



ASMB Newsletter

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American Society for Matrix Biology

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John McPherson (2005)

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James Quigley (2004)

Joshua Sanes (2003)

Sharon Terry (2005)

Zena Werb (2003)

Kenneth Yamada (2005)

PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear ASMB Member:

As you know from our January Newsletter, I succeeded Bob Mecham as President in January. I wish to thank Bob for his skillful management of Society affairs during the past year, and for his contributions, together with Magnus Höök and Benoit de Crombrughe and their Organizing Committee, to the planning for our first National Meeting that was held in Houston last year. We all owe Bjorn Olsen and his Program Committee, Magnus, Benoit, and Bob a debt of gratitude for a highly successful meeting.

As a result of last December's election, Checco Ramirez was elected Vice President and President-Elect, and Kevin Campbell, Cindy Farach-Carson, John McPherson, Sharon Terry, and Kenneth Yamada were elected to our Council for three-year terms. We welcome all of them.

During my first two and a half months in office I have focused on a number of Society-related issues:

Our second National Meeting in 2004- At our Council meeting that was held last November in conjunction with the Houston meeting, a proposal by Vito Quaranta to hold the next National Meeting in San Diego was accepted. After an extensive search of possible venues and careful negotiations, Vito and his Organizing Committee have drawn up a Group Sales Agreement with the Grand Hyatt hotel, which I have signed. The meeting will be held from Wednesday, November 10 through Saturday, November 13, 2004 (**see item below**). Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! A new page devoted to the meeting has been set up on our Web site (www.asmb.net) and you may wish to consult this page from time to time to follow new developments.

In Houston we discussed a variety of alternatives to biannual meetings – yearly meetings, a change to meetings in odd-numbered years so that we would not continue to be in phase with the FECTS meeting in Europe, and occasional meetings as part of an International Congress in conjunction with FECTS and ISMB. Although all of these possibilities have merits, it was decided that the Society is too new to proceed in these directions at this time and that decisions on a change from a biannual schedule should be postponed to a later time.

Experimental Biology (EB) 2004 – I have accepted an invitation to ASMB from Mark Sobel, Executive Officer of the American Society for Investigative Biology (ASIP), to be a Guest Society of ASIP at EB2004, and this decision was approved by Council. EB 2004 will take place in Washington, D.C. from April 17-21, 2004. ASMB and its logo will appear on the program of the meeting and we will co-sponsor a day-long Symposium on matrix biology with ASIP. I believe that this exposure and publicity will be good for the Society.

ASMB Lectureship Awards – The Society has decided to establish two awards, one to a senior (established) and another to a junior (new) investigator who have made significant contributions to the field of matrix biology. New investigators will be defined as being within ten years of having received their most recent graduate degree at the time of our National Meeting. Eligibility will be limited to active members of ASMB. Awardees will be invited to give a lecture in a Plenary Session at our National Meeting. The award will consist of a cash prize, a plaque, and reimbursement of travel and hotel expenses in San Diego. Checco Ramirez has agreed to chair the Selection Committee for these awards (**see item below**). You are encouraged to send your nominations of candidates for these awards to Checco (ramirezf@hss.edu).

Brochure – I wish to make an increase in membership a prime goal of my tenure as President of our Society. To facilitate the recruitment of new members I have commissioned Nick Stafre, an excellent graphic artist and, conveniently, the husband of a lab member, to design a brochure for the Society (**see item below**). These

brochures will be available to members of our Society to distribute to colleagues who might have an interest in matrix biology (e.g., during your visits to other Departments, or with mailing of reprints, if anyone does that anymore, or during small relevant meetings such as Gordon Conferences). Unfortunately, because of printing costs we will not be able to print enough brochures to 'flood the market'. Hopefully, the brochures will be available in a month or so. If you feel you can use these brochures please contact our Administrative Assistant, Kathleen Doehring, at asmb@asmb.net and specify the number of brochures you wish to have sent to you.

Interesting Web sites – At the suggestion of Cindy Farach-Carson we are starting to put links to scientifically interesting Web sites, in addition to relevant Societies, on our ASMB Web site (www.asmb.net). If you know of a site that contains information that is likely to be useful to our members, please send it to me and I will have it posted on our site.

My best wishes,
Paul Bornstein

National Meeting in 2004

San Diego, November 10-13, 2004.

Our second National meeting will be held in the Grand Hyatt Hotel, San Diego, November 10-13, 2004. The Hyatt is adjacent to the Convention Center and is close to the waterfront, the Gaslight District, and downtown San Diego. The meeting facilities are excellent. Mark Ginsberg will chair the Program Committee. Now that an agreement with the Hyatt has been reached, Vito Quaranta and his Organizing Committee (Dwayne Stupack, Eva Engvall, and Sangeeta Bhatia) have turned to the next phases in the organization of the meeting: raising funds, recruiting exhibitors, advertising, etc. Please follow the progress of preparations for the meeting by consulting our Web site (www.asmb.net). The meeting page can be accessed by clicking on '2004 National Meeting' under 'What's New' on our Home Page. If you have suggestions for Vito, you can reach him at quaranta@scripps.edu.

ASMB Lectureship Awards

The purpose of the ASMB Lectureship Awards is to recognize both senior and junior colleagues who have made significant contributions to a field in matrix biology and, more broadly, to promote research in these areas among the larger community of biologists. Since our National Meeting is still relatively small, and is likely to remain so in the near future, the lectures given by awardees will be integrated into the plenary sessions of our meeting. Checco Ramirez will chair a Selection Committee whose members will be appointed soon. You are welcome to nominate candidates, who are, or are willing to become, active members of our Society, for these awards. Nominations can be sent to Checco (ramirezf@hss.edu) and should be accompanied by a brief paragraph describing the candidate's qualifications for the award.

Use The ASMB Web Site

www.asmb.net

Website Features

- Information about the organization, including bylaws, officers, membership, etc.
- Announcements--items of interest to matrix biologists
- Information about the ASMB National Meeting
- Employment & Funding Opportunities
- ASMB Newsletter archive
- Directory of members
- Links to member's web sites

ASMB business

- When you log onto the "Members Only" page (login using your email address and password. If you have forgotten your password, contact the ASMB office at asmb@asmb.net), you will immediately see your dues payment status and a listing of your journal subscriptions.
- You can pay your dues and subscribe to journals by selecting the "Dues and Subscriptions" button.
- The "Update" and "Search" buttons allow you to review and update your own contact information as well as search our member database.

To post information about a job opening or job wanted, send detailed information to our Administrative Assistant, Kathleen Doehring at:

asmb@asmb.net

Job opportunities and announcements will also be printed in our Society newsletter.

If you would like a link to your personal or lab web page added to the Society web site, send the URL to Kathleen Doehring at the above email address.

Brochure

Our brochure will contain panels listing a) a definition of matrix biology, b) instructions on how to become a member, c) the benefits provided by membership in the Society, and d) contact information. It is worth enumerating the benefits of membership:

- reduced registration fees at our National Meeting
- eligibility for ASMB awards
- Reduced subscription rates for Matrix Biology and Connective Tissue Research
- Free subscription to our Newsletter
- Free advertising of career opportunities on our Web site
- Access to the membership files on our Web site.

The text will be printed on glossy paper covered with attractive immunohistochemical images in color, kindly provided by Bill Parks and Charlie Little. Charlie has suggested that some of these images would also look good on a tee shirt. Be prepared to buy one at our National Meeting.

From the ASMB Web Site

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

The 2003 Collagen Gordon Research Conference

The 2003 Collagen Gordon Research Conference will be held at Colby-Sawyer College, New London, New Hampshire, July 27-August 1, 2003. The Chair is Peter Byers (pbyers@u.washington.edu) and the Vice-Chair is Peter Bruckner (peter.bruckner@uni-muenster.de). Please contact either for more details and for suggestions about topics to be included at the meeting.

2003 Gordon Research Conference on Tissue Repair and Regeneration

This meeting will be held June 1-6, 2003, in Il Ciocco, Italy. The Chair is William C. Parks, Ph.D. (parks_w@kids.wustl.edu) with Paul Martin (paul.martin@ucl.ac.uk) and Judy Abraham (judy_abraham@chiron.com) serving as co-chairs. Please contact the Chair for information or to suggest topics. Information on the conference site, program, registration, etc., can be obtained at:

<http://www.grc.uri.edu/>

2003 Matrix Metalloproteinase Gordon Research Conference; Location: Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, Montana; Dates: August 17-22, 2003; Organizers, Chair: Chris Overall; Co-chair: Zena Werb

In Montana 2003, the processing functions of MMPs will be emphasized with respect to interconnections of the MMP family with signaling networks that alter overall cell behavior; in this regard the critical roles of the ADAMs in a large variety of cell surface shedding events will also be presented. The future outlook and potential for MMPs in cancer therapy will be discussed throughout the meeting in relation to new discoveries on the positive and negative roles of MMPs in cancer. The importance of MMPs in physiological turnover of collagen will be both challenged and supported; trafficking and localization of cell surface MMPs and a potential MMP inhibitor, RECK, will be discussed as a highly selective and cell controllable route to specificity and regulation of focal proteolysis. Dr. Zena Werb and I invite MMP researchers to attend the first GRC to be ever held at Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, Montana. A picture gallery of this new and exciting conference site is presented on my web site at: <http://www.clip.ubc.ca/> -- Chris Overall (chris.overall@ubc.ca)

The 5th Pan-Pacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the Fifth Pan-Pacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium, which will be held on 3 to 7 June 2003 in Ube City, Yamaguchi, Japan. Recent research on cell-cell and cell-matrix interactions as well as on environmental influences and various regulatory factors in connective tissue biology has provided both great insight into the pathophysiology of connective tissue diseases as well as a basis for the development of new approaches to reconstructive medicine. We believe that this symposium will offer an excellent opportunity to exchange current knowledge in these fields with colleagues from all over the world. We will try our utmost to provide an environment conducive to such an exchange. The detailed format of the meeting can be found on our website at: <http://ppctss.jtbcom.co.jp/>. If you may have any questions or require further information, please contact us by e-mail (PPCTSS@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp). We look forward to greeting old friends and colleagues and making new ones. Please mark your calendars for the Fifth PPCTSS on 3 to 7 June 2003 in Ube City, Japan. -- Teruo Nishida, M.D., D.Sc., Professor and Chairman, Yamaguchi University School of Medicine

2003 Gordon Research Conference on Elastin and Elastic Fibers

This meeting will be held August 3-8 2003, at Kimbal Union Academy in Meridan, New Hampshire. The Chair is Dr. Steven Shapiro (sshapiro@rics.bwh.harvard.edu) and the co-chair is Dr. Cay Kielty (cay.kielty@man.ac.uk) Information on the conference site, program, registration, etc., can be obtained at: <http://www.grc.uri.edu/>.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION - MAYO CLINIC

- posted 2/21/2003

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION Department of Orthopedic Research Mayo Clinic Rochester, Minnesota Applications are invited for a postdoctoral fellow/scientist position available starting April 8, 2003. Applicants should have a M.D. or Ph.D. degree. A strong background in molecular and cellular biology is essential. In addition, some experience in developing murine tumor models would be desirable. We are seeking candidates who are self-motivated and career-oriented. The laboratory uses cell culture, molecular biology techniques, and an in vivo mouse model to investigate biochemical and molecular mechanisms of chondrosarcoma metastasis. Ongoing projects are investigating the roles matrix metalloproteinases, tenascin C splice variants, or SMAD molecules play in metastasis. Salary will be determined by the successful candidate's experience. There is an attractive benefit package. Mayo Clinic is a not-for-profit organization. Mayo integrates research with clinical practice and education in a multi-campus environment. Interested applicants should send a current curriculum vitae, bibliography, summary of past accomplishments, and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Sean P. Scully at Department of Orthopedic Research, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN 55905, USA; or via email: scully.sean@mayo.edu. Mayo Foundation is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer and educator.

ASSOCIATE/FULL PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ORAL BIOLOGY - posted 1/31/200

University of Missouri-Kansas City Associate/Full Professor The University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry Bone Biology Research Program directed by Dr. Lynda Bonewald in the Department of Oral Biology is conducting a search for qualified applicants with experience in molecular biology,

genomics, and gene array technology. The appointee will interact with colleagues in the areas of transgenics, proteomics, matrix biology and biomaterials. Responsibilities include: overseeing the microarray facility, conducting research in mineralized tissue and interacting with other members of the Bone Biology Research Program. Academic rank, tenure status, and salary will be commensurate with credentials. The university has an excellent fringe benefits package. For more information, see the University of Missouri benefit package site at www.umkc.edu. UMKC is a premiere urban university located in the Midwestern city of Kansas City, Missouri. The University of Missouri is the states largest comprehensive, doctoral degree granting institution. UMKC provides traditional and professional academic programs for a diverse student body, and encourages innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to teaching, learning and scholarship. Review of applications will begin immediately, and continue until the position is filled. Please send letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and the names and addresses of three references to Dr. Harvey C. Eplee, Assistant Dean, Office of Academic Appointment, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry, 650 East 25th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64108. UMKC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Persons are selected on the basis of ability without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or veteran status. More details at website: www.umkc.edu/dentistry/oralbiology/oral_biology_faculty.html

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION TO RESEARCH MECHANISMS OF CATARACTOGENESIS - posted 1/31/2003

A postdoctoral position is available immediately to conduct research on mechanisms of cataractogenesis. Research will focus on the functions of matricellular /extracellular matrix proteins in lens development and lens cell biology. Candidates should have a Ph.D and a strong background in cell and molecular biology and biochemistry, and an interest in matrix biology. Please send curriculum vitae and names of three references to: Drs. Qi Yan and E. Helene Sage, through The Hope Heart Institute, Human Resources, 1710E Jefferson street, Seattle, WA 98122; or via email to qyan@hopeheart.org

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP - posted

1/27/2003

Three-year position is immediately available in Depts. Pediatrics and Biochemistry. Project focuses on structural determination and protein complexes of sedlin, the protein involved in SED tarda (Am J Hum Genet 68:1386-1407, 2001). Candidate should have PhD in biochemistry or related field, and demonstrable expertise in protein expression and purification. Experience in NMR spectroscopy and computerized protein modeling desirable. Send CV and three references to: Dr. George E Tiller, Division of Medical Genetics, Vanderbilt Univ Med Ctr, DD2205 MCN, Nashville, TN 37232-2578 george.tiller@vanderbilt.edu and Dr. Walter J Chazin, Ctr Structural Biology Vanderbilt Univ Med Ctr, 5140 MRB III, Nashville, TN 37232 walter.chazin@vanderbilt.edu