

CCSF lunch

*On Sept 3, we held a CCSF lunch entitled Climate and Infectious Disease. Drew Harvell, Kelly Zamudio and Laura Harrington gave a brief presentation summarizing some of the strengths of Cornell in the Climate/Disease area: 1) an already strong network of Cornell faculty in the area of infectious disease biology, housed across campus in CALS, the arts college and the vet school. Additional strength is as yet untapped at Weill. 2) Cornell is already known as an institution that is strong in infectious disease ecology and is already involved in an NSF-funded workshop grant and has held one international meeting (2007 **Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Disease**). 3) We suggested that immunodynamics is a key area of infectious disease research that could be strengthened at Cornell. We discussed our CCSF proposal to develop forecasting algorithms and models to link environmental change to disease level in corals, humans and amphibians. This project would require developing the remote sensing linkages and expertise to make these forecasts on both land and in the sea, and to integrate with economists to consider the costs and some market incentives.*

There was a spirited discussion and ideas about how to develop further strength and connectedness in the Climate Disease Group.

The following points were made:

Discussion of where the field was in terms of our proposal, the points was made that our proposal was different because of the predictive aspects and also the cross-taxon, cross-habitat approach.

Discussion about opportunity for adaptation to climate change—big gap in our knowledge that interferes with predictions from models.

Comparative immunogenomics: how it is defined, how it fits into the predictive modeling, whether it is possible or not to integrate with climate predictions.

Colin Parrish offered help in developing a website for Cornell's Infectious Disease group. We are following up on this.

Several suggestions were made about possibilities for grant funds, including an IGERT in Disease Ecology, and putting out feelers to selected foundations.

Helene Sember asked about our ability and interest to write popular articles for example to the chronicle. Other ideas were discussed about how to get publicity: web and communication to public, Biologging in relation to disease.

Participants at lunch:

Brian Chabot

Steve Ellner

Anurag Agrawal

Laura Harrington

Drew Harvell

Kelly Zamudio

Angela Douglas

Chuck Greene

Matt Hare

Ton Schatz

Paul Curtis

Art DeGaetano

Katherine McComas

Dan Decker

Noha Abou (sp? vet school)

Colin Parish (vet school)

Gary Bergstrom (crop Disease and CLImate, plant path)

Helene Sember

David Dieterich

Frank DeSalvo

David Wolfe

Carla Gomes