

Feb 21, 2004

Dear Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases investigators/collaborators,

We have **much good news** regarding our Center....I realize there is quite a bit of information here but please don't neglect to mark your calendar with the upcoming events at the end of this message!

### **PERSONNEL:**

After this week, we will have interviewed **four strong candidates** for the new molecular infectious disease epidemiologist faculty position. Thanks for your help in recruiting! A brief description follows.

**Molecular Infectious Disease Epidemiologist** - To collaborate in a new Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases, the Department of Epidemiology in the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa is seeking candidates for a tenure-track faculty position with specific training and expertise in molecular infectious disease epidemiology. Candidates should have a PhD, DrPH, MD, or DVM with extensive microbiological training. Preference will be given to candidates with public health research experience including epidemiologic surveillance, evidence of excellence in teaching, and expertise regarding respiratory pathogens. The faculty member may be assistant or associate professor rank, depending upon experience. Duties of the faculty member include research, instruction, advising, and service. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Starting time for this position is to be between January-July, 2004. Details may be found at: <http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/CEID/molecular%20ID%20epi%20FAC%20POS%20Gray.htm>

Soon we will seek to **add more laboratory staff** to support our new NIH grants.

### **TEACHING:**

**Mike Pentella** and I are directing our new course, **Diagnostic Microbiology for Epidemiologists (173:155)**. We have 15 students. We have engaged distance learning students from 5 ICN sites. The course is run from the University Hygienic Laboratory's (UHL) ICN room.

As there our plans to offer this course nationally, we recently asked Creative Media Services to film one lecture using their Verage software. I think the presentation is pretty slick for a first time experience. Dr. Lucy Desjardin lectures about molecular diagnostic methods: [http://itsnt155.iowa.uiowa.edu/vwb/vs\\_webcasting/viewer/iv?e=188](http://itsnt155.iowa.uiowa.edu/vwb/vs_webcasting/viewer/iv?e=188)

Three College of Public Health (COPH) students (**Michael Parker**, **Stacy Holzbauer**, and **Kaitlin Rainwater**) are making plans to spend their summer learning about tropical infectious diseases by working with US Naval Research Center Detachment colleagues in Lima, Peru: **James Olson**, **Patrick Blair**, **Jeff Stancil**, and **Franca Jones**.

Students or postdocs interested in **Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Laboratory Fellowships or Post-Doctoral Laboratory Research Fellowships** should contact Beth Hochstedler, the University Hygienic Laboratory's Training and Outreach Coordinator at 319-335-4303 or e-mail: [beth-hochstedler@uiowa.edu](mailto:beth-hochstedler@uiowa.edu). **These programs offer annual stipend, medical insurance, funds to travel to host laboratory and funds for travel to professional or scientific meetings.**

**NEWLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS/CONTRACTS:**

Gregory C. Gray (PI) 1/01/04 – 3/31/08

NIH / NIAID R01

**National Surveillance for Emerging Adenovirus Infections**

This 5-year study will establish a 15-site, national laboratory surveillance system and risk factor analyses for emerging adenovirus strains/disease.

Gregory C. Gray (PI) 7/01/03-6/30/05

NIH / NIAID R03

**Human Metapneumovirus: Identifying High Risk Populations and Viral Genotype Variation**

The investigators will determine the prevalence, genotypes, and risk factors for clinical human metapneumovirus infections at a Midwestern regional medical center.

Gregory C. Gray (PI) 12/11/03-6/30/04

CDC

**Hawkey Flu Study**

This prospective web-based cohort study will follow nearly 3,000 UI students to determine this year's influenza vaccine's effectiveness.

Leslie Dennis (PI) 1/01/04-12/31/06

DoD

**Sexually Transmitted Infections as a Risk Factor for Prostate Cancer among Military**

This is a nested case-control study of the association of sexually transmitted infections and prostate cancer

**NEWLY SUBMITTED GRANTS:**

James Roth (PI) 7/1/04-6/30/07

**Iowa Integrated Security Institute**

Dept Homeland Security

The focus of this multi-center grant is protection against agroterrorism, chiefly foreign animal diseases

University of Nebraska (PI) 7/1/04-6/30/07

**National Food Security Research Center**

Dept Homeland Security

The focus of this multi-center grant is protection against agroterrorism, chiefly food production.

**NEWLY EXECUTED STUDY:**

Gregory C. Gray (PI) 2/15/04-12/31/06 (Kendall Myers thesis study)

**Do Veterinarians Have Haematologic Evidence of Zoonotic Infections?**

This is a cross-sectional, haematologic study of up to 1000 veterinarians for evidence of previous infection with West Nile virus, zoonotic influenza A, avian pneumovirus, or PERV.

**NEW PUBLICATIONS:**

Blasiolo DA, Metzgar D, Daum LT, Ryan MAK, Wu J, Wills C, Le CT, Freed NE, Hansen CJ, Gray GC, Russell KL. 2003. Molecular analysis of adenovirus isolates from vaccinated and unvaccinated young adults. J Clin Microbiol. in press.

Guchev IA, Gray GC, Klochkov OI. Two regimens of azithromycin prophylaxis against community acquired respiratory and skin infections among military trainees. Clin Infect Dis. In press.

**NEWLY SUBMITTED ABSTRACTS:**

Gaydos CA, Ginocchio C, LeBar W, Lovchik J, Hammerschlag M, Mazzulli T, Gray GC, Khalil A, Wood B, Rothman R. Performance of the BDProbeTec™ ET System for the Detection of the *Chlamydiaceae* family and Its Evaluation in Clinical Respiratory Specimens. American Society for Microbiology 104th General Meeting, May 23-27, 2004, New Orleans, LA.

Gray G, Duffy L, Gaydos CA, Ginocchio CC, LeBar W, Lovchik J, Hammerschlag M, Mazzulli T, Rothman R. BD ProbeTec™ ET System for the Detection of the *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* from Clinical Respiratory Specimens. American Society for Microbiology 104th General Meeting, May 23-27, 2004, New Orleans, LA.

**PRESS COVERAGE:**

None

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Feb 29 - Mar 3, 2004 **International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases** (Atlanta, GA). See: <http://www.cdc.gov/iceid/>

Mar 10 - **CEID investigator informal dinner meeting with guest Dr. Keiji Fukuda (CDC)** (6 - 8 :00PM, Iowa City Yacht Club, Iowa City) See: <http://www.icyc.net/Calendar.htm>

Mar 11 - Grand Rounds presentation at Room 22 Nursing Building **"Influenza Overview: Putting the U.S. Flu Season and Asian "Bird Flu Outbreak into Perspective" Dr. Keiji Fukuda, CDC's senior epidemiologists, influenza branch.**

Mar 30 - April 1 - UI's College of Medicine/College of Public Health/VA Medical Center Research Week. See: <http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/research/researchweek/>

Mar 31 - 1-2 PM - **Dr. Ed Kaplan**, University of MN **"The group A streptococcus: A Persistent Pest and a Perplexing Biologic Provocateur."**

Mar 31 - 7-9 PM - Reception at the Gray's home for **Dr. Edward Kaplan**, University of MN

Apr 24-27 - Clinical Virology Symposium (Clearwater, FL). See: <http://www.hsc.usf.edu/nocms/medicine/medmicro/virology/index.htm>

May 20-21 - The National Animal Disease Control Center in Ames is hosting FREE NCBI training **"A Field Guide to GenBank and NCBI Molecular Biology Resources"** Details can be found at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Class/FieldGuide/> POC Dr. Mike Mullins ([mmullins@nadc.ars.usda.gov](mailto:mmullins@nadc.ars.usda.gov))

I greatly appreciate your many collaborations. Please help me make our new Center useful to you. Please let me know if you have ideas to share, grant proposals to draft with others, opportunities for students, or email news that would be appropriate for such periodic email messages such as these. Please also let me know if you have recommendations for change to our Center web site.

My best

Greg

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