

Infectious Diseases Division Newsletter

NYU Langone Medical Center *New York University School of Medicine*

Honor World AIDS Day!

Bellevue Virology presents a screening of **30 YEARS FROM HERE**. A Documentary Directed by Josh Rosenzweig. **FARBER AUDITORIUM, BELLEVUE HOSPITAL, 12 PM**

Open to the Public. Please view the trailer by clicking this link:

http://player.theplatform.com/ps/player/pds/Ke0g276QXv?pid=8SPY04AsNbKdGs7Kx3R0v_8wYaXgk3nL

Featured Faculty: Meagan O'Brien, M.D.

Meagan O'Brien, MD, hails from scenic NJ. She managed to escape her strict Irish Catholic upbringing in NJ to matriculate in far-flung exotic locales. After studying psychology and neuroscience at U. Penn and medicine at Harvard she finally circled back to NYC for internal medicine residency at Columbia and ID fellowship at NYU. During her second year of ID fellowship she joined Nina Bhardwaj's laboratory where she has since obsessed over the very rare but very important plasmacytoid dendritic cell (pDC). She studies how HIV interacts with pDC to make pDC weak antigen presenting cells but potent and persistent inflammatory cytokine producers. She (and others) believe that this dysregulated HIV-pDC interaction has implications for HIV pathogenesis and inflammation. Meagan recently received a 5 year NIH K08 for this work and was promoted to an Assistant Professor of Medicine in September 2011.

When Meagan is not seeing patients in the Bellevue virology clinic, attending on the wards, or staring into microscopes at pDC and HIV, she might be seen bicycle commuting, running for the Bellevue track team, or traveling to wilderness locations for white-water kayaking, hiking, or backcountry skiing.



Here Meagan (right) is seen in scenic NJ enjoying her two sisters, niece, and nephew.

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We want to hear from you!

If you have an announcement you would like to make, please email it to Katherine Wilson at Katherine.Wilson@nyumc.org.

Special points of interest:

- Happy Winter Holidays to the Division and friends! 
- RSVP for our holiday party by December 2nd. We hope to see you at *El Parador* on 12/19 at 5:30 PM. Please email Katherine.Wilson@nyumc.org

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Allergist Update

A summary of the meeting, held on October 17, 2011, follows.
In attendance was Dr. Horne, Dr. Lubutz, Dr. Ma, Dr. Emert, and Dr. Hawrylko.

The subject was "Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Food Allergies in the United States: Report of the NIAID-Sponsored Expert Panel" Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Vol. 126, Issue 6, Supplement, Pages S1-S58

This article was reviewed, with special interest generated by the topics of atopic dermatitis and eosinophilic esophagitis, and their association with food allergies.

The guidelines were reviewed up to page S20, section 4.2. It was decided to finish the second half of this guideline at a future meeting, as the meeting ran over time due to lively debate and discussion.

The meeting ended by proposing to meet in January to finish our discussion of the above guidelines, and, time permitting the discussion of one further topic. A proposal was made to try to discuss "Filagrin Mutations Associated with Skin and Allergic Diseases" New England Journal of Medicine 2011 365; 1315-27, from October 6, 2011

Recent Grants, Awards & Publications

Grants

Jennifer Philips: awarded a grant from the Edward Mallinckrodt, Jr. Foundation on a project titled, "The Role of Ubiquilins in Innate Immunity to TB."



Abstracts for presentation at CROI, the 19th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections to be held March 5-8, 2012 at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, WA.

Zhang X, Hunt P, Hammer S, **Cespedes M**, Patterson K, Bosch R. "Immune Activation while on Potent ART can Predict Subsequent CD4+ T cell Increases through 15 Years of Treatment."

O'Brien, Meagan. #A-195, "HIV envelope directs trafficking of HIV in plasmacytoid dendritic cells to stimulate weak and delayed activation of NF-KB signaling pathways and accumulation in AP-3 endosomes for persistent interferon-alpha production"

Kwan C, Eckhardt B, Baghdadi J and **Aberg J**. "Prevalence and Association of Hyperparathyroidism with Vitamin D Deficiency in HIV-Infected Adults in New York City, NY." Candice, Ben and Jon are graduates of our ID fellowship, residency and medical school respectively. Candice received a CROI Young Investigator Award for this work.

Danoff A, Kendall M, Currier J, Kelesidis T, Schmidt AM and **Aberg J** Progression of Atherosclerosis: Understanding RAGE (Receptor for Advanced Glycation Endproducts): NWCS 332. This is an example of one of our very successful collaborations between Division of Endocrinology and Infectious Diseases

Thomas D. Norton, Elizabeth Miller, Susanne Bobadilla, Nina Bhardwaj, Nathaniel. R. Landau, #G-111, A Lentiviral Vector System Based on Vpx-containing Virions Targets Dendritic Cells to Induce Improved Antigen-specific Responses.

Cespedes M, Holzman R, McLaren P, Ostrer H, de Bakker P and **Aberg J.** Genome-wide Association Study of Cervical Dysplasia Risk in HIV Infected Women: ACTG DACS 268. Michelle received a CROI Young Investigator Award for her novel work in genomics working with the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.



Announcements



Since routine HIV newborn screening began in New York in 1997, the number of cases of mother-to-child HIV transmission in the state has declined from 97 cases to just three in 2010, which is a rate of 0.7 percent. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has two goals for elimination of mother-to-child transmission. The first goal is a rate of less than 1 percent, which New York surpassed in 2010. The second goal is less than one baby born with HIV per 100,000 births, which New York came very close to meeting, with 1.3 cases per 100,000 births in 2010

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) now recommends that healthcare providers offer antiretroviral therapy (ART) to any person living with HIV, regardless of the person's CD4 count. NYC DOHMH is making this new recommendation for two reasons: to benefit those living with HIV and to benefit their partners.

Upcoming Medical Grand Rounds Speakers on Infectious Disease Topics:

December 6, 2011: Dr. Louis B. Rice from Brown University, who will give his lecture "Rational Antibiotic Administration in an Era of Increasing Antimicrobial Resistance"

December 13, 2011: Dr. Elisabeth Cohen from the Dept of Ophthalmology who will present her lecture "Herpes Zoster: The disease and its prevention"

Thank you to all who came out to enjoy the **4th Annual Evers Lecture**. This year we had speaker, Myron S. Cohen, Associate Vice Chancellor, J. Herbert Bate Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology, and Public Health, Director, Institute for Global Health & Infectious Diseases, Chief, Division of Clinical Infectious Diseases, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

His talk, "Transmission and prevention of transmission of HIV: success with antiretroviral intervention," was the best attended in the history of the lecture series, with over 100 audience members on a chilly November evening.

Seen at right, is Thomas Norton, M.D., a second-year ID fellow who received a travel grant and delivered his poster presentation, "**Norton, T.D., Skeete, F., Dubroyskaya, Y., Phillips, M.S., Bosco, J., Mehta, S.A., Peri-operative Antibiotic Prophylaxis in Era of Multi-drug Bacterial Resistance**". At the **49th Annual Meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). Boston, MA; 2011**.

