

Newsletter: Issue 2, January 2009

University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ

A Message from the Director:



Professor Kurt Krause
Webster Centre Director

Hello and welcome to the December edition of the Webster Centre newsletter. This month's edition is dedicated to announcing the dates and venue for the 2009 Webster Centre Symposium which will highlight infectious diseases research done throughout New Zealand. This year's meeting will have two special themes: tuberculosis and vaccine development, but will also feature research on any topic that relates to the area of infectious diseases. We are fortunate this year to have two outstanding keynote speakers, both at the forefront of their respective topics, Dr. Clifton Barry who researches tuberculosis, and Dr. C. Jo. White who works on vaccine development. This year's meeting will be held in Dunedin on 23-24 April 2009 and I would like to extend a personal invitation to each of you to come share your research, meet our keynote speakers and enjoy our hospitality. We hope to see you there!

Webster Centre Meeting: 23-24 April, 2009 - Dunedin, New Zealand



Clifton E. Barry, III
Chief TB Research Sect.
NIAID, Bethesda, USA

The Webster Centre for Infectious Diseases would like to announce the confirmed dates and keynote speakers for the 2009 Webster Centre Symposium on Infectious Diseases research in New Zealand.

The meeting will be held on **23-24 April, 2009** at St. Margaret's College, University of Otago, in Dunedin, New Zealand.

The Webster Centre for Infectious Diseases has also secured two internationally known keynote speakers for the event: **C. Jo White, M.D., PhD**, and **Dr. Clifton E. Barry, III**.

Clifton E. Barry, III, Ph.D. is currently Chief of the Tuberculosis Research Section at the National Institutes of Health in the Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. He received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry in 1989 from Cornell University with Tadhg Begley. Following postdoctoral research with Craig Townsend at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Barry joined NIAID in 1991 and was tenured in 1998. His research group works on all aspects of tuberculosis drug discovery and genomics and includes a clinical trials program in patients with highly drug-resistant disease in South Korea. Dr. Barry has authored more than 100 research publications in tuberculosis since entering the field.

C. Jo White, M.D., PhD has 21 years of clinical and product development experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Her experience has been focused in the areas of infectious diseases, primarily in vaccine development. Over the past 21 years she has designed and conducted over 40 Phase 1-4 clinical trials, filed 6 BLA/MAAs and has licensed 4 different vaccines: Certiva® (DTaP vaccine), Varivax® (live, attenuated varicella vaccine), VAQTA® (hepatitis A vaccine), NeisVax® (conjugated meningococcal B vaccine) in both the United States and Europe. She is presently the Chief Medical Officer of VGX Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and is developing a small molecule for use in treating rheumatoid arthritis (Phase I) and a DNA vaccine delivered by electroporation for treatment of cervical neoplasias due to human papilloma virus (Phase I).

Dr. White received her MD with honors (member of AOA) from Baylor College of Medicine, completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at North Carolina Baptist Hospital (Bowman Gray School of Medicine), and a fellowship in infectious diseases at the National Institutes of Health. She is board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. She is married with 3 boys in college/graduate school and runs, swims, bikes and plays golf for fun.



Jo White, M.D., PhD
Chief Medical Officer,
VGX Pharmaceuticals
Blue Bell, PA, USA

Webster Centre Symposium - call for abstracts and registration



The 2009 Webster Centre for Infectious Diseases Meeting will be held at St. Margaret's College in the heart of the University of Otago Campus, Dunedin, New Zealand. <http://stmargarets.ac.nz/>

The Program Committee of the Webster Centre for Infectious Diseases would like to request members of the Webster Centre as well as any interested infectious diseases researchers to submit abstracts for oral or poster presentations at the upcoming April meeting. Oral presentations will be available in 15 to 30 minute time slots and should fall into one of three broad interest areas:

- **Vaccine Discovery and Development**
- **Tuberculosis and Mycobacteria**
- **Current Topics in Infectious Disease**

If you wish to present some of your research at the April 2009 research meeting or to bring a poster please fill out the attached Word registration form and e-mail it to Rebecca Psutka at rebecca.psutka@otago.ac.nz by 20 March 2009. Remember to book 23-24 April for this Meeting in Dunedin. Also, For any questions and/or concerns please contact rebecca.psutka@otago.ac.nz

Webster Centre Symposium - Travel and Accommodation Scholarships

A limited number of travel scholarships will be available to facilitate travel to attend at the April Symposium in Dunedin. Faculty and Staff are eligible to apply for \$500 stipends, while students and postdoctoral fellows may apply for \$250 stipends. If you would like to be considered for a travel scholarship please indicate this on your registration form.

Remember to book 23-24 April for this Meeting in Dunedin. For accommodation for out of town guests we are recommending the following locations Alexis (034717268), Cargills (034777983), 526 George St (034771261) and Woodlands (034770270). Of these options Cargills will give a special rate if you ask for the "University Room Rate".

General Announcements and Upcoming Meetings



Rebecca Psutka
Coordinator,
Webster Centre for
Infectious Diseases

Please email the Webster Centre Coordinator,
rebecca.psutka@otago.ac.nz:

- if there is a **scientific meeting** you would like highlighted
- if you are not on the Webster Centre **email list**
- if your research relates to infectious diseases and would like to **join** the Webster Centre for Infectious Diseases
- if you otherwise have any questions, comments or concerns regarding this newsletter or any other Webster Centre related activities.

Upcoming Meetings

ASID- Australian Society for Infectious Diseases meeting

Wed 25 March - Sat 28 March

Cypress Lakes Resort
Hunter Valley
New South Wales, Australia
<http://www.asid.net.au/>

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