

ASMB Newsletter



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Marian Young (2007)

Olsen Named Senior Scientific Award Recipient



Bjorn Olsen, M.D., Ph.D. will receive the 2006 Senior Scientific Award. Olsen is currently the Hersey Professor of Cell Biology, at Harvard Medical School and Professor and Chair of Oral and Developmental Biology, at Harvard School of Dental Medicine. Bjorn has made important contributions to the field of matrix biology and has discovered several col-

lagens, including collagen type XVIII/endostatin. His recent work focuses on several areas including skeletal and vascular morphogenesis, growth and remodeling/repair, genetic causes of degenerative joint disease (osteoarthritis) in humans and mice, and molecular mechanisms that lead to neoformation of dermal tissue in fibrotic diseases. Bjorn is the Editor-In-Chief of *Matrix Biology*.

Calderwood Will Be The ASMB Junior Scientific Award Recipient



David A Calderwood, Ph.D. is Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, at Yale University School of Medicine. After obtaining a doctoral degree in biochemistry at the University of Manchester with Dr. Martin Humphries, David spent several productive years in San Diego at Scripps with Dr. Mark Ginsberg. Since 2004, David has been an independent investigator at Yale and secured fund-

ing from the NIH and the American Heart Association. He has made important contributions to the integrin field including a detailed analysis of the ligand binding domains of integrins and deciphering the role of talin in integrin activation and trans-dominant inhibition. More recently, Dave's laboratory has published a landmark paper reporting the structural basis of filamin interaction with integrins and how it regulates integrin function.

President's Letter

Dear Colleagues:

I have the great pleasure of announcing the new additions to the Council. At our Council election in January/February, the following ASMB members were elected to the Council: Karen Lyons (UCLA), Veronique Lefebvre (Case Western Reserve University), Bryan Toole (University of North Carolina), Jeff Esko (re-elected, Scripts), and Ken Yamada (re-elected, NIH). Josephine Grima (Research Director for the March of Dimes) was appointed as the representative from the Allied Health Organizations. As we have gone to a new term for the President and Vice-President, it has been suggested that the Councilors serve for a term of 4 years instead of 3 years. This will also help to strengthen the leadership of the Society and encourage on-going participation in Society activities.

As we get closer to the National Meeting, you will see that preparations are in full swing. The abstract due date was July 17 so that we could have all of the submitted abstracts ready for publication in Matrix Biology and available at the meeting. Late-breaking abstracts can be submitted until Sept. 30, 2006. In addition, topics for the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were solicited from the membership and four were chosen by the Executive Committee for inclusion in the program. The SIGs will take place just before the meeting on Thursday afternoon, November 1.

Over the past few months, a great deal of activity has taken place in the ASMB. The Council met January 12-13 in St. Louis. Over the evening and the next day, the Council discussed many aspects of the National meeting and other business. The afternoon was reserved to begin our Strategic Planning Process. As you probably know, a Strategic Planning process begins with an honest assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the organization. Everyone on the Council spoke at length about their views on the following four topics: Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities. We were able to identify specific actions that should be undertaken immediately. The next step in this process is to develop a 2-5 year and 10-year plans that will help our Society meet its goals. At the next meeting in November, a Vision Statement and set of Goals will be established.

We are pleased to announce the winners of the ASMB's Senior and Junior Scientific Achievement Awards. Nominations for these awards were solicited from the Membership and Council. The Senior Award is presented to a member of the Society who has contributed greatly to the field of extracellular matrix. The Junior Award will be presented to a young faculty member who has made novel and significant discoveries in the field of extracellular matrix. It is suggested that this person be at the Assistant Professor level. Nominations from the membership were submitted to the Council by Vice-President Renato Iozzo for final decision.

I am please to announce a number of new initiatives that are highlighted below. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting in Nashville. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to attend!

Warmest Regards,



President, ASMB

sandelll@msnotes.wustl.edu

ASMB Hires Executive Director

FASEB Management has been contracted to provide Executive Director services for the next year. Ann Link from the FASEB Management has been appointed to be the Executive Director of the ASMB. Ann will be responsible for working with the President and Council to carry out the business of the organization and, in 2006, will help in registration for the National Meeting. Ann will manage the abstracts and meeting registration process that will occur on-line.

Nominations for Vice-President (President Elect)

The nominations committee will solicit nominations for Vice-President to be elected by email ballot prior to the Nashville meeting and announced at the meeting. The Vice-President will succeed Renato Iozzo who will become President January, 2007 and will hold office from January 2007 thru December 2008, and become President in January 2009.

New Marketing and Publicity Committee

One of the initiatives that arose from the Strategic Planning of the Council was the need to advertise the role of extracellular matrix to the greater scientific community including tissue engineers, clinical researchers, industry partners and Foundations that support research in specific diseases. Members with expertise in this area and wishing to serve on the committee should contact Linda Sandell.

Newsletter Committee Appointed

Marian Young and Veronique Lefebvre have agreed to be Co-Editors of the Newsletter. They will join the President and Past-President Bob Mechem in producing the Newsletters.

New Additions to Website--Transitions

A new addition to the Website has been added called Transitions. This section will highlight changes in the lives of our members. Our first entries are a happy one, the announcement of a new position for Dr. Zakir Bengali, and one very sad one, the death of one of our most outstanding matrix citizens, Dr. Anita Roberts. Marian Young has written a touching piece, *In Memory of Anita*, which can be found at the end of this Newsletter.

Strategic Planning by ASMB Council

In January, 2006, the Council held its Annual Meeting over 1.5 days in St. Louis. A Strategic Planning process was initiated so that the organization could assess where we stand for the present and where we want to go in the future. At this meeting, the Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities available to the ASMB was discussed. This draft document will be available for comment on the Members Only portion of the Website. As the document develops over the next few months, new versions will be posted for comment. Comments can be sent to the ASMB email address or to Linda Sandell.

Late-breaking Abstracts for National Meeting Accepted until Sept. 30th!

Would you like to present your "hot off the press" data at the American Society for Matrix Biology Biennial National Meeting? Then be sure to submit a late-breaking abstract. Your abstract will be printed in a program addendum and presented during the poster sessions at the ASMB meeting in Nashville, TN, November 1-4. Late-breaking abstracts will be accepted until Sept. 30, 2006, so submit soon!

More information can be found at <https://secure.faseb.org/ASMB/Meetings/2006/abstract.htm>



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.

2007 Annual Dues

The 2007 Annual Dues are due on January 1, 2007 and can be paid any time via the ASMB website: www.ASMB.net. As members you will receive a discount on the meeting and access at reduced or no cost for other ASMB activities. As the dues will very like go up in 2008 as we strive toward professional management, we are offering a chance to pay the same price for two years to give you a chance to avoid the increase in cost.

Advantages of Membership

- Full members will receive a \$75.00 reduction in meeting registration fees – this, alone, pays for membership!
- Post-doctoral fellows and students can deduct membership fee from their meeting registration.
- Get Newsletter about Society activities. New in 2007 will be expanded Newsletter including job opportunities, member profiles, update on meeting activities, and more...
- Access to "Members only" web area where you have access to the membership list, Newsletter, and other interesting information relating to matrix biology.
- Access to meeting abstracts prior to the meeting.

Get Involved

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with an expanded Newsletter. Please contact Linda Sandell if you are interested. We would like to have information from organizations related to Matrix, columns on topics of interest to the membership and items of personal and scientific interest. Wouldn't it be nice to see pictures of Matrix people and activities???

ASMB Biannual Meeting – Nashville, TN – November 1-4



Jeff Davidson, Billy Hudson and Roy Zent confer about the meeting - or whatever they do...

The Vanderbilt organizing committee, including Billy Hudson, Jeff Davidson and Roy Zent and the ASMB President, Linda Sandell with the help of the ASMB Council and the Nanette Bahlinger from the Vanderbilt Continuing Education Office and our Executive Director, Ann Link, have worked non-stop to provide program, place and funding for the National Meeting. Bill Parks chaired the organization of the Special Interest Groups and Renato Iozzo chaired the Awards Committee. Everyone is excited about the program and activities in Nashville! The entire program will be available on the ASMB website next week.

Sponsors

We have made a special effort to raise funds for the meeting. Please see the list of Sponsors included in this Newsletter and on the Web Site. We are very grateful to these organizations and companies and look forward to growing the field of matrix biology through basic science and commercial applications.

Register for the Meeting

Registration is easy on line – prices will go up on September 1, so please get your registration in before that time. Remember to become a member for a reduction in the registration fee. We are now offering an option to renew your membership for two years as well.

Hotel Accommodations

Please get your hotel reservations as soon as possible. There will be a football game in Nashville that weekend and football is VERY POPULAR there!

Moses To Be Keynote Speaker



Harold L. Moses, M.D. the Hortense B. Ingram Professor of Molecular Oncology, is director of the Frances Williams Preston Laboratories, and Professor of Cancer Biology, Medicine and Pathology at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Dr. Moses was the founding director of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, which he led for twelve years. Trained as a pathologist, Dr. Moses has devoted much of his career to basic research on growth factors and tumor suppressor genes. Dr. Moses is a leader in the field of TGF- β and we are very excited to have him lead off our meeting. He will speak on “TGF- β Regulation of Stromal-Epithelial Interactions” on Wednesday evening, November 1, at 7:00.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Sessions

Wednesday, November 1, 2006

4-6 pm

Again this year, the membership was invited to submit topics and select speakers for the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Of those submitted, four sessions were chosen. The SIGs will take place from 2:00-4:30 on Thursday, November 1 before the Opening Session and the lecture by Hal Moses.

Mechanisms of Gene Regulation in Connective Tissue Development

Discussion Leaders:

Audrey McAlinden, *Washington University in St. Louis*

Jane B. Lian, *University of Massachusetts*

Regulation of Capillary Morphogenesis by Extracellular Matrix

Discussion Leaders:

Donald Senger, *Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center*

George Davis, *University of Missouri - Columbia*

Molecular Mechanisms of Matrix in Inflammation

Discussion Leaders:

Shukti Chakravarti, *Johns Hopkins University*

Pyong Woo Park, *Baylor College of Medicine*

Computational and Mathematical Methods in Matrix Biology

Discussion Leaders:

Muhammad H. Zaman, *University of Texas at Austin*

Alissa Weaver, *Vanderbilt University*

The ASMB Wishes to Thank the Following Organizations and Companies who have Provided Financial Support for the Meeting:

Amgen
 AnaSpec, Inc.
 Applied Biosystems
 Chemicon Upstate/Millipore
 Ethicon
 Fibrogen
 Genzyme
 Green Mountain Antibodies
 Lifeblood Medical
 LifeCell
 March of Dimes
 National Kidney Foundation of Middle Tennessee.
 North American Vascular Biology Organization
 NIAMS
 NICR
 NIDDK
 NIH

Open Biosystems
 Shriners' Hospital
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 Synthasome
 Thermao Electron Corp.
 Triple Point Biologics
 Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center
 Vanderbilt University Departments of Cancer
 Biology, Medicine, Pathology, and
 Orthopaedic Surgery
 Vanderbilt University Medical Center Office of
 Research
 Washington University Department of
 Orthopaedic Surgery
*Please contact Nanette Bahlinger or Linda Sandell if your
 organization would like to become a sponsor.*

2007 Gordon Research Conference of Interest to Matrix Biologist

<http://www.grc.uri.edu/07sched.htm>

July 15-20, University of New England
Bones and Teeth

Mar 4-9, Ventura
Cartilage Biology and Pathology

May 27-Jun 1, Il Ciocco, Italy
Cell Contact and Adhesion

July 22-27, Colby Sawyer
Collagen

July 29-Aug 3, University of New England
Elastin and Elastic Fiber Proteins

July 15-20, Holderness School
Fibronectin, Integrins, and Related Molecules

Mar 4-9, Four Points Sheraton
Glycobiology

Jun 3-8, Il Ciocco
Matrix Metalloproteinases

Aug 5-10, University of New England
Small Integrin Binding Proteins

Feb 11-16, Four Points Sheraton
Vascular Cell Biology

In Memory Anita Roberts: A Tribute

It's been over 20 years since I met Anita Roberts my colleague at the NIH, Chief of the Laboratory of Chemoprevention. It was 1985 when my co-worker Pam Robey and I ventured to Anita's lab and initiated studies that showed, for first time, that TGF-beta was expressed by bone-cells. Anita was a wonderful collaborator that was generous, curious and enthusiastic all traits that must have contributed to her outstanding and successful research career. I noticed over the years that most labs I visited in and outside the NIH had lab notebooks labeled "TGF-beta". Indeed from these early days of elucidating functions for TGF-beta Anita Roberts, and her long time associate Mike Sporn, put TGF-beta "on the map" showing with their numerous collaborative ventures that there were diverse and important roles for TGF-beta in growth, differentiation and cancer. Anita was a wonderful mentor with a devoted staff. Her ability to balance family with a high caliber research career made her an excellent role model for young scientists. Dr. Robert's research focus was to understand the role of TGF-beta in cancer biology. It was shocking to learn that Anita, at age 62, discovered that she herself was afflicted with gastric cancer. In her systematic and cheerful way Anita shared her experiences after her diagnosis in 2004 in an internet "blog" which ended on May 10, 2006 stating "I'm quickly approaching the end of my journey...Love to all of you, and no regrets". Anita wanted an upbeat "farewell" and what better way to acknowledge her many accomplishments in our matrix biology community with a grand "thank you Anita"!

Marian Young, Chief, Molecular Biology of Bones and Teeth Unit, NIDCR, NIH