Hauptman-Woodward, Dr. Andrew Gulick Receive $43,200 from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to Aid in Research on Specific Bacteria Found in Cystic Fibrosis Patients

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has awarded a $43,200 grant to the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute, Inc. (HWI) to support Dr. Andrew Gulick’s research on bacteria found in cystic fibrosis patients.

Gulick and his team have been working on this project for more than two years. Assisting him with his research is Dr. Manish Shah, Eric Drake, Albert Reger, and Jesse Sundlov. One area of their research is focused on bacteria that cause infections in cystic fibrosis patients. The bacteria synthesize a chemical, called a siderophore, that this organism needs to acquire iron from its environment and continue to inhabit the lungs or individuals with cystic fibrosis. Gulick is trying to develop a way to block production of this chemical so these bacteria can be eliminated.

“Our plan is to use this seed funding to generate preliminary results that are needed for larger grant applications to continue this work,” Gulick said.

About Gulick
In addition to his position as an HWI research scientist, Gulick is an assistant professor of Structural Biology at the University at Buffalo. He received his Ph.D. in Experimental Oncology and Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1994 and his bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry from Brown University in 1989. Gulick’s research is focused primarily on the use of X-ray crystallography as a tool to study the structure and function of enzymes that catalyze interesting reactions. A major target in the lab is a family of proteins from Pseudomonas aeruginosa, bacteria that causes chronic infections in patients with cystic fibrosis.

About HWI
With more than 50 years of exceptional scientific research, HWI is an internationally-renowned independent, non-profit facility specializing in the area of fundamental biomedical research known as structural biology. HWI’s team of more than 75 staff members is committed to improving human health by studying the causes of diseases, as well as potential therapies, at their basic molecular level. HWI is located in the heart of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus in downtown Buffalo, New York, in a new state-of-the-art structural biology research center at 700 Ellicott Street. For more information, visit HWI’s website at www.hwi.buffalo.edu or call 716-898-8600.