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## UMBI Researchers Join the SOM Faculty

Four new faculty from the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI) have joined the Department of Microbiology & Immunology. The UMBI was established more than 20 years ago as a multi-campus research institute and included the Medical Biotechnology Center (MBC) at UMB, the Center of Marine Biotechnology (COMB) in the Baltimore Inner Harbor, the Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology (CARB) in Gaithersburg, and the Center for Biosystems Research at UMCP. (The Institute of Human Virology was part of UMBI until it came under the aegis of the School of Medicine in 2007.) During the past year, the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents decided to disassemble UMBI, with the individual researchers in each center joining the faculty of one of the USM campuses. The faculty members at COMB will remain in the Columbus Center building in the Inner Harbor to form the Institute of Marine and Estuarine Technology (IMET) and will have academic appointments at one of three USM campuses. Seven COMB/IMET faculty have joined the UM School of Medicine, three in the Dept. of Biological Chemistry & Molecular Biology and four in the Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology. The four new faculty members in the Dept. of M & I are Drs. **Shil DasSarma, Frank Robb, Gerardo Vasta and José-Antonio Fernandez-Robledo.**

"UMBI Researchers" continues on page 7

## Faculty Spotlight

by Justin Taylor



### Dr. Matthew Frieman

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Owings Mills, a northwest suburb of Baltimore. Other than a few years in Richmond when I was 2-4, I grew up completely in Baltimore.

**What is your education/ research background?** I went to undergrad at Washington University in St. Louis majoring in Biology. While there, I worked in the lab of Craig Pikaard on silencing of rDNA genes in plants. From there I switched systems again and went to Johns Hopkins University in the Cellular and Molecular Medicine program. There I learned yeast genetics and molecular biology where I worked in the lab of Brendan Cormack on the structure/ function analysis of cell wall adhesions in yeast *Candida glabrata*. After grad school, I switched systems again and went to The University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill to work with Ralph Baric on the Pathogenesis and Immune modulating capabilities of SARS Coronavirus.

Switching systems from plants to yeast to



### Dr. Tonya Webb

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Charlotte, NC.

**What is your education/research background?** I received my undergraduate education in Texas, at Prairie View A&M University. During my junior year, I was a Howard Hughes fellow at Dartmouth College. This is where I had my first research experience, working on a fusion protein as prophylactic vaccine strategy for HIV. I really enjoyed working in the lab, and that was when I decided that research was what I wanted to do with my life. The next summer I was in a T35 -Short term training program in Indiana and decided to stay there for my dissertation work. I received my PhD from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology on studies examining the role of NKT cells in antiviral immune responses. My first post-doctoral position was in the Department of Medicine at IUSOM, and I studied mechanisms of immune tolerance in the setting of transplant rejection. Later, I was a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins and worked in the field of cancer immunotherapy.

"Faculty Spotlight" continues on page 6



## FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR, DR. JAMES KAPER

## TRAINING GRANT RENEWED

Funding for the "[\*Training Program in Immunity and Infection\*](#)" T32 training grant was recently renewed by the NIH. This training grant provides funds for stipends, tuition & fees, and training-related travel for four graduate students working in the broad area of microbiology and immunology. The reviewers of the proposal had many words of praise for this training grant and training environment including "The UMSOM is an exceptional training environment, particularly with the close affiliation of the Center for Vaccine Development, the Institute for Human Virology, and the Institute for Genome Sciences. The expertise, equipment, and facilities available to the students are exceptional" and "One of the great strengths of this program is its large and distinguished training faculty."



This training grant is now in the 11<sup>th</sup> year of funding and has been approved for an additional four years until 2014. The original Program Director (PD) of the grant was Dr. Harry Mobley, former director of the Microbiology & Immunology graduate program. After he left to become Chairman of Microbiology & Immunology at the University of Michigan, Dr. Jan Cerny assumed the leadership of this grant on an interim basis until Dr. James Kaper became PD in 2007. Dr. Nicholas Carbonetti, Director of the GPILS Molecular Microbiology & Immunology program, serves as co-PD of the T32. A Steering Committee, consisting of Drs. Abdu Azad, Patrik Bavoil, Martin Flajnik, George Lewis, Dave Rasko and Stefanie Vogel, works with Drs. Kaper and Carbonetti to choose the students supported by the grant and to advise on other training grant issues. The Steering Committee considers a number of factors in choosing students for this T32 including GPA in their graduate courses, quality of scientific and research presentations, publication of peer-reviewed articles, presentations at scientific meetings, academic awards and honors, and recommendations from advisory and thesis committee members. The four students supported in the 2009-2010 academic year are Caitlin Doremus, Teresa Hsi, Mark Lafferty, and Susan Steyert. Although graduate students working in the area of microbiology & immunology might be supported by other UMB training grants, e.g., the Membrane Biology or Gastroenterology training grants, the *Training Program in Immunity and Infection* is the only grant on campus that is directed towards the training of pre-doctoral students in the area of Microbiology and Immunology.

## SEE YOU AT THE LONGO LOUNGE

by: Priyanka Bala Subrahmanyam

Our very own student room HH 324, now christened *Longo Lounge*, is the new hangout for students, faculty, staff, and everyone in general to interact, mingle, socialize or even cry out for help. This is the place where people often run into each other and then eventually into June! It is the best place for anyone who wants to have a quick bite and a nice chat. The student room is usually well stocked with food and beverages; one will never be disappointed when he/she enters. All the leftover food from journal clubs and other seminars ends up here, where students can do justice to it. So there's much more now, besides the candy in June's office (though that will always have its own charm), and how can we forget the ever-energizing coffee and tea! The student room features fresh coffee every morning, specially brewed by June, and waiting for all those who are in a hurry to grab it before class or work. That reminds me of how June had to stand guard to protect the food for prospective students who had come for their interviews: if you weren't there to see it, you missed some really funny stuff.

Moving beyond food (not for long I promise!), the student room also has two computers and a printer, which makes it perfect for students to print out lecture notes before (or sometimes even after) class. There is a nice conference table with chairs, right in the center of the room, so that everyone can sit around and whine about the weather, curse life in general, or actually study (sometimes).

The best part about this place for most of the students is that they can have meals together and catch up and gossip at the same time.



"Longo" continues on page 7

## NEW STUDENT PROFILES

**B**rian was born in New Orleans, but grew up and spent most of his life in Minnesota. He received his bachelors degree in biology from St. Olaf College in Minnesota. Prior to attending the University of Maryland, He worked for Beckman Coulter's Immunoassay Division. He worked in a research and development laboratory trying to take known cancer, cardiac, or pregnancy marker proteins and develop automated ELISAs that could be used as in-vitro diagnostic tools in a clinical setting. He loves sports and loves to be outdoors playing them, especially baseball.



**Brian Astry**



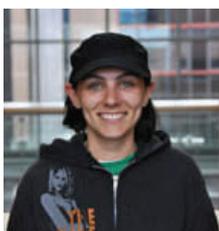
**P**riyanka grew up in Mumbai, India, where she also attended TSEC-Mumbai University. She did her undergrad research project with GlaxoSmithKline studying fermentative steroid transformation, and received a Bachelor's degree in biotechnology engineering. She likes to read (mostly humor, classics and realistic fiction) and simply loves music!

**Priyanka Bala Subrahmanyam**

**A**aron graduated from the University of Minnesota in December '07 with a B.S. in Biochemistry and Genetics/Molecular Cellular Biology, and a minor in Spanish. While he was working in a lab as an undergraduate, he researched the genetic changes important for drug resistance in the opportunistic fungal pathogen *Candida albicans*. Here at UMB however, he is interested in better understanding the interplay between retroviruses (such as HIV) and the immune system. If he's not working, he's probably taking advantage of one of the many happy hour specials on/near campus, going running/working out, jammin' out to Lady Gaga in his Camry, or playing piano.



**Aaron Christensen Quick**



**L**auren grew up in Towson, Maryland. She graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland in 2003 with a B.A. in Philosophy. In 2009 she graduated from University of Maryland, Baltimore with a B.S. in Medical and Research Technology with a concentration in Biotechnology. Some of her previous research includes helping to develop a yeast ID panel at Becton Dickinson and working on gene identification in *Bdellovibrio* in Dr. Silvia Pineiro's lab at UMB. In her time off she likes to spend time outside and play with her dogs.

**Lauren Hittle**

**K**atie grew up in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania and went to Temple University, Philadelphia where she graduated with a BS in biochemistry. She also became involved in ALS research at Drexel University her sophomore year. She stayed there working under Terri Heiman-Patterson (M.D.), studying neuronal AMPA receptors and Ca<sup>2+</sup> trafficking until she graduated in May 2009.



**Katie Howell**

**P**atrick is originally from Montgomery, NJ, he attended Johns Hopkins University from 2002-2006 and graduated with a B.S. in Cellular and Molecular Biology and a minor in Philosophy. As an undergraduate he spent a year in the lab of Dr. Joel Schildbach working on crystallization of the bacterial conjugation protein TraBb. After graduation he spent a year working as a laboratory technician for Dr. Hetty Caraway at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Oncology Department examining the role of epigenetic regulation in hematological malignancies. He then completed the first two years of his medical education at UMB as part of the MD/PhD program before joining the Molecular Microbiology and Immunology program in fall of 2009. He is a member of Dr. Mark Shirtliff's lab and is pursuing research projects on both *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* biofilms.



**Patrick Kerns**

NEW STUDENT PROFILE *continued***Sergio Mojica**

**S**ergio was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and grew up mostly in East Lyme, CT. He did his undergrad at Binghamton University and graduated in 2009. Before grad school he got lab experience from two places. One was interning for Pfizer two separate summers, both times doing huge screens of microorganisms and isolated enzymes looking for transformation of drug product intermediates. The other was working for Dr. David G. Davies (an old buddy of Shirliff's) in Binghamton on biofilm dispersion via a quorum sensing mechanism and its applications for wound healing. He did this for three semesters.

**Pragnesh Mistry**

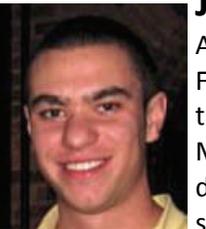
**P**raghesh graduated from University of Maryland College Park in 2008 with a B.S. in biochemistry. He worked at Uniformed Services University in Dr. Schell's lab studying IP3K role in T cell activation. He also studied GAS virulence in Dr. McIver's lab using transposon mutagenesis at University of Maryland College Park. His concentration is in immunology and host-pathogen interactions.

**Carolyn Morris**

**C**arolyn graduated from the University of Vermont with a BS in molecular genetics. After college she worked for the New York State Department of Health studying neutralizing antibodies against ricin. Carolyn and her husband moved to Maryland in 2008. She worked for Diana Oram in the Dental School before starting the program. In her free time she enjoys horseback riding, running, playing guitar and spending time with her 4 cats, dog, and 2 rabbits.

**Jessica Shiu**

**J**essica grew up in Hong Kong and stayed there long enough to witness the hand-over of the city to China in 1997. She left HK to attend college at the University of Chicago, with aspirations to study Economics. She quickly realized that she hated economics and transferred to University of Toronto. In Toronto, she did research on breast cancer carcinogenesis with Dr. Tak Mak and on *Salmonella* and its interaction with the autophagy pathway with Dr. Brumell. She is studying the immune response to *H. pylori* infection in Dr. Blanchard's lab here. Other than science, she enjoys cooking, running, walking around Baltimore neighborhoods and music.

**Justin Taylor**

**J**ustin was born in New Jersey (home of Jersey Shore and the greatest state in America, not to be confused with Baltimore, which is the greatest city in America). He grew up in Frederick, Maryland. He received his Bachelor's in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from the University of Colorado-Boulder. He worked at National Cancer Institute and the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. His research interests include emerging infectious diseases and biothreat agents, especially viruses. His hobbies include mountain biking, road biking, skiing, golf, and track days.



## Grants, Awards & Promotions

- ◆ **Abdu Azad's** grant: *NIH/NIAID, R01 AI 43006*, Interspecific Competition Between Rickettsiae in Ticks, was renewed until 2015.
- ◆ **Patrik Bavoil** and **Jacques Ravel** received an NIH U19 AI084044 – STI-CRC (RFA-AI-08-004): Eco-Pathogenomics of Chlamydial Reproductive Tract Infection (EPCRTI). 10/09 to 09/14. Total costs \$12,207,835.
- ◆ **Caitlin Doremus** (Flanjik lab) won the "Best Student Oral Presentation Award" for her talk at the 11th Congress of the International Society of Developmental and Comparative Immunology (ISDCI) in Prague, Czech Republic, last summer (June 28-July 4th, 2009) titled "Nurse shark IgNAR phage display clones specific for HIV glycoprotein, gp120's CD4-induced conformation"
- ◆ The **Flanjik lab** attended the Biomedical and Comparative Immunology Symposium last March (March 5th-6th, 2009) in Miami at Florida International University, where **Caitlin Doremus** was a co-recipient of the Matthew D. Graham Best Graduate Student Presentation Award (2009)
- ◆ **Matt Frieman** received a 2 year RCE grant funded through the Southeast Regional Center for Excellence in Emerging infectious Diseases and Biodefense. The title is "Metagenomic Analysis of the Virome of Eastern North American Bats"
- ◆ **Matt Frieman** also had a paper accepted to PLOS Pathogens titled "SARS-CoV Pathogenesis is Regulated by a STAT1 Dependent but a Type I, II and III Interferon Receptor Independent Mechanism"
- ◆ **Bret Hassel** received a one year Maryland Proof of Concept Alliance (MPCA) Award for \$135,000 total costs to support the translation of the University System of Maryland (USM) developed technologies from the laboratory to the marketplace; this study will test the antibacterial activity of RNase-L activators.
- ◆ **Melissa Hayes** (Lukashevich lab) received a travel award to the American Society for Virology 28th Annual Meeting, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada July 11-15, 2009
- ◆ **Brian Peters** (Shirtliff lab) received an ASM Student Travel Grant at the 5th ASM Conference on Biofilms (2009) and a FEMS Young Scientist Meeting Grant at Eurobiofilms (2009).
- ◆ **Mark Shirtliff** was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Microbial Pathogenesis in the Dental School (primary appointment) in Fall of 2009 and Associate Professor in Microbiology and Immunology in the School of Medicine (secondary appointment) in Winter of 2010.
- ◆ **Mark Shirtliff** received the following grant: "*Candida albicans* and *Staphylococcus aureus* biofilms: *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies" National Institutes of Health. 1R01DE020939. Mary Ann Jabra-Rizk and Mark E. Shirtliff. \$1,250,000 (+ \$625,000 Indirects). \$125,000/yr to Shirtliff Lab. July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2015.



## Meetings & Posters

- ◆ **Rebecca Brady** presented "Vaccines against *Staphylococcus aureus* biofilms" at the Gordon Conference of *Staphylococcus aureus* in New Hampshire on September 1, 2009.
- ◆ **Nick Carbonetti** is the host organizer for the 9th International Symposium on *Bordetella*, to be held in Baltimore at the Renaissance Harbor place Hotel Sept 30-Oct 3, 2010 (<http://medschool.umaryland.edu/bordetella/default.html>)
- ◆ **Caitlin Doremus** gave an oral presentation at the 11th Congress of the International Society of Developmental and Comparative Immunology (ISDCI) in Prague, Czech Republic, last summer titled "Nurse shark IgNAR phage display clones specific for HIV glycoprotein, gp120's CD4-induced conformation.
- ◆ **Caitlin Doremus** presented a poster at the "Transcriptional Mechanisms of Early Lymphocyte Development Symposium", in La Jolla, California, last November titled "Is BLIMP1 really necessary for Ig-secreting cells in nurse sharks?"



## UMB- UMCP "Crosstalk" Symposium Held

The first UMB-UMCP Research Symposium in the area of microbiology and immunology was held on January 12, 2010 at the UM College Park campus. The theme of the symposium was "Crosstalk: across cells, across campuses". The idea for this symposium originated when Dr. Norma Andrews, the newly appointed Chair of the Dept. of Cell Biology & Molecular Genetics (CBMG) at UMCP, presented a seminar in the Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology on her research on *Leishmania* and *T. cruzi*. An annual symposium featuring presentations by faculty from both campuses was proposed to increase interactions among microbiologists and immunologists across the University of Maryland system.

Unlike other major public universities such as Michigan, Wisconsin, and North Carolina, where the medical school is located on the flagship campus, the University of MD School of Medicine is located 30 miles away from the flagship campus at College Park. Such a distance (which seems even longer once traffic jams and parking issues are included) inhibits research and teaching collaborations and lowers the national ranking of UM. For example, UMCP and UMB are ranked 41<sup>st</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup>, respectively, in research funding among U.S. universities. If combined, they would rank 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation with over \$1 billion in funding.

The symposium was organized and chaired by Drs. Stefanie Vogel, Professor of Microbiology & Immunology at UMB, and Debra Weinstein, Associate Director of .... "Crosstalk Symposium" continues on page 9



### Faculty Spotlight continued.....

#### Frieman continued...

*viruses has allowed me to build a tool set that I have been able to use across plat forms. I think its really important that throughout your training you keep learning new techniques and tools to take with you into the next step.*

**What research does your lab focus on?** *We are trying to understand how highly pathogenic respiratory viruses cause disease. Using the SARS Coronavirus as a model, we are identifying the viral proteins that are important in making SARS-CoV so pathogenic. From the host side, we are looking at how the host response to infection may lead to disease.*

*The big question we are answering is how does the SARS-CoV virus cause such high mortality in people while other human Coronaviruses just give you a cold? We are looking at this question using viral infections in cell culture, reverse genetics and mouse models of disease.*

**What are your hobbies?** *Before I had a baby (she will be 1 at the end of June) I had plenty of time to play golf, soccer, softball and walk my pug. These days its pretty much working in the lab and then baby play time 24/7.*

*But I do always find time to fit in my Gym, Tanning and Laundry\*.*

*\* (This answer may not be true)*

**What is one fact about you that most people wouldn't know?** *Using only a 9 volt battery and a bandana, I once protected an entire Peruvian village from being overrun with ferocious feral cats. I have climbed the Seven Summits including Mt Everest, twice. The second time with my eyes closed. I hate Duke basketball. I can smell what the Rock is cooking; it's pizza. I was drafted by the Yankees but decided grad school would pay better.*



#### Webb continued...

**What research does your lab focus on?** *Currently, the research in my lab is focused on NKT cell-based immunotherapeutic strategies for the treatment of cancer.*

**What are your hobbies?** *My hobbies include reading novels, dancing, and playing with my kids. I also enjoy playing video games and watching movies.*

**What is one fact about you that most people wouldn't know?** *Most people do not know that I used to write screenplays.*

## NEW WEBSITE

The Department of Microbial Pathogenesis at the Dental School has a new website! <http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/dentaldepts/micropath/index.html>



## LONGO LOUNGE *continued*

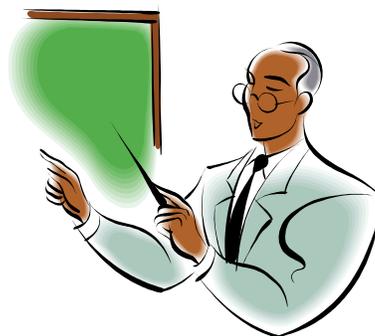
It's a good opportunity for everyone to learn about each other, since we all come from diverse (and sometimes bizarre) backgrounds. Often there are surprise assignments to complete, and could there be a better place to rush through, get quick opinions, look up things, print and finally rush to class! Whether it's the qualifying exam or anything smaller than that, you can always come to the student room and get some help. This is where new students meet the old students and the old students meet even older ones. This is where all the flyers are posted to tell us which event is where, which seminar is when and which lab has how much money! So no one can really sign up for anything or even pick a rotation without taking a quick tour and having a chat with everyone in the student room. And if you are wondering where you can look at pictures from picnics, parties and of brand new babies- well, you can make a good guess now!



This student room, now Longo Lounge, was furnished through the generosity of Dr. Nancy Longo, a former graduate student in the old Department of Microbiology & Immunology graduate program (pre-GPILS). Dr. Longo, who conducted her dissertation research under the direction of Dr. Jan Cerny, went on to a highly successful career at the NIH. She and her husband, Dr. Dan Longo, gave a donation to the Department with the request that it be used in some way to help the students. Drs. Kaper and Carbonetti, together with June and Victor Ayala, developed a plan to equip the room with two new computers, a printer, a scanner, a refrigerator and many other useful things. The result is a really comfortable and open place to hang out in as well as a convenient office to print out class notes and articles. Early in October, the department organized a happy hour to celebrate the official opening of this room and to express our gratitude to Dr. Longo. This happy hour was a great opportunity to meet and thank Dr. Longo, who said how valuable such a space would have been to her when she was a student. She remembers feeling isolated and unconnected as a first year student- a thing our current first year students have not experienced. The happy hour was also a good time for new students to meet other students and faculty, get introduced, and make friends knowing where to meet them the next day. We cannot thank Drs. Nancy and Dan Longo enough for their gift, which is serving us so well.

## UMBI RESEARCHERS *continued*

All have been appointed at the Professor level except for Dr. Fernandez-Robledo who joins as Assistant Professor. **Dr. DasSarma** is probably the most familiar to *Microscop* readers, having been profiled in the spring 2007 issue in addition to serving as the Director of the Molecular Genetics, Genomics, and Bioinformatics Track in the GPILS Molecular Medicine program. Dr. DasSarma works with extremophiles, members of the third domain of life, *Archaea*. His research focuses on the genomics and physiology of *Halobacterium*, which grows in very high salt environments. **Dr. Robb** also works on *Archaea*, particularly with hyperthermophiles, which thrive in boiling hot springs. He has particular interests in characterizing the proteins and other molecular adaptations of these organisms that allows them to grow at temperatures that would destroy "normal" proteins. **Dr. Vasta** is an immunologist and biochemist who investigates molecular aspects of innate immunity in vertebrates and invertebrates with particular interest in the acute phase response. The role of lectins and protein-carbohydrate interactions in host-pathogen relationships is a major emphasis in his research. **Dr. Fernandez-Robledo** is a parasitologist who studies the protozoan parasite *Perkinsus marinus* ("Dermo"), which has devastated the eastern oyster industry in the Chesapeake Bay and elsewhere on the East Coast. He has developed an expression system using *Perkinsus* to express recombinant proteins from other parasites such as *Plasmodium*.



*Look for in-depth profiles of these new faculty members in future issues of Microscop.*

## Meetings & Posters *continued*

- ◆ **Martin Flajnik** was invited to present seminars at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in May, Texas A&M University in September, the University of Connecticut in October, the University of Beijing Veterinary School in January, and the University of Arizona in February.
- ◆ **Jan Harro** presented “Chronic Orthopedic Infections: Are Vaccines the Answer?” at the OTA Annual Meeting - 25th Anniversary Meeting in San Diego, CA on October 8-10, 2009.
- ◆ **Melissa Hayes** presented a poster at American Society for Virology 28th Annual Meeting, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada on July 11-15, 2009 titled "Lassa virus S RNA-encoded gene products inhibit human TLR2-dependent IL-8 response in HEK293 cells."
- ◆ **Brian Peters** gave an oral presentation titled “*Candida albicans-Staphylococcus aureus* dual-species biofilms mediate invasive staphylococcal infection” at the 5th ASM Conference on Biofilms in Cancun, Mexico on November 15-19, 2009. Brian also gave an oral presentation titled “*Candida albicans* and *Staphylococcus aureus* Dual-Species Biofilms” at Eurobiofilms in Rome, Italy on September 2-5, 2009. Recently, he presented a poster titled “*Candida albicans-Staphylococcus aureus* dual-species biofilms facilitate invasive staphylococcal infection” at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) Trainee Day in Washington, DC on March 3, 2010.
- ◆ **Ranjani Prabhakara** presented "Host Pathogen Interactions in *Staphylococcus aureus* Biofilm Infections" at the Network on Antimicrobial Resistance in *Staphylococcus aureus* in Reston, Virginia.
- ◆ **Mark Shirliff** gave the following presentations:
  - ◆ “Novel Approaches for an Antibiofilm *S. aureus* Vaccine”, 8th World Congress on Trauma, Shock, Inflammation, and Sepsis (TSIS), Munich, Germany. March 9th – 13th, 2010.
  - ◆ “Biofilms in Medical and Dental Infectious II”, Session Chair. 5th ASM Conference on Biofilms. Cancun, Mexico. November 15 - 19, 2009.
  - ◆ “SYMPOSIUM 5: Infection” Session Chair. OTA Annual Meeting - 25th Anniversary Meeting. San Diego, CA. October 8-10, 2009
  - ◆ “The Host Immune Response: How Important Is It?” OTA Annual Meeting - 25th Anniversary Meeting. San Diego, CA. October 8-10, 2009
  - ◆ “Views from the host and the pathogen in *Staphylococcus aureus* anti-biofilm vaccine development.” National Institute of Standards and Technology, Bethesda, Maryland. September 28, 2009.
  - ◆ “Host immune response to biofilm infections.” Co-Organizer and Session Chair. Euro-biofilms, Rome, Italy. September 4, 2009.
  - ◆ “Vaccine development and the host immune response to *Staphylococcus aureus* biofilms.” Eurobiofilms, Rome, Italy. September 4, 2009.
  - ◆ “Biofilms and chronic wound infections.” Symposium on Advanced Wound Care/Wound Healing Society. Dallas, TX. April 29, 2009.
  - ◆ “Role of the host and the pathogen in musculoskeletal infections.” Musculoskeletal Infection Society Annual Meeting. August 7-8, 2009.



WHERE'S  
MARK  
SHIRTLIFF?

## MICROSCOOP

## PERSONAL NEWS!

**Olu Adewunmi**, Senior Accountant in the Microbiology and Immunology Department graduated in December 2009 with his MBA in Finance from the University of Baltimore.

**Preeta Dasgupta** got married, on January 22, 2010 to Prabhu Raman in Bangalore, India. Her husband is a post-doctoral fellow in the School of Pharmacy.



Postdoctoral fellow **Nathalie Maroncle Basu** in the **Kaper** lab gave birth to Ilina Basu, born March 23, 2010 at 0:23 AM, 6 lb, 4.9 oz.

**Melissa Hayes** and her husband Bryan had their first child. Teaghan was born on Saturday, April 3, 2010 at 12:12pm. She weighed 6lbs 1oz, 20 inches long.

**Matt Frieman** had a baby in June right as he was starting his lab. Ella Kate Frieman was born June 26, 2009.

**Jacques Ravel** and his wife Stephanie had their 4th child, a little boy, Luke, born on September 21, 2009. He is now joining Sean (9), Charlotte (7) and Claire (4).

**Chun Tan** of the **Bavoil lab** graduated with her PhD and is now in Dental School in Philadelphia. **Jan Peters**, a post-doc in the Bavoil lab has left for another postdoc in Memphis. New members of the Bavoil lab include research assistants Jinqing Liang, Andrea Kennard, and Chani Simhi as well as graduate student **Sergio Mojica**. On May 1 Patricia Marques, PhD will join the lab all the way from Dublin, Ireland.

**Debbie Ingram**, Senior Accountant in the Microbiology and Immunology Department graduates in May from the University of Baltimore and has been accepted in the UB MBA program.

**Ranjani Prabhakara** of the Shirliff lab successfully defended her PhD in late 2009.

**Thiagarajan Venkataraman (Raja)** joined the **Hassel lab** as a Research Fellow to study the antimicrobial action of RNase-L. Raja previously worked with Heather Ezelle and Darren Perkins in Glen Barber's lab at the University of Miami School of Medicine.

Crosstalk Symposium *continued*

the Maryland Pathogen Research Institute at UMCP. (Dr. Vogel and Dr. Kaper are UMCP alumni, having received both their B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from that campus.) Funding was provided by the Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology and the Dean's Office of the UM SOM and the Maryland Pathogen Research Institute and the College of Chemical and Life Sciences at UMCP. A continental breakfast started the day followed by a plenary morning session where UMB faculty Drs. James Kaper, James Nataro and Alan Cross spoke on their research on *Vibrio cholerae*, enteroaggregative *E. coli*, and host response to *Bacillus anthracis*, respectively, and Dr. Kevin McIver of UMCP spoke about his research on pathogenic streptococci. Posters and vendor displays were viewed during the lunch break. In the afternoon, Dr. Claire Fraser-Liggett spoke about the role of human microbiota in health and disease while Drs. Daniel Perez and William Bentley of UMCP spoke about influenza and bacterial cell-to-cell communication, respectively. A keynote talk was given by Dr. Alan Sher, Chief of the Immunobiology Section of the Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases at the NIH, on effector choice in the immune response to parasites. A wine and cheese reception ended the day.

The symposium was highly successful, with over 170 students, postdocs, faculty, and other researchers in attendance, and several new collaborations were established. Although nothing can be done about the physical distance between the two campuses, such joint research symposia can play an important role in encouraging and enhancing interactions

The symposium was highly successful, with over 170 students, postdocs, faculty, and other researchers in attendance, and several new collaborations were established. Although nothing can be done about the physical distance between the two campuses, such joint research symposia can play an important role in encouraging and enhancing interactions

## MICROSCOOP

The Annual American Association of Immunology meeting will be held in Baltimore on May 7-11. This impressive gathering of top immunology researchers from around the world provides us with an opportunity to present an expanded Goidl Immunology Symposium immediately after the AAI meeting ends. The symposium, entitled "Modulation of Innate and Adaptive Immunity: A Celebration" will feature Katherine Fitzgerald, Jeffrey Ravetch, and William E. Paul as speakers with a reception to follow. The symposium will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 PM in the new SMC Campus Center, 621 West Lombard St., Ballrooms 208 & 210. Please contact Teri Robinson (trobinson@som.umaryland.edu) for further information.

The Department of Microbiology and Immunology UMB presents:

*The Edmond Goidl Immunology Lecture  
&  
The Dr. Aaron I. Grollman Visiting  
Professorship in Basic Medical Sciences Symposium*

**MODULATION OF INNATE AND ADAPTIVE  
IMMUNITY: A CELEBRATION**



**Katherine Fitzgerald, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor,  
University of Massachusetts

**Title: *Cytosolic Sensing of DNA***



**Jeffrey Ravetch, M.D., Ph.D.**, Theresa and Eugene M.  
Lang Professor, Head—Laboratory of Molecular Genetics  
and Immunology, The Rockefeller University

**Title: *Modulating Immunity through Fc Receptors***



**William E. Paul, M.D.**, Chief—Laboratory of Immunology,  
NIAID, The National Institutes of Health

**Title: *CD4 T cells: Fates and Functions***

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

*1:00-5:00 o'clock in the afternoon*

***SMC Campus Center (Student Center)***

*621 West Lombard Street, Baltimore MD 21201*

*Ballrooms 208 & 210*

*Reception immediately after presentations*

*For more information, please contact Teri Robinson @ trobinson@som.umaryland.edu*

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### NEWSLETTER OF THE MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY COMMUNITY UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND- BALTIMORE

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## Maryland Branch ASM Dinner Meeting Annual Poster & Student Oral Presentations

**Deadline for Abstracts:** Friday, May 21, 2010

**Deadline for RSVP to Dinner:** Tuesday, June 1, 2010

**Dinner Meeting Date:** Wednesday, June 9, 2010



**I**t is time again for the **Annual Poster & Student Oral Presentation** meeting of the Maryland Branch American Society for Microbiology. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 9th starting at 5:30. The location couldn't be more convenient, all you need to do is wander down to the MSTF Atrium- some of you don't even need to leave your buildings to get there. This is an excellent opportunity to be recognized for your contributions to the field of microbiology. One graduate and undergraduate student with exceptional work will be awarded the J. Howard Brown Award and a \$200 honorarium. The winners will give oral presentations on their winning work at the dinner meeting. The dinner is free to all students attending, so even if you don't have work to submit at this time it is a fun opportunity to meet other microbiology lovers and get some new ideas. All microbiology graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to submit abstracts up until May 21. Abstracts submitted to other meetings, such as the ASM National meeting, are welcome. Abstract submission is open to non-student ASM members, although there is no prize it is a good time to share your work with the community. Anyone interested in attending should contact Paulette Hammond, [paulette.d.hammond@questdiagnostics.com](mailto:paulette.d.hammond@questdiagnostics.com), by June 1st. The abstract submission form can be found attached here, emails will also be sent to students containing all important information. Don't forget, June presentations could make wonderful posters!

***See page 15 for Poster Presentation Submission Form– Due by May 21st***

**Poster Presentation Submission Form****DUE DATE: May 21, 2010**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**ABSTRACT:** Submit abstract on the subsequent page. Two student abstracts will be chosen for oral presentations and each presenter will receive an honorarium of \$200. Abstracts may be used from other scientific presentations or meetings.

1. The presenter is an undergraduate student
2. The presenter is a graduate student
3. The presenter is a ASM MD Branch Member

Submit Completed Form by 05/21/10 to Paulette Hammond; Email: [paulette.d.hammond@questdiagnostics.com](mailto:paulette.d.hammond@questdiagnostics.com)

**MAIL:**

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Annual Poster &amp; Student Oral Presentations 2010

Abstract

Word Limit = 400 words maximum