Highlights and Updates

* The department welcomed Dr. Michael Gerner as our newest Assistant Professor on Nov. 2, 2015. His lab will employ cutting-edge imaging technology to define interactions between immune cells in different environments during the generation of an immune response.

* Faculty recruitment continues for 2015–16.

* The Michael J. Bevan Retirement Symposium occurred on Aug. 3–4, 2015, and was a huge success; bringing together Bevan Trainees and Immunology Colleagues from around the world for two days of great science and good company (many more pictures on page four).

* Dr. Bevan retired from the UW and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) on Aug. 31, 2015, and was appointed Professor Emeritus.

* Dr. Stanley Riddell from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC) joined Immunology as an Adjunct Professor.

Above: keynote Dr. Marrack of Natl. Jewish Health, and Dr. Bevan at the Symposium reception Aug. 3, 2015. Photo by Dr. Michael Starnbach

Above: keynote Dr. Marrack of Natl. Jewish Health, and Dr. Bevan at the Symposium reception Aug. 3, 2015. Photo by Dr. Michael Starnbach

Center for Innate Immunity and Immune Disease

Immunology Professor and Center Director Dr. Michael Gale, Jr. gave an excellent (standing room only!) seminar introducing the new Center for Innate Immunity and Immune Disease (CIIID) on Nov. 30, 2015. The Center officially opens January 2016, with the inaugural CIIID Symposium on July 18–19, 2016, in the Orin Smith Auditorium at South Lake Union. For more information on the CIIID visit the Center’s new website at ciiid.uw.edu.

Faculty Search

The Department has Faculty Searches ongoing for two new positions, preferably at the rank of Associate Professor, and Professor. We Continue to Grow! Visit the academic jobs website at: https://ap.washington.edu/ahr/academic-jobs/position/aa11603/

New Staff: Sarah Bland, is the new Assistant to the Chair following Claire Warren’s departure in March 2015; Sandy Turner, is the new Graduate Program Coordinator following Peggy McCune retirement in July 2015 (see feature on page two).

Above: Dr. Michael Gerner, Assistant Prof.

Faculty Research Focus

If you would like to contribute to the mission and vision of the Department of Immunology visit Our Giving Page at http://bit.ly/1Nm7MOj and select the “Fund for Excellence in Immunology”
Peggy McCune Retires After 25 Years with UW

After 25 years with the University of Washington, 18 with the Department of Immunology, Graduate Program Coordinator Peggy McCune retired in style with a BBQ luau celebration surrounded by alumni and graduate students, faculty and staff, as well as friends and long-time colleagues. Thank you Peggy for all your years of service and dedication to the graduate program, our students, faculty and staff of the Department of Immunology.

Graduate Program Update

* We welcomed five new graduate students to the Immunology Graduate Program this year! They are: Joey Leal, Alina Lorant, Mikel Ruterbusch, Frank Soveg and Stephanie Varela.
* Five Immunology graduate students also successfully defended their Ph.D. degrees during this past year. They are: CJ Cambier, Amanda Woodward Davis, Laura Lau, Nikita Kolhatkar and Carlos Arbelaez.
* We are proud to say that Immunology student CJ Cambier won the prestigious Harold M. Weintraub Graduate Student Award for his outstanding thesis research.
* The Sandra L. Clark Immunology Education Fund supported a trip for immunology graduate student Tennille Thelen, who was given the opportunity to present her research at the Cell Symposium in Bruges, Belgium, in Dec. 2014.
* Graduate students held “Meet the Speaker” lunches with each of the speakers in our Seminar Series.
* In Sept. we had our 2015 Immunology Retreat at Fort Worden State Park. Next year’s 2016 retreat will be at the Sleeping Lady Conference Center in Leavenworth.
* Graduate program coordinator Sandy Turner and Assistant Professors Ram Savan, Andrew Oberst and Marion Pepper along with graduate students Nicole Arroyo and Rudy Nazitto hosted a booth at the 15th Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABCRMS) on Nov. 11–14, 2015.
* Coming soon! One student will be selected per year for the new “Outstanding Immunology Graduate Student Award” funded by the Sandra L. Clark Immunology Education Fund. The award will consist of $4,500 to be applied toward the student’s stipend, benefits and tuition; and $500 augmented supplementation provided directly to the student along with a certificate of recognition.

2015 Department Retreat

At the Fort Worden Conference Center in Port Townsend, the 26th Annual Department of Immunology Retreat kicked off the 2015–16 academic year. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Stanley Riddell (left), from FHCRC provide the keynote presentation. Members of the Immunology Department and their colleagues enjoyed a day and a half of scientific presentations from faculty, postdocs and students as well as some fun social activities (retreat pictures on page three). Congratulations to poster award winners Caroline Stefani (Postdoctoral Research Associate) in the Lacy-Hulbert Lab, and Jeffrey Duggan (Graduate Student) in the Hamerman Lab; the graduate poster award is sponsored by the Sandra L. Clark Immunology Education Fund; the postdoc award is sponsored by the department.
The Department of Immunology gratefully acknowledges support for the symposium from Merck & Co. Inc.