

## IMMUNOBIOLOGY NEWSLETTER April 2007

### UPCOMING SYMPOSIUM

As a reminder, the interdisciplinary program entitled: *Second Annual Frontiers in Immunobiology and Immunopathogenesis Symposium, 2007*, organized by our department will be held at the Hilton El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort on Saturday, 21 April 2007. The Symposium is being organized by **Richard J. Ablin**.

The *Symposium* will be highlighted by plenary lecturers by Jay Nelson, University of Oregon and Peter Parham, Stanford followed by Invited Lectures and Poster Presentations from researchers of the University of Arizona.

Please note, **all** who are planning to attend the *Symposium*, irrespective of whether you are an Invited Speaker and/or presenting a Poster, **must** RSVP to Chris Campos at 626-6888 or [ccampos@u.arizona.edu](mailto:ccampos@u.arizona.edu) by Friday, 13 April.

For further information contact **Richard J. Ablin, Ph.D.**, at (520) 626-7755 or [ablinrj@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ablinrj@email.arizona.edu).

### Emmanuel T. Akporiaye

Dr. Akporiaye was recently awarded a 4-year RO1 award by the National Cancer Institute of the NIH to study the role of a novel vitamin E analog in the control of metastatic breast cancer.

### Richard L. Friedman

It was announced in a press release in EurekAlert.com that in a paper published in PNAS, that researchers at the University of Arizona, College of Medicine, Department of Immunobiology, under the direction of Dr. Friedman and Dr. Giron, have discovered that the agent that causes tuberculosis (TB), *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, produces a new type of virulence factor called *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Pili* (MTP). Their findings suggest that MTP could be a promising, new TB-vaccine candidate.

The PNAS paper was also reported in Editors' Choice. Microbiology: "At the Point of Attack." 2007. Science 315:1638. A brief report on Chris Alteri's PNAS paper on the discovery of pili production by *M. tuberculosis*.

### **Jorge A. Giron**

Dr. Giron was awarded a grant from Fresh Express Food Safety to study "The Interaction of Escherichia coli O157:H7 with fresh leafy green produce." This award was possible thanks to the hard work, initiative and input from graduate student Jennifer Sanderson.

### **David T. Harris**

Dr. Harris was invited to talk at the following: President's Bioethics Council and Congressional Briefing on stem cells; Apr 23-25; State of Texas legislature, Health Committees, Stem cells, Mar 12; State of Florida legislature, Health Committees, stem cells, Apr 10; Grand Rounds, The Woman's Hospital of Texas, Houston, TX 16 Mar 2007; Grand Rounds, Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Baltimore, MD, 23 Mar 2007; National ACOOG conference, Palm Springs, CA, 31 Mar 2007. Dr. Harris presented an invited talk on the topic of Cord Blood Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine for the Heart, as well as chairing the session on Tissue Engineering.

Dr. Harris and Dr. Joseph Rogers (Sun Health Research Institute) have been appointed Co-Directors of the newly formed Arizona Institute of Regenerative Medicine.

Dr. Harris was interviewed for stories on cord blood banking in the LA Times, Feb 2007; Arizona Daily Star (Tucson), Feb 17, 2007 and Phoenix Business Journal, Mar 2007.

### **GRADUATE STUDENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Roshni Mehta, Ph.D. Candidate

Ms. Mehta received the Donald Sheer Travel Award for \$800. Her abstract was chosen for an oral presentation for the HIV/AIDS Palm Springs Symposium, March 8-11, 2007. She also got \$600 from the meeting organizers to attend the meeting.

Payal Sarkar, Ph.D. Candidate

Ms. Sarkar won the Quentin Mees Award for outstanding environmental research for the year 2007. This award is shared with her advisor Dr Charles Gerba and Barbara Blair.

## **RECENT PUBLICATIONS:**

### Akporiaye Laboratory

- 1) Vitamin E analogues as a novel group of mitocans: Anti-cancer agents that act by targeting mitochondria. Neuzil, J, Dong L-F, **Ramanathapuram L, Hahn T**, Chladova M, Xiu-Fang Wang. X-F, Zobalova R, Prochazka L, **Gold M**, Freeman R, Turanek J, **Akporiaye ET**, Dyason JC and Ralph SJ. Molecular Aspects of Medicine (2007 in press)

### Friedman Laboratory

- 1) **Samuel, L. P.**, C-H Song, J. Wei, E. A. Roberts, J. L. Dahl, C. E. Barry, III, E-K Jo, and **R. L. Friedman**. 2007. Expression, production and release of the Eis protein by Mycobacterium tuberculosis during infection of macrophages and its effect on cytokine secretion. Microbiology 153:529-540.
- 2) **Altieri, C. J. J. Xichotencatl-Cortes**, S. Hess, G. Caballero-Olin, **J. A. Giron**, and **R. L. Friedman**. 2007. Mycobacterium tuberculosis produces pili during human infection. PNAS 104:5145-5150.