

ASMB Newsletter



OFFICERS

President:

Renato Iozzo (2008)

Vice Pres/President Elect

William Parks (2008)

Past President:

Linda Sandell (2008)

Secretary/Treasurer

Joanne Murphy-Ullrich (2011)

Council Members

Sherri Adams (2008)

Scott Argraves (2008)

Amy Bradshaw (2011)

Jeff Davidson (2011)

Jeffrey Esko (2009)

Mark Ginsberg (2008)

Josephine Grima (2009)

Veronique Lefebvre (2009)

Karen Lyons (2009)

David McQuillan (2011)

Alan Rapraeger (2008)

Jean Schwarzbauer (2011)

Bryan Toole (2009)

Tom Wight (2008)

Kenneth Yamada (2009)

Marian Young (2008)

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Matrix Biologists,

I hope you had a great summer!

Welcome to San Diego. The Biennial Meeting of the American Society for Matrix Biology December 7-10, 2008, Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, California is just around the corner.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the ASMB President for the past two years. Several goals set forth at the beginning of my tenure have been met.

1. When I first stepped into the position of President of the ASMB, the one item on my agenda was to establish a goal to increase the membership. The number of members has significantly grown to over 450 paying members at this time. This number is expected to increase as we approach the San Diego Meeting in December. The registration fee includes a members' discount that is equivalent to a one year ASMB membership fee. So, I encourage all of you who are planning to attend the meeting to choose this option and become a member.

2. The society is in great financial shape. I am delighted that the fund-raising efforts of many have helped us to exceed our goals. I wish to thank the Fund Raising Committee which includes Roy Zent, Jeff Davidson, Bill Parks, Karen Lyons, Jim Quigley and Jen Holland for their superb work, and all of our contributors. I also would like to thank my assistant Sharon Egleson.

3. Organizationally, ASMB has benefited from the outstanding job performed by our Executive Director Jen Holland, whom you will meet in San Diego. She is a remarkable driving force and is always a step ahead of all of us.

4. For this biennial meeting, we have over 250 abstracts, most of which will be published in the forthcoming supplemental issue of Matrix Biology. The abstracts are accessible through Med Line and the booklet will be distributed to all the participants of the ASMB meeting in San Diego. I also want to encourage those of you who have not made yet any arrangements for lodging to please stay at the Manchester Grand Hyatt. Very special rates have been negotiated for this event. We are currently at a 87% of a 100% booking. The balance of the rooms that are not booked will become ASMB's financial responsibility. For your convenience, the direct link to reserve your room at the Manchester Grand Hyatt is <http://manchestergand.hyatt.com/groupbooking/sanrsasmb2008>

5. We have established a solid relationship with Elsevier, the publisher of Matrix Biology. In addition to having free pages for publicity and other news, the society will receive monetary support for the meeting. As you know, ASMB is now an affiliated society with the Journal.

6. We have continued and reinforced our relationship with the International Society for Matrix Biology (ISMB). The ISMB will sponsor a session at the ASMB meeting, will provide travel awards for authors of selected abstracts, and will give the ISMB Distinguished Investigator Award.

7. I would like to thank Bob Mecham, one of our past Presidents, for his generous gift to the society. Bob will edit a book series focused on Matrix Biology and he has pledged all of his future royalties to the ASMB. I hope the books will sell millions of copies!

This newsletter is bittersweet as it will be the last newsletter I write you as President of the ASMB. I would like to thank Bill Parks for his work as Secretary Treasurer and Vice-President, and Joanne Murphy-Ullrich, the new



Renato Iozzo

Secretary Treasurer, particularly for her dedication and hard work in balancing the books.

I feel that the ASMB is a vibrant and interactive society reflecting the intrinsic nature of matrix biology. I hope that the members realize that we are fully committed to fulfill the "will" of the membership. With this perspective, I leave you and thank you again for your trust and support.

In closing, I look forward to maintaining an active role in the Society, and I will continue to work with the incoming President Bill Parks.
Warmest regards to all,

Renato Iozzo
President ASMB

Our Biennial Meeting is quickly approaching!

Go to www.asmb.net/2008meeting now to register, arrange for accommodations or even find a roommate. Rooms are filling fast so reserve your space today.

Questions? Contact Jen Holland at jholland@faseb.org or call 301-634-7814



ASMB is grateful for the generous support of our 2008 Meeting Sponsors:

Amira Pharmaceuticals
Baxter
Elsevier
Fibrogen
Genentech
Genzyme
Halozyme
International Society for Matrix Biology
IriSys Inc.
LifeCell
Lilly Research Laboratories
Millipore
New England BioLabs
NIH
Shriners Hospitals for Children
Thomas Jefferson University
Trevigen

ASMB Members in Action



The members of the 2008-2013 "Glomerular Expedition"

Left picture (from left): The Vanderbilt Group: Billy Hudson, Vadim Pedchenko, Brandt Eichman, Roy Zent, Sam Santoro, Chuck Sanders, Ambra Pozzi, Roberto Vanacore

Right pictures (from the top): the Kansas University-Washington University group: Dale Abrahamson and Jeffrey Miner.

Drs. Billy Hudson and Dale Abrahamson are the Program Director and Associate Director of the PPG "Cell-Matrix Interactions in the Glomerulus" that was recently funded by the NIH-NIDDK. This PPG focuses on diseases of the glomerulus as they account for over 60% of all cases of end stage renal disease. The final pathology of glomerular disease is glomerulosclerosis, characterized by uncontrolled collagen IV synthesis and deposition. One of the key processes that regulate collagen IV homeostasis is the interaction of glomerular cells with collagen, particularly via integrins $\alpha1\beta1$ and $\alpha2\beta1$. Little is known about the structure at the atomic level of the collagen matrices, their receptors, and the molecular mechanisms whereby integrin/collagen interactions control collagen homeostasis in glomerular disease. Thus, this PPG will test the hypothesis that specific inter- and intra-molecular interactions, at the atomic level, between integrins and collagen IV are required for normal glomerular function whereas perturbation of these specific interactions causes disease.

This PPG is designed to promote collaborations among nephrologists, collagen and integrin biologists together with structural biologists, which are supported by outstanding Structural Biology and Matrix Biology Cores.

This "glomerular expedition" will result in novel insights into mechanisms of collagen IV homeostasis that can serve as a platform for the development of drug-based manipulations that may prove effective in inhibiting and, ideally, preventing glomerulosclerosis.

Call for Nominations

Here is your chance to get involved and help ASMB continue to grow and thrive in the community. The ASMB Nomination committee is looking for nominations for the following positions: Vice-President/President Elect (2009-2010 VP, 2011-2012 Presidential terms) and Four Council Positions (2009-2012 terms). In a time of great political conversation, it is more important than ever that ASMB maintains, if not increases, our voice with regards to pertinent issues related to our field. Please forward your recommendations and questions to Jen Holland (jholland@faseb.org).

Science and politics: Click below to learn more



[http://www.sciencedebate2008.com/
www/index.php?id=2](http://www.sciencedebate2008.com/www/index.php?id=2)

Scientists in the Spotlight

Paul Bornstein, Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Medicine at the University of Washington, and a Past-President of ASMB, is the first recipient of the ICCNS-Springer Award of the International CCN Society. He will present a lecture entitled "Matricellular proteins regulate cell function: studies of thrombospondins 1 and 2" on October 18 at the meeting of the Society in Toronto, Canada..



2009 ASMB Annual Dues

Your 2009 Annual Dues are NOW past due - You can renew and pay via the ASMB website at www.asmb.net. As members, you will receive a discount on the meeting and access to reduced fees or no cost for other ASMB activities. For 2009, Regular membership is \$90 and \$50 for Students/Postdoctoral Fellow. We need your continued support in the ASMB and we encourage you to RENEW NOW!

Welcome New 2008 Members

2008 marks a big accomplishment for ASMB as a growing society. For the first time, we have broken the 400 mark with 439 current members, ASMB is stronger than ever. Please welcome our newest members. (in order of date joined)

Kenneth Norbury, Kinetic Concepts Incorporated
 Silvia Smaldone, Mount Sinai school of Medicine
 Joy Lincoln, University of Miami
 Jacqueline Peacock, University of Miami
 Renato Salgado, University of Sao Paulo
 Christine Sorenson, University of Wisconsin Madison
 Deepa Edwin, Washington Uni. School of Medicine
 Seawoo Lee, Johns Hopkins University
 Stephanie Capizzi, Uni. of Med. and Dentistry of NJ
 LaTia Etheredge, University of South Florida
 Mallikarjun Badadani, University of CA, Irvine
 Robert Hinton, Cincinnati Childrens Hospital
 Keitaro Isokawa, Nihon Uni. School of Dentistry
 Joseph Orgel, Illinois Institute of Technology
 Mark Lupher Jr., Promedior Inc.
 Peter Neame, University of South Florida
 Alok Tomar, University of California San Diego
 Alexander Nystrom, Thomas Jefferson University
 Ellie Tzima, Uni of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 Sunil Yadav
 Christopher Cummings, Vanderbilt University
 Rodolfo Favaro, University of São Paulo
 Yichinn Weng, Uni. of California, San Francisco
 Kathryn Cheah, University of Hong Kong
 Hye-Nam Son, Cell and Matrix Research
 Sean Gill, University of Washington
 Barbara Triggs-Raine, University of Manitoba
 Sarah Stabenfeldt, Georgia Tech / Emory Uni.
 Bau-Lin Huang, School of Dentistry, UCLA
 Emmett Pinney, Histogen, Inc.
 Ashley Carson, Georgia Institute of Technology
 Allyson Soon, Georgia Institute of Technology
 Sedoten Akojenu, Lagos St. Uni. College of Med.
 Adedapo Bashorun, Lagos State University
 Wing To, The Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology
 Ying Chen, Avon
 Ade Seun
 Ademuyiwa Ogunfowora
 Gerhard Sengle, OHSU/Shriners Hospital
 Elena Makareeva, NICHD/NIH
 Li Zhang, Johnson and Johnson CPPW
 Clarissa Craft, Washington Uni. School of Med.
 Jangwook Philip Jung, University of Chicago
 Michelle D'Antoni, McGill University
 Nichol Miller, UCSD
 Lalitha Sivakumar, Ohio State University

Bodil-Cecilie Sondergaard, Nordic Bioscience
 Ssang-Taek Lim, UCSD Moores Cancer Center
 Soyoun Kim, Kyungpook National University
 Michelle Lin, University of Washington
 Melani Rayendran, Sri Ramachandra Med Coll and Res Institute
 Rudy Paladini, Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.
 Walter Bee, Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.
 Patrick O'Connor, Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.
 Daisy Shum, The University of Hong Kong
 Linda Walker, Duke University Medical Center
 Lou Bookbinder, Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.
 Xiaoming Li, Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.
 Gina Wei, Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.
 Curtis Thompson, Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.
 Mark Roman, Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.
 Lalitha Kodandapani, Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.
 Peter Chen, Center for Lung Biology
 Puneet Seth, Duke University Medical Center
 Wen Chang, Institute of Mol Biology, Academia Sinica
 Ju-Ock Nam, UCSD Moores Cancer Center
 Ding Xu, UC San Diego
 David Kang, Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.
 Lars Engelholm, The Finsen Laboratory
 Madhusudhan Budatha, Uni of Texas SW Med. Cntr
 James Sweat, HealthPoint Ltd.
 Alfred Aplin, University of Washington
 Qinglang Li, University of Washington
 Sinisa Nadsombati, Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.
 Satoshi Hirohata, Okayama Uni Grad Schl of Med
 Chi Hang Chan, The University of Hong Kong
 Deborah Jensen, Thomas Jefferson University
 Hye Jin Chung, Jefferson Medical College
 Justin Allen, Childrens Hospital Boston
 Wendy Boivin, Uni of BC/The iCAPTURE Centre
 Samuel Nadler, University of Washington
 Siddharth Vora, Boston Uni, Schl of Dental Med
 Jung Weon Lee, Cancer Research Institute, College of Med., Seoul National Univ.
 Anthony Rycerz, Kinetic Concepts Inc.
 Dale Abrahamson, Uni of Kansas Medical Center
 Won Hyuk Suh, University of California
 James Borree, Fluxion Bioscience
 Jon Carthy, The University of British Columbia
 Richard Milner, The Scripps Research Institute
 Stephane Heymans, University of Maastricht
 Michael Smith, Boston University

Related Meetings Announcements

Workshop: Vascular Biology and Bioengineering II

March 16-19, 2009 Whistler, British Columbia

Cecilia Giachelli of the University of Washington, an ASMB Member, along with colleagues Michelle Bendeck, University of Toronto, Elaine C. Davis, McGill University and Themis R. Kyriakides, Yale University, are organizing this second workshop of its type. The aims of this one of a kind interdisciplinary workshop are to provide a forum for basic and clinical researchers in vascular matrix biology, regenerative medicine and bioengineering to share their recent and novel science and to promote communication and exchange of ideas and concepts between traditional vascular matrix biologists, cardiovascular regenerative medicine researchers and cardiovascular tissue engineers. Our program is characterized by the presentation of cutting edge research in areas like **vascular matrix remodeling and repair, matrix genetics and development, stem cell biology, vascular scaffolds, engineering biomaterials, tissue engineering, angiogenesis, mechanobiology, regenerative matrices and matrix calcification**. The preliminary program and additional information about this workshop can be found on NAVBO's web site - www.navbo.org/VMBB2009. Those who wish to participate are encouraged to submit an abstract; abstracts will be accepted for oral and poster presentations.

OARSI (Osteoarthritis Research Society International) 2009 Meeting

September 10-13, 2009 Montreal, Canada
Bonaventure, Montreal, Canada, www.oarsi.org



Comments on Basement Membrane Gordon Conference

The 14th biannual Basement Membranes Gordon Research Conference was held June 22–27, 2008 at the University of New England in Biddeford, ME. This very successful conference was chaired by ASMB member Jeff Miner of Washington University in St. Louis. The 2010 conference will be chaired by Monique Aumailley of the University of Cologne, who served as Vice–Chair this year. ASMB member Lynn Sakai of Shriners Hospital for Children/OHSU in Portland, OR was elected Vice–Chair for 2010 and Chair for 2012. For the first time in its history, both Chair and Vice–Chair of the Conference (in 2010) will be women. (Hillary and Sarah should both approve!) Contributed by Jeff Miner

Comments on Proteoglycan Gordon Conference

The Proteoglycan Gordon Conference was held on July 6–11, 2008 in Proctor Academy in Andover New Hampshire. The now infamous conference had excellent science and great fun (see pictures in this newsletter). The program, organized by Tom Wight the Chair of the conference and his team of science advisors, covered the latest research findings in synthesis, processing and degradation of proteoglycans as well as PG functions in development, signaling, inflammation, cardiovascular disease, cancer and musculoskeletal disease. The meeting closed with sessions on the role of proteoglycans in translational research and therapeutics. Marian Young will chair the Proteoglycan Gordon Conference in 2010 with her co–chair Bob Lindhart and welcomes your input in planning the scientific sessions.

Things to Do in San Diego at ASMB

While in San Diego December 7–10, 2008 for the ASMB meeting, consider some of these sight seeing options while you're in town. The hotel and its location offer the best that the city has to offer. Ideally situated on the waterfront, you can walk out your door to Seaport Village for lunch, take a short walk to the Gaslamp Quarter, hop and hop on the trolley which offers a convenient way to see many local sights or even take a 5 minute walk from the hotel to tour the USS Midway Aircraft Carrier. Some other local attractions include:

[Birch Aquarium at Scripps](#)
[Botanical Building and Lily Pond](#)
[Cabrillo National Monument](#)
[Heritage Park](#)
[Hotel del Coronado](#)
[Japanese Friendship Garden](#)
[San Diego Aerospace Museum](#)
[San Diego Automotive Museum](#)

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 members' 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 "Membership Dues" 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: asmb@asmb.net

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

Don't Forget to Renew!

Your participation in our Society is the most important contribution you can make to helping increase awareness of research and opportunities in extracellular matrix biology.

With the help of your membership dues, we have added professional management of the society and provided students and postdoctoral fellows with travel awards to our national meeting. In the coming year, your dues will be at work to improve our website. We urge you to pay your dues so we can continue to add programs that benefit matrix biology.

The 2009 Annual Dues can be paid any time via the ASMB website: <http://www.asmb.net/>

Alternatively, checks can be sent to the administrative office: ASMB, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Advantages of Membership:

- Membership and recognition in an emerging, important scientific discipline.
- A two-year membership rate that is significantly less expensive per year than the one-year rate.
- For two-year renewals, a significant discount on the registration fee for the 2009 ASMB National Meeting in San Diego.
- Access to the "Members only" web material where you can search the membership list, the meeting abstracts published in Matrix Biology and other interesting information relating to matrix biology
- A Newsletter containing information about Society activities.

Job Position Openings

Postdoctoral Fellowship - Georgia Institute of Technology & Emory University

Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University
Matrix Biology and Engineering Lab

The Matrix Biology and Engineering lab at GA Tech is seeking applicants to fill a postdoctoral fellowship in area of cell-matrix interactions and integrin signaling. The position is currently open and will be filled at the earliest opportunity with an expected start in Fall 2008/Winter 2009. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

The Matrix Biology and Engineering lab is focused on understanding cell-matrix interactions and their role in determining cell fate as well as the engineering of novel ECM motifs for directing cell phenotype. The postdoctoral fellow will be specifically focused on the role of mechanical forces on fibronectin-integrin interactions and subsequent cell phenotypic changes. Applicants should have good experience in cell and molecular biology with an emphasis on cell adhesion and cytoskeletal signaling cascades.

The postdoctoral fellow will be responsible for conducting research including the preparation of original manuscripts, assisting in the preparation of lab grants and student manuscripts, and assisting in the mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students.

To apply send the following to thomas.barker@bme.gatech.edu:

Cover letter with a description of career/research interests

CV

Contact information for 3 references

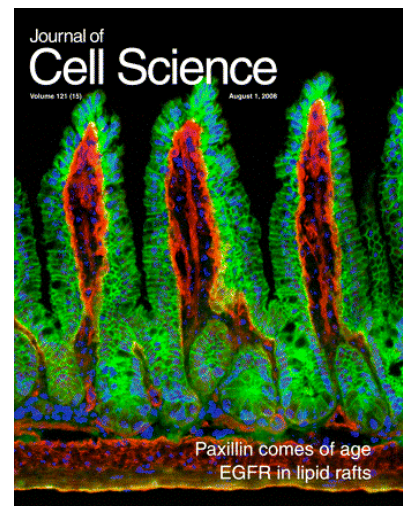
Interesting Science

Laminin $\alpha 5$ influences the architecture of the mouse small intestine mucosa

Mahoney, ZX, Stappenbeck, TS, and Miner, JH. Journal of Cell Science 121:2483 (2008)

Laminins are a family of diverse heterotrimeric basement membrane components. There are 15 distinct heterotrimers that have been described, and these are distributed in specific patterns in basement membranes throughout the body. In the mucosa of the small intestine, which is composed of repeating crypt/villus units, there are at least four different laminins present in the epithelial basement membrane. Laminins containing the alpha5 chain are particularly highly deposited in villi but are absent from the crypts (see accompanying photo). As recently reported in *Journal of Cell Science*, Mahoney et al. generated mice lacking laminin alpha5 in the villus basement membrane. This caused a dramatic remodeling of the small intestinal mucosa such that it came to resemble that of the large intestine, which normally contains low levels of laminin alpha5 and has a flat surface rather than villi. In addition to these changes in mucosal architecture, there were accompanying changes in epithelial cell proliferation, migration, and differentiation. These data suggest that the laminin alpha5 chain helps pattern the intestinal tube and modulates its function by regulating epithelial cell behavior.

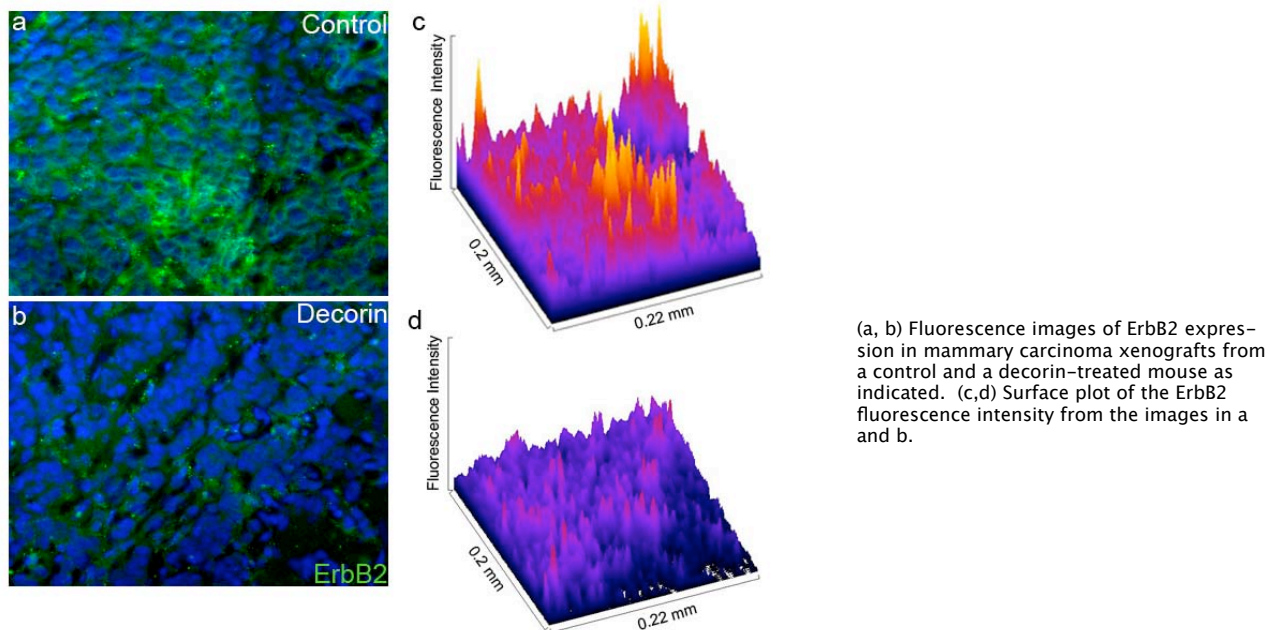
The epithelial basement membrane of mouse small intestinal villi contains laminin $\alpha 5$ (red), which is necessary for proper mucosal architecture. Cell-cell junctions were stained with anti-E-cadherin (green) and nuclei with Hoechst 33342 (blue)



An Antimetastatic Role for Decorin in Breast Cancer

Goldoni, S., Seidler, DG., Heath, JM., Fassan, M., Baffa, R., Thakur, ML., Owens, RT., McQuillan, DJ., Iozzo, RV. American Journal of Pathology 173:844 (2008)

Decorin, a member of the small leucine-rich proteoglycan gene family, is a soluble component of the extracellular matrix. In recent years, decorin has emerged as a powerful tumor growth inhibitor by its virtue of downregulating the signaling of members of the ErbB receptor tyrosine kinase family. In a recent report published in the American Journal of Pathology by Goldoni et al., decorin's ability to suppress breast cancer was tested both in vitro and in vivo. The orthotopic mammary carcinoma model chosen for these studies overexpressed the ErbB2 receptor and spontaneously metastasized to the lungs. Systemic delivery of recombinant decorin reduced primary tumor growth and metabolism and profoundly downregulated the expression of ErbB2 within the tumor xenografts (Figure above). Remarkably, systemic delivery of decorin prevented metastatic spreading to the lungs. These data suggest that decorin may represent a future powerful therapeutic agent against breast cancer.



Direct Visualization of Cell Surface Protease Activity During 3D Matrix Migration

Establishing the location and specific roles of proteases during cell migration and invasion will require new methods for real-time high-resolution imaging of sites of protease activity on living cells during migration through 3D extracellular matrices. We developed a novel fluorescent biosensor to determine cell surface and extracellular sites of protease activity and have used it to test whether MMP activity is essential for cells to migrate and invade three-dimensional collagen matrices (B. Packard, V. Artym, A. Komoriya, and K.M. Yamada, Matrix Biology, in press). The new probe fluoresces after cleavage of the GPLGIAG site from interstitial collagen by a variety of proteases including MMP-2, -9, -14 (MT1-MMP), and elastase without requiring transfection or other modifications of the cells being studied. Using 3D matrices derivatized with this biosensor, we show that protease activity is localized at the polarized leading edge of migrating tumor cells rather than further back on the cell body. This protease activity was found to be essential for cell migration in collagen gels retaining native crosslinking, yet it was not needed for migration in matrices composed of pepsin-treated collagen lacking crosslinking. This new high-resolution probe coupled to 3D matrices can provide site-specific reporting of protease activity in living cells and insights into mechanisms by which cells migrate through extracellular matrices. It has helped clarify discrepancies between previous studies regarding the contributions of proteases to metastasis, and the approach should eventually be applicable to characterizing the roles of individual proteases on migrating and invading cells. Contributed by Ken Yamada and Beverly Packard.



**THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN PROTEOGLYCAN RESEARCH, CANCER AND ANGIOGENESIS

A postdoctoral position is available to investigate the biology of perlecan and endorepellin in vertebrate vascular development and tumor angiogenesis. The candidate will join a multi-disciplinary team of researchers involved in investigating the molecular mechanisms through which perlecan and its angiostatic, C-terminal fragment endorepellin affect the development of new blood vessels both in vitro and in vivo (J. Cell Biol. 166:97-109, 2004; J. Biol. Chem. 280:32468-32479, 2005; Nature Rev. Mol. Cell. Biol. 6:646-656, 2005; J. Natl. Cancer Inst. 15: 1634-1646, 2006; Blood 109: 3745-3749, 2007; J. Biol. Chem. 283:2335-2344, 2008; J. Cell Biol. 181:381-394, 2008.; Biochemistry 47:11174-11183, 2008).

Requirements include a Ph.D. or an M.D./Ph.D. in biochemistry or cell biology. A molecular biology background is highly desirable. Send resume and three letters of reference to:

Renato V. Iozzo, M.D.

Department of Pathology, Anatomy & Cell Biology
Thomas Jefferson University
1020 Locust Street, Room 249 JAH
Philadelphia, PA 19107-6799, U.S.A.
Fax (215) 923-7969
Email: lozzo@mail.jci.tju.edu

Impact of Glycomics Radio Show

Impact of Glycomics (www.impactofglycomics.com) was launched by Joe McKenna of Atlanta, GA, as web site and radio show in February 2008. Joe is a consultant specializing in physicians and the medical marketplace. With the ever changing face of medicine, Joe and his team work with medical practices to optimize their level of care and performance overall. He became interested in glycomics and glycobiology when he met a biochemist in a social setting. Within a few minutes of typical "what do you do" conversation, Joe was hooked on the science. In learning about these topics, he realized that there is a sizable gap between the research environment and the consumer world, a gap he thought needed to be bridge. However, Joe also realized that bridging this gap would not be easy. As he says, "When I use the word glycomics in public, I'm asked if it is a diet. I'll give them credit for hearing 'gly' and thinking sugar, but I wish for more understanding." He began to see that the average person's understanding of science was, um, not as good as it could be. Furthermore, for those who do understand it (like most ASMB member - we hope!), the biologic concepts are expressed all too often in lexicon that can be impenetrable.

A goal of the Impact of Glycomics radio show is to bring the science to a level understandable by the lay public and to allow the average consumer to understand the truly remarkable accomplishments that are happening and can happen. As Joe says, "We are out to create a mass sharing of knowledge within the community of glycomics and all the sciences. By doing so we gain momentum for the discipline and for a better appreciation of research by the public." And because he means tax-paying publish, we on the receiving end of the public's largess can only appreciate of Joe's goals.

Impact of Glycomics is privately supported, but Joe and his team are actively seeking sponsors of the show. His audience is broad and growing. His ideal is that his sponsor would partner with him in helping to spread a wider understanding of what science does and achieves.

On September 24, 2008, Joe interviewed Bill Parks, ASMB's Vice-president and Program Chair for the 2008 Meeting. Bill's interview, in which he discusses the reach and goals of ASMB, can be obtained at the show's archives at <http://glycomics.libsyn.com> and subscriptions can be made through any of the major pod cast distributors. New shows are broadcast every Wednesdays at 11 am EST. Other ASMB members who have been interviewed include Hudson Freeze, Burnham Institute (glycomics.libsyn.com/freeze), and Susan Bellis, University of Alabama at Birmingham (glycomics.libsyn.com/bellis), who is speaking at this year's meeting.

Finally, Joe is always looking for new guests, and anyone involved in research - investigators, sponsors, grant managers, program directors, etc. - with something to say is invited to contact him:

(glycomics.radio@impactofglycomics.com).



Joe McKenna

ASMB Members at the Proteoglycan Gordon, July 2008

Tom Wight

Marian Young

Jeff Esko

Lena Kjellen



Matt Nugent

Ian Nieduszynski

Bruce Caterson

Scott Argraves

Bryan Toole



Roberto Perris Jacob van den Born

The victorious soccer team (those in blue)



Night Life at the Proteoglycan Gordon , July 2008

Jorge Filmus Rosanna Forteza Renato Iozzo Maria Monzon Mariana Capurro Silvia Goldoni Michael Kinsella Liliana Schaefer: "Million Dollar Woman"



John Whitelock playing a home-made didgeridoo with Tony Day at the guitar.

Rosanna Forteza Melanie Sympson Nick Shworak Marian Young



Vince Hascall listening with a great deal of interest to an author whose paper was just rejected byJBC