

othy Lahey, M.D. While acclimating to New Hampshire winters, he's studying how semen impacts HIV infection of target cells during the initial transmission of the virus.

All three students had already earned M.D.'s in Tanzania.

And the Fogarty-supported training is not limited to those pursuing doctoral degrees. Seven Tanzanians have earned M.P.H.'s at Dartmouth, and a number have visited DMS for a month or two of specialized training.

The list of possible future research collaborations is both long and varied. Von Reyn already has a study in progress on a protein-calorie dietary supplement for pregnant women who are HIV-positive. Charles Wira, Ph.D., who has been active in the program from the start, is poised to further his investigations into mucosal immunity in HIV-positive patients. And Jay Buckley, M.D., is conducting an NIH-funded study of possible hearing loss in HIV-positive patients—an effect that may be due to HIV, its complications, or the drugs used to treat the virus or related conditions.

Enduring: The Dartmouth-Tanzania connection has every indication of being an enduring one. As Kisali Pallangyo, M.D., vice chancellor of MUHAS, puts it: "When [DMS trains] our colleagues, they don't just say goodbye and send them back to Tanzania, they come here with them, they stay involved, and keep the collaboration growing, and the infrastructure development stays here."

ROGER P. SMITH, PH.D.

INVESTIGATOR INSIGHT

In this section, we highlight the human side of biomedical investigation, putting a few questions to a researcher at DMS-DHMC.

Alix Ashare, M.D., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Medicine and of Anesthesiology

*Ashare studies the immune response to the bacteria *Pseudomonas* in humans with cystic fibrosis (CF). She joined the DMS faculty in 2009.*

What got you interested in science?

I come from a family of lawyers, so going into medicine was probably a bit of an act of rebellion. In my immunology class as a first-year medical student, I became fascinated with the host immune response to illness and actually took a leave of absence from school the following year to pursue a research project in an immunology laboratory. After that year, I was hooked.

Can you describe your research?

It focuses on the host immune response of tissue macrophages (a type of white blood cell) to bacteria such as *Pseudomonas* in cystic fibrosis patients. One project I am working on involves looking at alveolar macrophages (tissue macrophages localized to the lung) that have been isolated from patients with cystic fibrosis. We are trying to determine why these macrophages do not function as well as alveolar macrophages from healthy patients.



If you weren't a scientist, what would you be doing?

Trying to write the next great American novel.

What's your favorite nonwork activity?

I enjoy exploring the Upper Valley with my husband and our three-year-old son. We like to spend as much time outdoors as possible. We love to cross-country ski, hike, and spend time on the beach. And I enjoy reading—both fic-

tion and historical fiction. I just finished *The Double Bind* by Chris Bohjalian and thought it was awesome. I also really enjoy cooking. In a former life, I was an avid tennis player and hope to find time for that again some day.

What is stressful for you?

Clutter. I can't work if my desk is cluttered.

What do you admire most in other people?

Passion. I think it is amazing what people can accomplish if they are truly passionate about what they are doing.

What's one thing that you would change about yourself?

I would like to be more patient.

Do you use Twitter, Facebook, or other social media?

I am pretty much addicted to Facebook (but I'm really trying to cut back).

What three people would you like to have over for dinner?

John Irving because he is one of the most prolific writers of our time. Vince Vaughn because he is hilarious. And Emeril Lagasse because I can't think of anything cooler than cooking dinner with Emeril.

When you were very young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

As a child, I wanted to be a veterinarian. I have always loved animals, and I volunteered at the local animal shelter for a number of years.

What's hot in your field right now?

CF affects about 30,000 Americans and leads to a shortened life span. Most patients ultimately die from respiratory failure as a result of chronic infections. If we can figure out ways to decrease chronic infections in these patients, the hope is that this would prolong their lives.

What do you like most about your job?

The people I work with. There's a huge community of people working on clinical and scientific aspects of CF. They're all wonderful, and I feel inspired and challenged pretty much every day.

