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Microscoop

MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY NEWSLETTER

MICROSCOOP STAFF

Teri M. Robinson, Editor

Hal Neely, Contributor

Pragnesh Mistry, Contributor

Erin Harberts, Contributor

Justin Taylor, Contributor

Becca Pelc, Contributor

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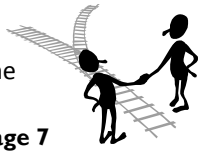
UMCP & UMB Merger.... Justin Taylor

Op-Ed Letter from Student Leadership (Andrew York-UGSA President, Nick Dye-USGA Vice President, Shannon O'Connor-GSA President, Justin Taylor-GSA Vice President) at UMB to the Board of Regents...

Researchers are taught to ask questions. Lawyers are taught that mergers are meant to be mutually beneficial to the willing parties involved. Physicians are taught the first principle of the Hippocratic Oath – do no harm. From the lessons learned during our professional training as students at the schools of University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) we have concluded that a formal merger, in the traditional business definition, is not in the best interest of the students of this university or the citizens of Maryland.

We strongly support increased collaboration and a strategic alliance between the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP) and UMB. One model of such an alliance is the CIMIT model used by universities and hospitals in Boston that promotes collaboration beyond campus boundaries. In the case of UMCP and UMB, though, the risks of a merger outweigh the many benefits of collaboration and, as a result, we oppose a formal, business style, merger of the two universities.

The opposition to the merger from the Baltimore and UMB communities has been dismissed as short-sighted, self-serving, and "parochial", but that couldn't be further from the truth. The faculty, staff, and students of UMB have every incentive to improve the quality of education, research, and service that UMB provides. As paying customers of those services, we support measures that will improve the quality of the university and the education students receive, and we recognize that a merger between UMCP and UMB is not one of those measures.



One of the primary benefits offered in support of the merger is that it will distinguish the new institution as one of the top universities in the country based on the combined research and operating budgets. But that assumption is based on **continued on page 7**

UMB December Employee of the Month

Have you heard— UMB's employee of the month of December is Microbiology & Immunology's own— Teri Robinson. On Tuesday, December 12, 2011, President Jay Perman appeared in the Microbiology and Immunology office to surprise Teri with the honor. President Perman thanked Teri for her good work and dedication and said, "we need more people like you."

Congratulations Teri and keep up the good work!

To read the entire article, look out for February 2012 edition of the VOICE.

Jessica Shiu Earns Outstanding PhD Scholar GPILS Award

On Monday November 7th the annual GPILS awards ceremony was held with our own Jessica Shiu receiving the outstanding PhD scholar award. Jess is in her fourth year as a graduate student, and is in the MD/PhD program. After she finishes her extremely successful run in graduate school she will return to complete her MD rotations to round out her impressive education which also includes a masters in public health. The ceremony was well attended and the crowd was outpouring with support for Jess as she accepted this well deserved award. Her mentor, Dr. Tom Blanchard, gave a glowing account of her many accomplishments and was obviously more than proud of his graduate student, who he admitted he considers more of a colleague than student. Not only is Jess a force to be reckoned with in the scientific field, but she is also now the reigning UMB URecFit badminton champion! She has played badminton competitively ever since she was young and decided to show off her skills this year at our gyms intramural tournament. Other competitors were no match for her, she took the bracket by storm and had no trouble ending up on the top. Congratulations to Jess on all her outstanding accomplishments, we look forward to seeing what she will tackle next!

The 60th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene was held on December 4-8 in Philadelphia, PA, and was attended by the Azad lab.

Congratulations to

Dr. Abdu Azad

on his receipt of

The Harry Hoogstraal Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology

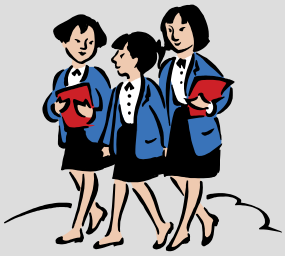
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brian Astry was married to Kelly Matzen on the 12th of August in their home town of St. Paul, MN. They both had a wonderful time on the big day and are now enjoying married life here in Baltimore!

On September 26 **Lauren Hittle** and her husband Eric welcomed their daughter Lucille Eleanor Hittle into the world. She was born at 6:13pm, weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz., was 18 inches long, and had a full head of beautiful hair. Congratulations to Lauren and Eric on their adorable and healthy baby girl!

Melissa Hayes and her husband Bryan are expecting their second baby girl at the end of March 2012. She will be a wonderful addition to their growing family and we will look forward to meeting her in the spring.

Avital Shimanovich (Talie) and her husband welcomed their daughter Tzivia Sara Shimanovich aka "Sara" in the world on December 22nd. Sara was 6lbs 13 oz and 19.9 inches long. Congratulations on your new bundle of joy!



NEW STUDENTS

Alexandria Reinhart

Alexandria is originally from Troy, MI, but moved to Charlotte, NC in 2001. She attended University of North Carolina at Charlotte for undergrad. Her primary scientific interest is in genetics as it relates to microbial pathogenesis. In her free time she likes to make beaded jewelry and read books by Agatha Christie or Richard Preston.

Yunchen Chen

Coming to Baltimore from farther than anyone else in his class, Yunchen hails from Chongqing, China. He moved to Beijing to attend China Agricultural University, before moving to the United States for graduate school. He is mainly interested in virology and immunology. Yunchen can usually be found in the school gym playing basketball, volleyball, and badminton. He also enjoys watching movies, playing saxophone, and bicycling.

Justin Mancini

Justin has lived in Baltimore city for pretty much his entire life, except for a brief stint near Philadelphia where he attended college, before returning home to live with his mother. His past research experiences have included characterizing an outer membrane protein from a diarrhea-causing strain of *E. coli* and studying immune dysregulation in the context of cancer and neurodegeneration. However, he has wanted to be a virologist ever since he saw that movie "Outbreak" in middle school; consequently, one of his goals in life is to eventually wear one of those cool hazmat suits. The journal articles he finds to be the most enjoyable to read are those pertaining to cancer immunology or anything involving viruses. Hobbies include: curating his iTunes music library, Zumba, collecting vocabulary words, planning for the impending zombie apocalypse, and playing with his cat. He is a Level 2 "Dog Deputy" at the MD-SPCA.

Jeticia Sistrunk

Jeticia is from Garland, Texas, but went to the University of Oklahoma for college. After graduating she earned an MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Texas School of Public Health, and then spent a year as an APHL/CDC Emerging Infectious Diseases Fellow assigned to the New York State Food Laboratory in Albany, NY. She is most interested in enteric bacterial pathogenesis and vaccine development. When she is not in lab she enjoys reading, traveling and playing alto saxophone.

Sabina Kaczanowska

Sabina grew up nearby in Columbia, Maryland and attended University of Maryland, College Park. She came straight to UMB from undergrad. Her interests include bacterial pathogenesis and virulence factors, as well as drug and vaccine development for human diseases and cancer. Traveling and snowboarding are some of Sabina's hobbies that she enjoys in her free time.

Rebecca Pelc

Rebecca was born in Germany and moved around a lot due to being an army family, although she considers Fairfax Station, VA home. She attended University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA and graduated in 2005. Between undergrad and coming to UMB, Rebecca worked for Midwest Research Institute doing biodefense contract work in Rockville, MD. She is mostly interested in bacterial pathogenesis, but is open to experiencing other fields. Rebecca likes to travel, go to museums, watch college football, and read. She also enjoys spending time with her husband and their Labrador retriever, Newton.

Avital "Talie" Baral

"Talie" is originally from Baltimore, and went to Towson University for undergrad. During undergrad, she had an internship with Dr. Ricardo Feldman in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. After completing undergrad, she accepted a position in Dr. Feldman's laboratory for a year while applying to graduate programs. She loves immunology and it has always found it fascinating, and is thankful for the opportunity to study it here at UMB. For fun, she loves spending time with her family and cooking and baking.

The National Cancer Institute sponsored a conference entitled **Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy: Building on Success** on the main campus of the National Institutes of Health on the 22nd and 23rd of September, and was attended by the Antony lab. Upon his return, Kyle Wilson presented a recap of the major themes of the meeting, including immunotherapy by transfer of T lymphocytes, vaccine-based cancer therapies, and immunomodulation-based cancer therapies.

NEWS FLASH!

Carly Page has had an extremely successful running career this fall. She qualified for and completed the New York City marathon in 3hr 4min 4sec, an amazing time! She was the 90th woman to finish overall and the 48th American woman. She also won (yes, that's first place!) the Wineglass Half Marathon in Corning NY on October 2nd, congratulations Carly!

Career Fair Symposium

Held at UMB on October 7th— our department hosted a career symposium focusing on the broad spectrum of career paths available to those who have a PhD in microbiology/immunology. The symposium was hosted in the new student center and was catered towards local graduate students and post-docs, it gave them an opportunity to listen to accounts of personal experiences from those who have been successful in their careers, traditional or otherwise. The speakers were very well received and represented everything from community college professors and industry liaisons, to patent lawyers and magazine writers. Speaker from the FDA and NIH also presented to help emphasize the government job opportunities that are uniquely available in our area. Each speaker was asked to give a short 10-15 minute presentation about their personal path to the job they are in now, and how they obtained their position. There were several coffee breaks during which many new contacts were made and there was much meaningful discussion about career paths. Then at the end of the morning there was a panel discussion with all of the presenters that allowed time for widespread interaction amongst speakers and attendees, followed by lunch that encouraged continued mingling that was sparked during the panel discussion. There were around 70 attendees at the symposium, most of whom were from UMB, with students from UMCP, UMBC, and Towson also in attendance. The general consensus of those in attendance was that the talks were very informative and helpful in thinking about life after graduation, which can often be overwhelming to think about. This event was organized by a student committee who received help from Teri Robinson and Dr. Kaper, without whom this day would not have been possible. Hosting the symposium in the student center conference rooms allowed for a professional atmosphere that mimicked that of a national scientific meeting, which facilitated the earnest sharing and networking that occurred. In short everyone thought the day was a great success and look forward to the next symposium which is drafted to take place in fall of 2013.

Baltimore Running Festival

On October 15th the microbiology and immunology community continued a long stretch of participation in the Baltimore running festival. With stronger participation than ever three teams of four people competed in the team relay event. Once again Carly Page graciously organized the teams and helped the novices train, enter, and prepare for the big day. A major strength of our community is that students and faculty are enthusiastic to share their areas of expertise both in and outside of science, and this is no exception, thanks Carly! The first team consisted of Jess Shiu, Caitlin Doremus, Alison Scott, and Krystal Matthews; the second included Dan Schroeder, Carly Page, Martin Flajnik, and Erin Harberts; on the third team was Nate Archer, Anna Seekatz, Yuchen Chen, and Daniel Powell. This group is made up of a wide range of running experience from first timers to experts, which in the end made the whole experience rewarding for all those involved. Each team member was responsible for running a 6-7 mile leg of the full marathon course with each leg having its own challenges, some legs are shorter and more uphill, others are longer and have more downhill stretches. On the morning of the marathon each team member made their way to the starting line of their leg and anxiously awaited for their team member to congratulate them. Then there was the hand off of the timing bracelet and the next runner took off on the leg that they had been training for. The atmosphere was infectious, the countless spectators and fun entertainment along the route encouraged the runners to keep going. In the end all of our teams finished with pride, and fun was had by all.

Recruitment 2012

Recruitment season is here again, and we have a stellar group of applicants visiting on January 19-20, February 9-10, and February 16-17! A big change this year is a meet-and-greet with the candidates the evening before the day of campus tours and interviews, so let June know if you'd like to have dinner and drinks with our potential new colleagues. And, as always, please let June know if you can help out by escorting our new applicants around campus, meeting with them for lunch, or just coming by the happy hour to meet them and talk about your work and life here at UMB.

The 15th International Conference of Mucosal Immunology was held in Paris, France from July 5th through the 9th. Jess Shiu presented a poster entitled "IRAK-M Expression Mediated by *H. pylori* Antigens may Induce Regulatory Activity in Dendritic Cells," and upon her return gave a seminar to recap the major themes of the conference, including advances in our understanding of M cells, dendritic cells, and innate lymphoid cells.

New Faculty Spotlight: Eric J. Sundberg, Ph.D.

What is your education/research background? *I got my start in research in my father's polymer engineering lab at the University of New Hampshire when I was just 16 . This may have been related to me having totaled the family car shortly after getting my license… Regardless, I returned every summer, except for the one between my junior and senior years at the University of Rochester when I worked at a CNRS lab in Lyon, France. After my college graduation in 1994, I immediately dove into a PhD program at Northwestern University in bucolic Evanston, Illinois where I was Ted Jardetzky's first graduate student (bravely, and luckily, he has had many more since). In 1999, I moved to Roy Mariuzza's lab at CARB in Rockville, MD where I was a postdoc for a few years, followed by a couple of years as an Assistant Professor. I moved to Boston in 2004 to join the faculty of the Boston Biomedical Research Institute. Just recently, in April 2011, I moved my research program to the University of Maryland School of Medicine.*

What are your research interests here at UMB? *My research group works on structural immunology and oncology. We are interested in defining molecular mechanisms of disease in atomic detail (we are X-ray crystallographers, after all) and developing novel protein-based therapeutics for bacterial and viral diseases, as well as infectious causes of cancer.*

What do you do for fun when not in the lab? *I spend time with my wife, Cassie, and my ten year-old daughter, Lili. I also do a fair bit of rock climbing. When the stars really align, I get to climb with Cassie and Lili.*

Do you have any pets? *I "inherited" a miniature schnauzer named Portia, who was Cassie's dog before we got married. Cassie has not yet gotten over the fact that Portia as chosen me as her alpha person.*

Where are you from originally? *I am originally from Madbury, NH, a tiny little town that borders Durham, home to the University of New Hampshire.*

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

The **Keystone Symposia: Immunity in the Respiratory Tract** meeting was held in Vancouver, BC, Canada from February 26 through March 3. Its focus was a comprehensive assessment of host-pathogen interactions in the respiratory tract and the application of current knowledge in the development of novel vaccine and therapeutic strategies. Carly Page presented a poster entitled "A role for STAT1 in SARS-CoV Pathogenesis"

Keystone Symposia: B Cells meeting was also held in Vancouver, BC, Canada, from April 12th through the 17th. Caitlin Doremus gave a presentation entitled "Development of putative lineages of nurse shark plasma cells."

The National MD/PhD Student Conference took place in Keystone, CO from July 15th through the 17th. Jess Shiu presented a poster entitled "*H. pylori* antigens induce regulatory activity in dendritic cells via TLR associated signaling mechanisms including IRAK-M."

The Cooperative Centers for Human Immunity meeting took place in Atlanta, GA on December 13th and 14th. Anna Seekatz presented a talk entitled "Effects of challenges with wild-type and attenuated *Shigella dysenteriae* 1 vaccine candidates on the intestinal microbiota of cynomolgus macaques."

"From the lessons learned during our professional training as students at the schools of University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), we have concluded that a formal merger, in the traditional business definition, is not in the best interest of the students of this university or the citizens of Maryland. "

—Student Leadership

Merger....

antiquated metrics that the higher education community is actively working to replace. Combining the research budgets of two institutions with separate facilities will not increase available resources at either campus, making it unlikely to increase competitiveness for research talent. The physical distance between the campuses has been cited as a potential hurdle to overcome, but we would argue that the barrier is insurmountable. A truly merged campus could not exist due to the geographic distance between the two sites. If there were a merger, there would have to be some solution for transportation between campuses, which would come at a significant cost. Joint programs already exist between UMB and UMBC where students take classes on both campuses. A shuttle is used to take students the short 15 miles between the two campuses, but the services had to be cut due to costs. A shuttle between UMB and UMCP would go twice the distance on one of the busiest interstates in the country.

Another identified "benefit" is pipeline programs for UMCP students into UMB graduate schools, which would limit spaces for non-UMCP students and compromise the diversity of the UMB student body. A combined university would make the 6300 students at UMB a marginalized minority if combined with the 35,000 student campus of UMCP. This would inherently set the priorities of the overall university leadership, and could lead to decisions that are detrimental to UMB students and programs, but "beneficial" to the overall university.

All parties unanimously agree that any merger has to be a "value-added" partnership between the universities, and not simply a reallocation of the resources that the universities already have. They also accept that a merger will be an exceptionally expensive endeavor and will require significant financial resources. An outside investment of resources must finance the merger and this influx of money is suggested to come from the state. During a financial crisis in which faculty and staff have been required to make sacrifices in pay cuts, forced vacation days, and furloughs for years based on decreased funding from the state, it is irresponsible to look at funding a merger that will increase the state's financial burden.

We have asked the questions and we have decided a merger is not mutually beneficial to both UMCP and UMB, and there is at least one unwilling party to the merger. Most importantly, it cannot be said that a merger will "do no harm" to two world-class universities that have succeeded and excelled based on their own unique strengths. As a result, the students of UMB oppose this merger and we hope that the Maryland community will do the same.

The 30th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Virology

took place in Minneapolis, MN from July 16 through 20. Carly Page gave an oral presentation entitled "Cell Type Specificity of STAT1 Dependent Control of SARS Coronavirus Pathogenesis," and Melissa Hayes presented a workshop talk entitled "Pathogenic Old World Arenaviruses Failed to Induce Pro-Inflammatory Cyto/Chemokine Responses in vitro."

Recent Graduates

Preeta Dasgupta defended her thesis at the beginning of December. She did her work in Dr. Achsah Keegan's lab. While there, she investigated the roles of the IL-4 receptor and insulin receptor substrate (IRS)-2 in allergic lung inflammation.

Preeta is originally from Calcutta and Bangalore, and came to UMB from India after graduating from St. Joseph's College, Bangalore University, in 2005. As an MMI student, Preeta won GSA research awards twice (2009 and 2011) and a GSA travel grant (2011). She also won a travel award from BioLegend for the American Association of Immunologist's 2011 meeting in San Francisco. Preeta also found time to be involved in organizing department activities, such as the June Research Presentations, and helping out with the Microscoop.

In the New Year, Preeta will start a post-doctoral fellowship with biotech company, MedImmune. Her new job will focus on defining the immune basis for lung fibrosis.

Marco Goicochea defended his thesis in October. He did his research in Igor Lukashevich's lab studying Lassa virus (LASV), the cause of Lassa fever. His thesis focused on developing a mouse model for the evaluation of immunogenicity and efficacy of vaccine candidates against Lassa virus (LASV) outside of BSL-4 containment facilities necessitated by LASV.

Originally from Baltimore, Marco worked on campus in the Veterinary Resources prior to starting in the MMI program. He graduated from Washington & Lee University in 2002. While pursuing his studies at UMB, Marco was awarded an F31 Individual Predoctoral Fellowship from NIH.

Currently, Marco is continuing on at the IHV as a postdoc.

Joshua Lieberman finished up his PhD work with a defense in December. His thesis work was done in the lab of Dr. Michael Donnenberg. While there, Josh studied the topology and localization of the Enteropathogenic *E. coli* (EPEC) Type IV pilus secretin, the outer membrane multimeric pore.

As an MD/PhD student, Josh came to MMI following his first two years of medical school. He graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2005. While pursuing his PhD, Josh won travel grants from both GSA (2010) and the American Society of Microbiology (2011). In 2010, Josh received the Kass Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America. He was also awarded a research award from GSA (2009).

With his PhD work finished, Josh will return to medical school in January for his clerkship.

Laureanne Lorenzo completed her PhD work this summer, with a defense in July. She pursued her doctorate in the lab of Dr. Mark Williams. Her thesis work looked into immune dysfunction in the mouse model of Down Syndrome and the impact of reactive oxygen species and alterations in IL-7R expression.

Hailing from the Philippines, Lani graduated from the University of the Philippines, Diliman, in 2004 and worked in industry prior to making her way to UMB.

Khandra Sears received her PhD this October out of Dr. Abdu Azad's lab. Her thesis work focused on characterizing autotransporters in the surface cell antigen (Sca) family in *Rickettsia typhi,* the causative agent of murine typhus.

Originally from the Bahamas, Khandra came to UMB via the University of the West Indies in Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, where she received her bachelor's degree in 2003. While an MMI student, Khandra was the recipient of several travel awards: American Society for Rickettsiology (2006, 2010), American Society of Microbiology (2010), and the 5th International Conference on Rickettsiae and Rickettsial Diseases Travel Award (2008). In spring 2011, Khandra's poster was selected for presentation at the Gordon Research Conference on Tropical Infectious Diseases. Khandra kept herself very busy outside of the lab, having served as USGA senator (2007-2009), GSA secretary (2008), MMI representative to GSA (2006-2008), as well as, being involved in the Microscoop, tutoring, and Bacteriology Journal Club.

You can still see Khandra around campus -- she is staying on in the Azad lab as a post-doc. She will be studying the response of ticks and fleas to rickettsial infection. Her projects include developing methods of manipulating gene expression in the cat flea to evaluate the role of genes that are regulated upon *R. typhi* infection; investigating transovarial transmission of *R. typhi* in the cat flea and characterizing tick defense proteins.

GRANTS/AWARDS/HONORS

Abdu Azad, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology has been awarded the ***Harry Hoogstraal Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology*** by the *American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH).* This award is named after Dr. Harry Hoogstraal (1917-1986), an entomologist and parasitologist who has been described as "the greatest authority on ticks and tickborne diseases who ever lived". It was awarded to Dr. Azad for his outstanding research accomplishments in two major groups of vector-borne pathogens: *Rickettsia* species, transmitted by fleas, lice, and ticks, and *Plasmodium* species, transmitted by mosquitoes. Dr. Azad first joined the Department of Microbiology & Immunology in the UMSOM as a postdoctoral fellow in 1976, after receiving his PhD from Johns Hopkins University. In 1978 he became Assistant Professor and was promoted to Professor in 1990. He received the Hoogstraal Medal at the opening ceremony of the annual ASTMH meeting in Philadelphia on December 4, 2011.

Daniel J. Prantner, Ph.D., received a NRSA F32 grant in the amount of $150,234 for the project entitled, "The role of mitochondrial reactive oxygen species in innate immune signaling" (12/1/2011-11/30/2014).

Matthew Frieman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, received a five-year $1,250,000 RO1 grant entitled, "Role of the Epithelial Growth Factor Receptor in SARS Coronavirus Pathogenesis," from the NIH/NIAID.

Joshua Lieberman (Donnenberg Lab) won a Student Travel Award for the 2011 American Society for Microbiology Meeting and delivered a Young Investigator Oral Presentation at ASM entitled: "Sub-cellular Localization of BfpB, a Type IV Pilus Outer Membrane Secretin by Photo-Activation Localization Microscopy."

Jessica Shiu (Blanchard Lab) was awarded the GPILS Outstanding PhD Scholar Award and also won a travel award from BioLegend for the International Congress of Mucosal Immunology 2011 Meeting (July 2011).

Jessica Shiu (Blanchard Lab) received the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Doctoral Foreign Study Award in the amount of $70,000 for 2 years.

Tonya J. Webb, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, won the Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Award and Outstanding Poster Presentation award for the NIH/NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities Program Meeting.

Tonya J. Webb, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, received a $358,875 grant entitled, "Altered cellular bioenergetics influences NKT cell mediated responses to Lymphoma" (8/03/2011 – 7/31/2013).

Tonya J. Webb, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, is the PI on a two year $367,249 project titled, "Restoring NKT cell function: a novel immunotherapeutic strategy for Breast Cancer" (8/01/2011 – 7/31/2013).

Tonya J. Webb, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, was awarded the ACS Institutional Research Grant in the amount of $20,000 for the project titled, "Role of GD3 on NKT cell-Mediated Immune Responses to Breast Cancer" (3/1/2011 – 12/31/2011).

Tonya J. Webb, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, was the recipient of P30- Tumor Immunology and Immunotherapy (TII) Pilot Grant Award in the amount of $20,000 for the project titled, "NKT Cell Based Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Mantle Cell Lymphoma."

Dhan Kalvakolanu was invited as an ambassador of American Society for Microbiology (ASM) to speak at the 52nd Annual Meeting of Association of Microbiologists of India in Chandigarh, India. At this meeting he was also chairman of the session on molecular biology and conducted a workshop on scientific writing for faculty and students.

PUBLICATIONS

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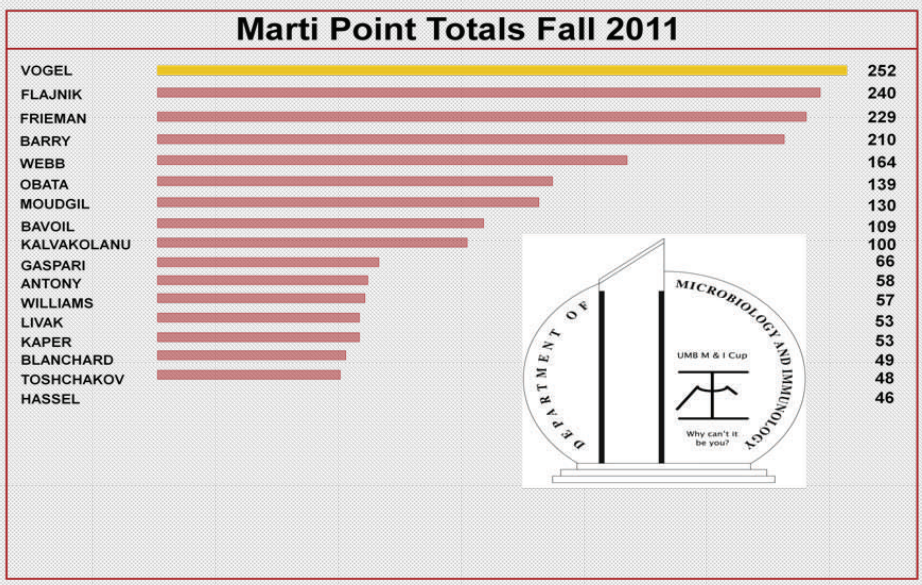
M&I Cup Competition

The M&I Cup competition is a semester-based contest open to all labs within the Microbiology and Immunology community that is designed to reward faculty, students, post docs, and staff for participating in departmental activities. "Marti Points" are earned by attending journal clubs, seminars, student events, sponsoring Research Networking Events, and displaying posters. The lab that accumulates the most points at the end of the semester receives a $100 department-sponsored lunch, Kaper Scope Trophy, as well as their lab name engraved on a custom made plaque. The M&I Cup committee was proud to announce that the M&I Cup winner for the fall 2011 semester is the Vogel Lab. The M&I Cup competition continued the success from last semester and a record number of labs participated with the entire department registered for this semiannual challenge. The race for the M&I Cup champion was as close as ever with the Vogel Lab earning 252 points, Flajnik Lab having 240 points, and Frieman Lab with 229 points. With a new winner crowned this semester, why can't it be you next semester?



Newsletter of the Microbiology & Immunology Community
University of Maryland– Baltimore

Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Chair: James B. Kaper, Ph.D.
University of Maryland Baltimore- School of Medicine
Suite 380, Health Science Facility I
685 West Baltimore St.
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Phone: 410-706-7110 Fax: 410-706-6970
http://medschool.som.umaryland.edu/microbiology/

Special Thanks
Department of Microbial Pathogenesis (Dental School)
Chair: Patrik Bavoil, Ph.D.
Email: pbavoil@umaryland.edu

Program in Molecular Microbiology & Immunology
Director : Nicholas Carbonetti, Ph.D.
Email: ncarbonetti@som.umaryland.edu

Coordinator: June Green
Email: jgreen@umaryland.edu