

# The Department of Immunobiology

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

### Upcoming Seminars:

- Sept 12—Kathleen Corcoran, PhD student
- Sept 19—Samuel Schluter, PhD, Research Assistant Professor at The University of Arizona
- Sept 26—Vuna Fa, MS student
- Oct 3—Dr. Don Ennis, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- Oct 10—Maria Ordaz, PhD student and Collin LaCasse, PhD student
- Oct 24—Cheryl Meyers, PhD student
- Oct 31—Liang Zhou, MD, PhD, New York University Medical Center
- Nov 7—Dr. Gosse Adema, Nijmegen Center for Molecular Life Sciences, The Netherlands
- Nov 21—Rajalakshmy Ramalingam, PhD student and Sharese Bailey, PhD student
- Dec 5—Jianhua Wang, PhD student

### Next Faculty Meeting:

September 16, 2008 at 12:00pm in MRB 201

## Third Annual Frontiers in Immunobiology and Immunopathogenesis Symposium

Dr. Ablin wishes to thank the Planning Committee, Chris Louis, Sylvia Quintero and all of the presenters who helped make our *Third Annual Symposium* held March 1 at the Hilton El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort a success in showcasing the excellent interdisciplinary research in our department.

Reflections from the "Program Evaluation Forms" indicated 82% rated the Program in the Excellent to Outstanding categories.



## FACULTY UPDATES

### New Grants

- **Dr. Goodrum** was awarded a Human Frontiers in Science Program Grant: Collaborative project with Dr. Michael Nevels at the University of Regensburg, Germany and Dr. Eran Segal at the Weizmann Institute in Israel to determine the Epigenetic Basis of Viral Pathogenesis. \$1.05 million over three years.
- **Dr. Goodrum** was awarded a R01 from National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease to study the function of UL138 in latency
- **Dr. Harris** received a grant from the French Foundation, Fondation Jerome Lejeune.
- **Dr. Nikolich-Zugich** was awarded a 10R01-AG20719 "T-cell homeostasis and function in immune senescence"; 8-2008 - 6/2013; \$1.52 M total cost

## Publications



- **Ahmad N.** Molecular Mechanisms of HIV-1 Vertical Transmission and Pathogenesis in Infants. *Advances in Pharmacology* (ed. by K-T. Jeang, Elsevier Inc) Vol 56, 453-508, 2008.
- Mehta R, Ramakrishnan R, Doktor K, Sundaravaradan S and **Ahmad N.** Genetic characterization of HIV type 1 long terminal repeat following vertical transmission. *AIDS Res Hum Retro* 24 (3): 437-445, 2008.
- Mehta R, Sundaravaradan V and **Ahmad N.** Mutations generated in human immunodeficiency virus type 1 long terminal repeat during vertical transmission correlate with viral gene expression. *Virology* 2008.
- White TC, Chauhan V, Middlebrook AJ, **Deluca D.** Antibodies to CD1d Enhance Thymic Expression of Invariant NKT TCR and Increase the Presence of NOD Thymic invariant NKT cells. *Dev Comp Immunol.* 32(8):943-56. Epub 2008 Feb 11, 2008.
- Lang A, Brien J, Messaoudi I, and **Nikolich-Zugich J.** Age-related dysregulation of CD8+ T-cell memory specific for a persistent virus is independent of viral replication. *J. Immunol.* 180:4848-57, 2008.
- **Nikolich-Zugich, J.** 2008. Ageing and life-long maintenance of T-cell subsets in the face of latent persistent infections. *Nat. Rev. Immunol.* 8:521-22.
- Medigeschi GR, Hirsch AJ, Streblow DN, **Nikolich-Zugich J,** Nelson JA. West Nile virus entry requires cholesterol-rich membrane microdomains and is independent of alphaVbeta3 integrin. *J. Virol.,* 82:5212-9, 2008.



## Media Exposure

- Together with Ray Nagle, Pathology, **Dr. Ablin** is featured in "The Second Opinion," a one-hour documentary film about the over diagnosis and over-treatment of prostate cancer. The premiere screening took place June 20 at the Sherry Lansing Theatre on the Paramount Studios Lot in Hollywood, California.
- **Dr. Harris's** recent interviews/shows:
  - Les Echos (French Economic News), 22 May 2008
  - KGUN-ABC (Tucson), 20 June 2008, cord blood
  - KVOA-NBC (Tucson), 20 June 2008, cord blood
  - KOLD-CBS (Tucson), 21 June 2008, cord blood
  - KMSB-FOX (Tucson), 20 June 2008, cord blood
  - CBS-Phoenix, June 2008, cord blood
  - NPR, June 2008, cord blood
  - KVOA TV-4 (Tucson), 22 August 2008

## Honors and Awards

- **Dr. Ablin** received a joint appointment in the department of Pathology as a Research Professor.
- **Dr. Ablin** was appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of the journals Biomarkers in Medicine and Current Cancer Therapy Reviews.
- **Dr. Goodrum** was named Pew Scholar in Biomedical Sciences to determine the impact of Human Cytomegalovirus Infection on Hematopoietic Cell function using an in vivo xenotransplantation model.
- **Dr. Harris** was recently elected as the Editor in Chief of Cell Transplantation Insights (2008-present)
- **Dr. Harris** was elected the Chairman, Regenerative Medicine Session, Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine Conference, Boston, MA, 7-8 April 2008.
- **Dr. Nikolich-Zugich** has been elected president-elect of the American Aging Association for the term 2009-2010



## Seminars, Lectures and Presentations

- **Dr. DeLuca's** work entitled: The Effects of Vector-Averaged Microgravity During Thymocyte Development, was accepted for poster presentation at the "Life in Space for Life on Earth" that was held on June 23-26, 2008, in Angers, France. Although neither Vuna Fa nor Ty Lebsack were able to attend, our current PI and collaborator Raphiel Gruener, PhD did attend this conference.
- **Dr. Harris** was invited to present a lecture at the launching of the Novus-sanguis Foundation, where he will receive a grant for \$150,000 in May.
- **Dr. Harris** was an invited Speaker, Dept. Pediatrics, UMC, Univ. Arizona, 30 June 2008
- **Dr. Nikolich-Zugich** gave a lecture in front of the National Advisory Council on Aging, NIA, NIH, Bethesda, MD, 2008.
- **Dr. Nikolich-Zugich** gave a lecture at the Third International Conference on Primate Genomics: Primate Genomics and Human Diseases; Seattle, WA, Apr. 13-16, 2008



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## Graduate Student Updates

- **Rajalakshmy Ramalingam ("Raji")** has been selected as the first student to be awarded the Dorrance Fellow ( The Dorrance Family Foundation has donated \$1 million to establish the Dorrance Endowed Fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition at The University of Arizona's Steele Children's Research Center. The endowed fellowship will be used to train promising young researchers in the areas of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition. More details can be found at [www.opa.medicine.arizona.edu/newsroom/newsReleases.cfm](http://www.opa.medicine.arizona.edu/newsroom/newsReleases.cfm)
- **Payal Sarkar** graduated with a PhD in August 2008.
- **Jennifer Sanderson** graduated with a MS in May 2008.
- **Roshni Mehta** graduated with a PhD in April 2008. She has taken up a postdoctoral position at UCLA.
- New students to the Graduate Program of Immunobiology are **Kristin Wesseling** and **Tamara Lundeen**. Welcome!

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Employee Vacation/Sick Leave Reminder

According to UA Policy No. 200.0 (Vacation) and 201.0 (Paid Sick Time), you must report any leave hours to Chris Louis.

You may obtain a leave slip from Chris.

### Traveling?

Per UA Policy No.14.10 (Travel Authorization) You must obtain a travel authorization before your trip.

You may contact Chris Louis at [ccampos@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ccampos@email.arizona.edu) and give her the details of you trip (e.g. what, when, where, why and who). If you need a travel advance, please request one at least 4 weeks before your departure and supply Chris with a fund account number.

Still have questions? Contact Chris at [ccampos@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ccampos@email.arizona.edu) or 626-6888

### Have Something to Add to the Newsletter?

Send any topics to Michelle Blurton at [mblurton@u.arizona.edu](mailto:mblurton@u.arizona.edu) to be included in the next newsletter.

**Submission deadline is the last Monday of every month.**

