Cholesterol Metabolism in Immune Cells Linked to HIV Progression, May Lead to New Therapy

“We’ve known for two decades that some people don’t have the dramatic loss in their T cells and progression to AIDS that you’d expect without drug therapy,” said lead author Giovanna Rappocciolo, Ph.D. “Instead, the disease progresses more slowly, and we believe altered cholesterol metabolism in certain immune cells may be a reason.”
Greetings to alumni, friends and colleagues,

Many interesting and exciting events have occurred over the past year in the department that are detailed within. Of particular importance is the appointment of two new primary faculty members, Drs. Moses Bility and Derrick Matthews. They greatly expand our repertoire of research interests and “toolbox” that will improve our ability to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic as well as the world-wide problem of hepatitis C virus infection.

We highlight Dr. Giovanna Rappoccio’s exciting discovery that indicates that a small percentage of the population has an inherited trait of lower cholesterol levels in their professional antigen presenting cells (APCs). This study was largely accomplished with the resources of the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS).

I wish to make special note of the retirement of Mr. Joseph (Joe) Pawlak after nearly 20 years as the coordinator of the Pitt Men’s Study. Joe has accomplished a lasting legacy in this historic HIV natural history study by being the glue that linked its diverse and varied clinical, laboratory and data units. His open and expressive personality was of particular significance to staff members, who valued his thoughtful advice. We also appreciated his steadfast efforts in addressing societal problems, related to a daily factoid written on his whiteboard. Finally, I termed Joe “The Old Philosopher” for one of his favorite pastimes of reading and assessing the works of the classic scholars. Congratulations to Joe for his service to the cause, and best wishes from all of IDM on a rewarding retirement.

You will recognize that a major portion of this newsletter has consistently been dedicated to our graduate student achievements. It is truly remarkable how our department is able to attract such a bright, committed and hardworking cadre of young men and women that will form the future generations of basic and applied scientists and public health professionals. Every year during our Annual IDM Research Day I receive unsolicited, effusive praise for our students’ work from Dean Burke and non-IDM Pitt Public Health faculty. To repeat a phrase I have used before, we are truly the “Small department with the big degree”.

With kind regards,

CHARLES R. RINALDO, PH.D.
Chairman of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology

**CAPTION TO FIGURE FROM PREVIOUS PAGE:** (also see page 9)

Professional antigen presenting cell (APC) - mediated HIV-1 trans infection is defective in non-progressors. HIV-1 is captured by APC (depicted here as dendritic cells) which then process viral antigens for presentation to CD4+ T cells. HIV-1 however usurps this normal APC function by trans infecting the CD4+ T cell. This results in extraordinarily high levels of HIV-1 replication in the CD4+ T cells. In the small percentage of HIV-1 infected individuals who are able to control disease progression in the absence of antiretroviral therapy (“non-progressors”), HIV-1 trans infection is strongly impaired. This is linked to a unique, reduced level of cholesterol in their APC. This could be due to HIV-1 being unable to form budding viral particles in the lipid rafts of the APC membrane that are needed for trans infection of the T cells.
Moses Bility, PhD

Dr. Moses Turkle Bility completed his Bachelors of Science degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 2004 at the Pennsylvania State University, where he studied the effect of endocrine-disrupting chemicals, phthalate monoesters on the activation of murine and human lipid sensors, peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors in Dr. Jeffrey M. Peters Laboratory. Dr. Bility also studied the role of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors in liver toxicity during his undergraduate studies. Dr. Bility completed his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Integrative Biosciences-Molecular Toxicology in 2008 at the Pennsylvania State University, where he studied the role of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors in skin carcinogenesis in Dr. Jeffrey M. Peters Laboratory. Following his doctoral studies, Dr. Bility joined Dr. Lishan Su Laboratory in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of North Carolina, School of Medicine. Dr. Bility’s postdoctoral studies focused on developing novel multi-organ humanized mouse models with human liver and immune system using human stem/progenitor cells for modeling species specific human infections (HBV, HCV, HIV), human immune response, immuno-pathology and liver diseases. Dr. Bility also utilized the humanized mouse in modeling fatty diet-induced non-alcoholic fatty liver disease including chronic liver inflammation and cirrhosis. Additionally, Dr. Bility’s postdoctoral studies focused on the role of macrophage polarization in chronic liver infections (HBV, HCV, liver fluke) and associated liver diseases, HIV co-infections and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

In addition to his biomedical research interests, Dr. Bility also has strong interest in health security and pandemic/disaster response and management. Dr. Bility has 9 years of experience in the United States Army Reserve, where he serves as a Medical Plans/Operations Officer, with expertise in medical planning and operations for various contingencies including pandemic, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) events/accidents in both domestic and international conditions. Dr. Bility’s interest in health security took him to Northeast Thailand in 2013, where he studied zoonotic liver fluke infections and associated liver diseases in collaboration with Dr. Banchob Sripa at the Tropical Disease Research Laboratory, a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative center at Khon Kaen University.

Dr. Bility’s laboratory is broadly interested in elucidating the role of macrophage polarization in human infectious diseases, utilizing humanized mouse models, with emphasis on collaborative translational research. His laboratory will focus on 1) The role of macrophage polarization in chronic liver infections (HBV, HCV, liver fluke), HIV co-infections and associated liver diseases; 2) The nexus between macrophage polarization and gut microbiota in fatty diet-induced non-alcoholic steatohepatitis and associated cirrhosis. Dr. Bility will also continue his work in health security and pandemic/disaster response and management.

Dr. Bility’s connection to the University of Pittsburgh, began in the early 80's when his father enrolled in the Graduate School of Public Health for a Master of Public Health degree. His father also obtained his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and his mother, Glendora Richardson, obtained a Master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Bility hopes to extend that tradition in the family. He recently got a pledge from his 3 year old daughter Sinaya, that Pitt will be her first choice for college; he fully expects that she’ll keep her word.
Derrick Matthews, PhD

Derrick Matthews received his MPH from the University of Michigan and PhD from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This summer he completed his postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, where he conducted research related to the disproportionate burden the HIV epidemic has on Black gay, bisexual, and other-identified men who have sex with men (MSM) in the US. Most recently he published a manuscript in *AIDS and Behavior* that examines HIV incidence rates for Black MSM and discusses their implications for the prevalence of HIV infection across future generations of this underserved population. Derrick is a member of the Pitt Center for LGBT Health Research, is Chair of the American Public Health Association LGBT Caucus of Public Health Professionals, and has been an HIV test counselor since 2006. He recently became Principal Investigator of an NIAID-funded R21 to use dried blood spot laboratory techniques to better characterize HIV care continuum outcomes in a community sample of Black MSM. Since arriving in Pittsburgh a couple of years ago, Derrick has volunteered his time with several organizations, admittedly as a fun and easy way to explore the city. One of his favorite activities has been helping to organize and compete in Stonewall Kickball – Pittsburgh, an LGBT-friendly kickball league now in its 3rd season with over 300 players.

The Annual Pitt Public Health Staff Recognition

On June 4, 2015, a strange visitor with mystical powers presented awards to two of our staff members. It was puzzling that Superman also appeared.

Here is the presentation given by The Shadow, revealing his numinous powers and secret mysteries about our illustrious staff:

“Hello. I am known as The Shadow. For those who wonder, I have the mysterious power to cloud men’s minds and render my corporal body invisible.

*R-L: Superman (aka Dr. Don Burke), Kathy Kulka, Meredith Mavero and The Shadow (aka Dr. Charles Rinaldo)*
I am taking time today from my crime fighting capers to honor two wonderful dames…Two ladies with moxie.

*Miss Kathy Kulka*, please rise and saunter forth. Miss Kulka was a precocious child, a mysterious miracle left on our doorstep when she was but a few years old, and whose fate was sealed to labor from laboratory, to laboratory, to laboratory…all these years. But today I reveal to you her hidden secret! She is really *Miss Myra Reldon*, The Shadow’s operative who uses the alias of *Ming Dwan* when on her crime busting missions in Chinatown. Thank you, Myra.

Now *Miss Meredith Mavero*, please rise and saunter forth. Miss Mavero is a true mystery, having been hired only 5 years ago under the guise of helping our students survive their pitiful trials and tribulations. She has risen beyond this petty venue and become the source of all wisdom to all graduate students. But now I must reveal her true identity! She is really *Miss Margo Lane*, a gregarious socialite with the power of telepathy, and hence the ability to pierce even my hypnotic, mental-clouding abilities. A dangerous femme fatale indeed…Thank you, Margo.

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**Joseph Pawlak Retires after 20 years in IDM**

After spending the past 20 years in IDM, Joe Pawlak retired on July 10, 2015. While over that span of time Joe primarily served as administrative coordinator of the Pittsburgh site of the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS), he served in other capacities as well. In the late 1990’s Joe worked for Tony Silvestre as coordinator of the HPCP (then known as the PPP). Joe also coordinated a T32 training, and two Program Projects (P01s) for Dr Rinaldo, and two Program Projects (R19s) for Dr Gupta. From 2003 to 2013 when labs were moved to the new Pavilion, he supervised the autoclave facility used by the department and much of the school. Yet perhaps his most remembered work was the job he did at the Annual Meeting. Planning games from “Italian Millionaire” to parodies of baseball skills, Joe worked tirelessly to add a bit of entertainment to the meetings.

On his last official day as a member of the Department, Joe welcomed faculty, staff and students to cake and ice cream organized by his fellow administrators. For his years of service, Joe was rewarded with a generous gift card and a new Pitt flees (the standard winter fashion for the man of A450 Crabtree). Dr Rinaldo shared kind words about Joe, calling him a “good citizen” for his willingness to help-out any way he could. Though not always of like mind, Dr Rinaldo recalled, we were always on the same page when it came to putting the job first. That kind of commitment was and still is invaluable to the Department.

While Joe will no longer be in the office on a daily basis, he has agreed to stay-on as a part-time staff member to continue some of his work in the MACS. We all look forward to this semi-retirement as the best of both worlds for both Joe and the Department.
**Acceptance Journey** is a project of the HPCP under Dr. Anthony Silvestre’s state contract. This particular project is directed by Dr. Mackey Friedman and organized and implemented by Dr. Sarah Krier with assistance from Mr. Brian Adams. Acceptance Journeys Pittsburgh is a photo-story project that strives to address lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)-related stigma in Pittsburgh. Stigma and discrimination have been implicated in negative health outcomes in many groups including people with disabilities, communities of color and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Through stories told by people in Pittsburgh about their love and support of an LGBT person, Acceptance Journeys Pittsburgh seeks to put words, faces and names to the process that each of us goes through in learning to love, accept and appreciate difference.

We are looking for stories of acceptance from people who would like to be photographed and interviewed as part of this campaign. Photographs include the people sharing their stories as well as their LGBT loved ones, and may be used (with permission) for cards, posters, and website materials. While we are committed to ensuring that communities of color are well represented in this project, we are interested in talking to anyone who is interested in sharing their story.

You can learn more about Acceptance Journeys, read stories, see pictures of those who told their stories, and learn how to contribute your own story on our website: [http://www.journey2acceptpgh.org](http://www.journey2acceptpgh.org).
No Need to Be Adversarial
DJ Stemmler, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project

On May 5, Accessible Oakland did its first Ramp Crawl in Pittsburgh’s Oakland section.

We didn’t really crawl. We just went bar to bar, eating and drinking. The whole goal was to have businesses see that there are people with disabilities interested in coming into their establishments, spending money, and having a good time. There were about 50 “crawlers”. We split up in small groups, everyone went to a different bar to start out with, and then every 45 minutes or so we changed. So all night long businesses saw people with disabilities coming in groups with friends; each group would leave and another would come. We created awareness, spent money and tried to create a positive experience instead of an adversarial one.

The National Council on Disability was in Pittsburgh to hold its meeting, and some of their members came and joined us. Some city employees also came, like our city’s ADA coordinator, and also representatives from Oakland Business Improvement District, Oakland Transportation and Management Association, University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Oakland for All: Beyond Accessible Partners were sprinkled throughout each group along with volunteers, supporters and friends.

The crawl was split between accessible and inaccessible bars, since we didn’t want to just go to accessible ones. Also, this meant that during half of your crawl you had access to a bathroom. We ended up at the Garage Door, a small neighborhood bar on Atwood Street. It has cheap beer, great cheap food and 30 of us took over the back room. None of us thought there was an accessible bathroom, but the owner said, “Yeah, there is,” opened up a door, and we said, “this is great!” He just needs to let people know it’s there with some signage.

It is 25 years after the ADA has passed and Oakland remains mostly inaccessible. I’m not celebrating yet as much as I am continuing to plug away. I don’t think suing everybody in the world is the answer, but getting them to the table to talk about it might be. I am done being angry. I just want change. If we can get three or four businesses a year, I’m cool with that as long as we keep moving in the right direction.
Dr. Linda Rose Frank, Associate Professor is the current chair of the University of Pittsburgh, Senate Governmental Relations Committee. In that position, she has been responsible for networking with state and local officials and developing a yearly agenda for the Governmental Relations Committee. During the past year, she has been successful in recruiting Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Chief Executive, Dr. Karen Hacker, head of the Allegheny County Health Department, and Chancellor Emeritus, Mark Nordenberg to provide presentations at meetings. In February 2015, Dr. Frank worked to secure time on Mayor Peduto’s calendar to attend the meeting. Unknown at the time, photos of the committee meeting and presentation by the Mayor would be collected by his staff for the development of a video, “A day in the life of Mayor Peduto”. The Senate Governmental Relations Committee was included in this video that is now posted on Mayor Peduto’s website.

PROJECT SILK

After an extensive review and selection process, Project SILK has been chosen by the National Association of State and Territorial Apprenticeship Directors (NASTAD) as one of the top 5 projects nationwide engaging black MSM across the continuum. Accordingly, NASTAD will be featuring SILK as a key national model through their Center for Engaging Black MSM Across the Continuum of Care (CEBACC). They have asked the project leaders to formally engage with them to help develop national training components related to community engagement and recreation-based community health models. They are eager to get underway, with Dr. Derrick Matthews speaking about SILK on their behalf at their Care Model Compendium and Training on July 1.

Photo taken from monthly yoga class. This new initiative resulted from a request by consumers to learn methods for stretching prior to vogue practice and is one of many to promote holistic wellness within the community we serve.

This photo is taken from a recreational activity offered weekly at the Project Silk space, Bingo Night. This was implemented by the Peer Navigator in conjunction with the Youth
Enhanced cholesterol metabolism in certain immune cells may help some people infected with HIV naturally control disease progression, according to new research from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

The findings – funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and presented today at the 8th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment & Prevention in Vancouver – provides a basis for potential development of new approaches to control HIV infection by regulating cellular cholesterol metabolism.

“We’ve known for two decades that some people don’t have the dramatic loss in their T cells and progression to AIDS that you’d expect without drug therapy,” said lead author Giovanna Rappocciolo, Ph.D., an assistant professor in Pitt Public Health’s Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology. “Instead, the disease progresses more slowly, and we believe altered cholesterol metabolism in certain immune cells may be a reason.”

Immune cells known as antigen-presenting cells (APCs) can deliver HIV to its primary target – T cells – through a process known as trans infection. HIV then uses T cells as its main site of replication. It is through this mechanism that levels of HIV increase and overwhelm the immune system, leading to AIDS.

However, some HIV-infected people do not progress to AIDS for many years, even without antiretroviral therapy, because their APCs do not effectively trans infect T cells. These people are known as “nonprogressors.” A closer look revealed that this defect in trans infection is likely due to altered cholesterol metabolism within the APCs, which appears to be an inherited trait.

This discovery was made possible by using 30 years of data and biologic specimens collected through the NIH-funded Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS), a confidential research study of the natural history of untreated and treated HIV/AIDS in men who have sex with men. The Pittsburgh arm of the study is the Pitt Men’s Study.

Dr. Rappocciolo and her colleagues searched for patterns in gene expression, or the degree to which specific genes are turned on or off, in APCs from eight HIV nonprogressors and eight progressors enrolled in MACS.

“Compared to APCs from progressors, cells from nonprogressors expressed higher levels of several cholesterol-related genes associated with defective trans infection,” Dr. Rappocciolo said. “These results improve understanding of how nonprogressors control HIV without drug therapy and potentially may contribute to new approaches to manage HIV infection.”

Additional researchers on this work are Charles Rinaldo, Ph.D., Jeremy Martinson, D. Phil., Diana Campbell, B.S., and Maureen McGowan, B.S., all of Pitt Public Health.
IDM Announces 2014 Public Health Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to Jennifer Bowling, Chelsea Chedrick and Stephanie Pikula

Instituted in 2004 to recognize academic excellence among incoming Master of Public Health and Master of Science students, the IDM Public Health Scholarship has again been awarded to three new master’s level students. The scholarship is based on academic merit which includes undergraduate grades and Graduate Record Examination scores. The student’s letters of recommendation are also reviewed during the selection process. This year’s recipients are:

Jennifer Bowling (MPH-PEL)

- **Undergrad**: Coastal Carolina University
- **Degree**: BS in biology and minor in chemistry
- **Hometown**: Little River, SC
- **Interests**: arts & crafts, glass etching, knitting, crocheting

Chelsea Chedrick (MPH-MIC)

- **Undergrad**: Washington & Jefferson College
- **Degree**: BA in biochemistry
- **Hometown**: Greensburg, PA
- **Interests**: running, reading, music, sports

Stephanie Pikula (MPH-PEL)

- **Undergrad**: Seton Hill University
- **Degree**: BS in biology
- **Hometown**: Pittsburgh, PA
- **Interests**: knitting, online gaming, reading, ferrets

Support for this scholarship is provided by the Bob Yee Fund in the department. Donations to this fund can be made by personal check to the University of Pittsburgh, subscript “The Bob Yee Fund”, and sent to: University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health, Attn: Ms. Robin Tierno, A419B Crabtree Hall, 130 DeSoto Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261. Contact Ms. Tierno with questions at: 412-624-3105 or email: rtierno@pitt.edu
And the Award Goes To ……

IDM Annual Research Day
September 4, 2014

Congratulations to this year’s Poster Winners!!!

PhD Presentations

1st Place:
Colleen Zaccard

“CD40L Induces Tunneling Nanotube Networks Exclusively in Dendritic Cells Programmed by Mediators of Type-1 Immunity”
Advisor: Charles Rinaldo, PhD

2nd Place:
Diana Campbell

“Human Herpesvirus-8 Infected Dendritic Cells and B Lymphocytes Drive Cell Differentiation”
Advisor: Charles Rinaldo, PhD

3rd Place:
Stella Berendam

“Potential Roles for Primary Rhesus Macaque Lymphatic Endothelial Cells (LEC) in Host Innate Immune Responses to SIV/HIV-1”
Advisor: Todd Reinhart, ScD
And the Award Goes To …..

**Master’s Presentations**

1\(^{st}\) Place:  
Katie Steider (MPH-PEL Program)  
“Animal Exposure Reporting and Rabies Surveillance in Allegheny County”  
Advisor: Jeremy Martinson, PhD.

2\(^{nd}\) Place:  
Alexander Sunderman (MPH-PEL Program)  
Advisor: Linda Frank, PhD, MSN

3\(^{rd}\) Place (tie):  
Melissa Morris (MPH-MIC Program)  
“A self-Assessment of Core Competencies Among Infectious Disease Program Staff at a Local Health Department”  
Advisor: Tony Silvestre, PhD

3\(^{rd}\) Place (tie):  
Archana Satram (MPH-PEL Program)  
“Influence of Behavioral Factors on microRNA Regulation in HIV-1 Positive Individuals with HIV-1 Associated Neuro-Cognitive Disorder (Hand)”  
Advisor: Velpandi Ayyavoo, PhD
Dr. Edgar and Lauraine Duncan Endowed Scholarship

Ms. Ifeoma Okafor, MPH-PEL Program, has been selected to receive the Dr. Edgar and Lauraine Duncan Endowed Scholarship. This award may be used for tuition, books, applicable fees, research support, stipends and travel.

Postdoc Presentations

1st Place:
Debjani Guha

“HIV-1 Regulates Host Cellular Gene Expression in Specific Target Cells Through MicroRNA Regulation”
Mentor: Velpandi Ayyavoo, PhD

2nd Place:
Jay Venkatachari

“HIV-1 Latency Activators Modulate Distinct Cellular Signaling Pathway to Regulate Viral Transcription and Replication Utilizing Specific Transcription Factors”
Mentor: Velpandi Ayyavoo, PhD

4 Judges were assigned to review the posters: 2 for MS & MPH, 2 for PhD & Postdocs. The Judges were:

MS & MPH: Kausik Chakrabarti, PhD (CMU) and Amy Hartman, PhD (Pitt)
PhD & Postdocs: Oladoyin Desalu, MS, MPH, DrPH (AIDS Coalition of Southwestern PA) and Carlene Muto, MD, MS (UPMC)
Congratulations to Recent IDM Graduates

Kevin Ngo, Awarded MS, September 19, 2014
Thesis Title: “Characterization of Senescent Intervertebral Disc Cells and Their Role in Perturbation of Matrix Homeostasis”
Advisor: Dr. Nam Vo

Fortuna Arumemi, Awarded MS, October 6, 2014
Thesis Title: “Characterization of a Novel Host Cellular Factor Involved in HIV-1 Neuropathogenesis”
Advisor: Dr. Velpandi Ayyavoo

Clare Edwards, Awarded MPH, November 20, 2014
Thesis Title: “Review of Clinical and Demographic Characteristics of Adult Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia Patients at a Tertiary Care Hospital System”
Advisor: Dr. Anthony Silvestre

Alex Sunderman, Awarded MPH, November 24, 2014
Advisor: Dr. Linda Frank
Archana Satram, Awarded MPH, December 1, 2014
Thesis Title: “Influence of Behavioral Exposures on microRNA Regulation in HIV-1 Associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND)”
Advisor: Dr. Velpandi Ayyavoo

Hannah Polglase, Awarded MPH, April 6, 2015
Thesis Title: “Further Studies on the Relationship Between Polymorphisms of the MCRI Gene and Dengue in a Brazilian Population”
Advisor: Dr. Ernesto Marques

Pictured with committee member: Dr. Jeremy Martinson

Colleen Zaccard, Awarded PhD, April 8, 2015
Dissertation Title: “Tunneling Nanotube Networks in Dendritic Cell Communication and HIV-1 Trans-Infection”
Advisor: Dr. Charles Rinaldo

Stella Berendam, Awarded PhD, April 13, 2015
Dissertation Title: “Innate Immune Potential of Primary Lymphatic Endothelial Cells”
Advisor: Dr. Todd Reinhart
Katie Steider, Awarded MPH, April 13, 2015
Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Martinson

Jacob Rubus, Awarded MS, April 14, 2015
Thesis Title: “Exploring the Biochemical Roles of TbelF4E-3 and TbelF4E-5 in T. brucei Cell Cycle”
Advisor: Dr. Salvador Tarun

Priam Chakraborty, Awarded MPH, July 9, 2015
Thesis Title: An Analysis of Current Topics Related to HPV Vaccination using Twitter as a Public Health Tool”
Advisor: Dr. Anthony Silvestre

Soni Sankapal, Awarded PhD, July 20, 2015
Dissertation Title: “Studies on the Cellular Factors and Hormones Controlling HIV Transmission in an Organ Culture Model”
Advisor: Dr. Yue Chen
Award Categories and 2015 Winners

IDM Departmental Awards

Master’s Category:

Ms. Melissa Morris, MPH Program
“Incorporating Self-Assessment into Public Health Workforce Development: A Competency-Based Approach”
Advisor: Dr. Tony Silvestre

Doctoral Category:

Colleen Zaccard, PhD., PhD Program
“Inducible Tunneling Nanotube Networks Facilitate Pro-Inflammatory Dendritic Cell-Mediated Trans-Infection of CD4+ T Cells”
Advisor: Dr. Charles Rinaldo

School-wide Awards

First Place Dean’s Day Award

Ms. Yanille Scott, PhD Program
“A Broadly Neutralizing Monoclonal Antibody Microbicide can Prevent Transmission of Drug Resistant HIV”
Advisor: Dr. Charlene Dezzutti

Rosenkranz Award for the project judged to be the most significant contribution to the public health field

Ms. Soni Sankapal, PhD Program
“HIV Does Not Disrupt Epithelial Tight Junction in Cervical and Colonic Tissue, but Induces Cytokine Response”
Advisor: Dr. Phalguni Gupta
National & International Oral & Poster Presentations


Mailliard RB, Smith KM, Piazza P, Mullins JL, Rinaldo CR. Type-1 programmed dendritic cells induce primary CTL capable of effectively targeting the HIV-1 reservoir. 8th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, Vancouver, Canada, July 19-2, 2015.


Zerbato JM, **Sluis-Cremer N.** Kick and kill of latent HIV-1 from naïve and central memory CD4+ T cells. Strategies for an HIV Cure. Bethesda, MD. October 15-17, 2014.


**Recently Published Articles From the Department of IDM**


Moore PS, Chang Y. The conundrum of causality in tumor virology: the cases of KSHV and MCV. Semin Cancer Biol. 26:4-12, 2014.


Visit the IDM website at:
http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/infectious-diseases-and-microbiology