Infectious Disease Research Institute Strengthens Vaccine Development Efforts with Leading Scientist Appointments and Promotion

IDRI announces new hires and senior promotion, bringing top-notch talent together to create accessible, high-quality products and solutions for harnessing the immune system to alleviate disease.

SEATTLE, Washington, October 27, 2021 – The Infectious Disease Research Institute (IDRI), a Seattle-based non-profit biotech research institute, has announced the appointments of three new scientists to its research and development efforts, as well as the promotion of Christopher Fox, PhD to Senior Vice President, Formulations.

Maddy Jennewein, PhD, Wynton McClary, PhD, and Will Lykins, PhD, will serve as Scientist I/Assistant Manager of Immunology, Scientist I, and Postdoctoral Scientist, respectively. Drs. Jennewein, McClary, and Lykins broaden the Institution’s expertise in the fields of immunology, process development, and formulations, further advancing IDRI’s work to build a world in which every person has access to tools that harness their immune system and allow them to live a healthy life free of illness and disease.

“We are thrilled to welcome three new scientists to our team and of course, to announce a well-deserved promotion of Dr. Fox,” said Corey Casper, MD, MPH, Chief Executive Officer of IDRI. “These talented and diverse scientists each bring immense expertise. We look forward to their many contributions as we work together bring forward new innovations in vaccinology, including vaccines for infectious disease and cancer that are stable at room temperature, safe, and can be administered without needles.”

Christopher Fox, PhD, Senior Vice President, Formulations

In his new role, Dr. Fox will be responsible for driving vaccine and adjuvant formulation development efforts, creating and optimizing innovative adjuvants and formulations to enhance the effectiveness and accessibility of vaccines and therapeutics.

Dr. Fox shared, “Leading a team that brings cutting-edge vaccine formulation and adjuvant technology from the lab to those who need it most is an exceptional opportunity and responsibility.”

Dr. Fox also serves as Principal Investigator on externally funded contract and grant programs. He inspires and supervises development of novel adjuvants and formulations and sustainable sources of raw material. Dr. Fox continues to manage a team of scientists, technicians, and project managers.

Maddy Jennewein, PhD, Scientist I/Assistant Manager of Immunology

In their position of Scientist I/Assistant Manager of Immunology, Maddy Jennewein, PhD will design, implement, and analyze immunology experiments testing new vaccine candidates and studying RNA vaccine immunology. Dr. Jennewein received a BS from Brown University and PhD from Harvard University. They completed a post-doc in the laboratory of Dr. Leo Stamatatos at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Wynton McClary, PhD, Scientist I

Wynton McClary, PhD will provide expertise in formulation development to make it possible to store vaccines at room temperature, to find ways to target the delivery of immunologic therapies to different organs, and to adapt IDRI’s platforms to address cutting-edge global health issues. Dr. McClary received
Will Lykins, PhD, Postdoctoral Scientist

Will Lykins, PhD will focus on use and administration of IDRI's adjuvant formulations, evaluating the breadth and durability of vaccine candidates using a variety of formulations in IDRI’s portfolio, use of adjuvant formulations to enable vaccines for vulnerable populations (e.g., the elderly and the very young), and alternative methods for administering vaccines and formulations, such as intranasal administration. Dr. Lykins received a BS from University of Washington and PhD from University of California, Berkely and University of California, San Francisco.

Drs. Fox, Jennewein, McClary, and Lykins, work out of the Infectious Disease Research Institute Laboratory in Seattle, Washington.

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IDRI is a nonprofit biotech organization located in Seattle, Washington that combines high-quality scientific research with product development and manufacturing capabilities to help combat some of the world’s deadliest diseases, including COVID-19. For nearly three decades, much of IDRI’s work has been focused on creating immune-enhancing technologies that improve the body’s natural response to disease. It is IDRI’s mission to make these technologies widely available at a low cost and to build a world in which every person has access to the tools that harness their immune systems and allow for a long, healthy life free of disease.

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