University in July entitled, “Radiation enhances the growth of melanin-containing microorganisms.”

Ruth Bryan, a Research Assistant Professor of Radiology in the Dadachova lab, presented a poster, “Ionizing radiation promotes the growth of melanized Cryptococcus neoformans in an energy and dose-rate dependent manner,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Microbiology in Denver, CO.

The Dadachova lab welcomes Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) student Alyza Goldsmith and Diversity Student Summer Research Opportunity Program (DSSROP) student Danielle Espinoza who joined us for summer research.

We wish best of luck to Alicia McFarren, a Medical Research Fellow in the lab, who will be starting her Fellowship in Bone Marrow Transplantation in Children at Duke University in July. We hope that in a year Alicia will come back to join the ranks of Attending Physicians at Montefiore!

We wish best of luck to Thomas Jandl, a Postdoctoral Fellow in the lab, who will continue his postdoctoral research in Betsy Herold's lab from July.


**Teresa DiLorenzo**

Teresa was invested as the Diane Belfer, Cypres & Endelson Families Faculty Scholar in Diabetes Research at a convocation held at the Plaza Hotel in April. Read more about the convocation and view photos here: [http://www.einstein.yu.edu/features/stories/893/einstein-celebrates-historic-gift-and-academic-achievement/](http://www.einstein.yu.edu/features/stories/893/einstein-celebrates-historic-gift-and-academic-achievement/)

Teresa was elected to membership in Einstein’s Leo M. Davidoff Society in May. Membership in the Davidoff Society recognizes “distinguished, caring and committed teaching of medical students at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.”

Invited talk: Antigen-specific T cells in NOD mouse models of diabetes, Keystone Symposium on Immunopathology of Type 1 Diabetes, Whistler, British Columbia, Canada, April 2013.


**Harris Goldstein**

Harris is a co-PI on a new R01 grant just awarded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse for a project entitled, “Drugs of abuse and the epigenetic and signaling pathways controlling HIV latency.” Jonathan Karn at Case Western is the PI. The goal of this project is to determine whether a novel class of anti-inflammatory drugs called ligand-activated nuclear receptor agonists that are neuroprotective against HIV *ex vivo* is an effective therapy for HIV-associated dementia (HAND), particularly in patients who abuse drugs.


**Claudia Gravekamp**

In March, Claudia served on a National Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel that reviewed grant applications concerning companion diagnostics.

**Lukman Solola**, a summer student researcher in the Gravekamp lab, was awarded a prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

Chandra, D.*, A. Jahangir*, W. Quispe-Tintaya, M. H. Einstein, and **C. Gravekamp**. 2013. Myeloid-derived suppressor cells have a central role in attenuated *Listeria*
monocytogenes-based immunotherapy against metastatic breast cancer in young and old mice. *equal contribution


**Bill Jacobs**


**Morad Hassani**, an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Jacobs lab, reports that he is on the full-time attending staff at Jacobi Medical Center working five sessions per week at the Adult Comprehensive Services clinic, while also performing half-time research in the Jacobs lab. He recently received two honors: Bridges to Excellence (Medical Home) Recognition (2011-2013) and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Physician Practice Connections – Patient Centered Medical Home (2013). Morad also notes this recent publication:

Gregoire Lauvau

Gregoire was awarded a Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) pilot project grant to investigate non-cognate activation of memory CD8+ T cells for HIV-specific immunity.

Vinayaka Prasad

Prasad is the recipient of an R21 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for a project entitled, “Targeting CNS HIV reservoirs across the blood-brain barrier.” The aims are (i) to neutralize neurotoxic HIV proteins or infectious HIV virions in the CNS using anti-transferrin receptor aptamers as delivery agents, and (ii) to identify, via SELEX, the next generation drug delivery agents that are highly specific in delivering cargo across the blood-brain barrier. This is a multiple-PI award that will be conducted in collaboration with Matt Levy (Biochemistry).


Andy Yates

Invited lecture: Life choices for T cells: Decision making and optimal strategies, from development to maturity, University College London and University of Bordeaux, June 2013.


**Xingxing Zang**

Xingxing has been promoted to Associate Professor. Congratulations!

Xingxing was invited to join the Editorial Board of *American Journal of Clinical and Experimental Immunology*.
