



## 2022 Spring Newsletter

**Welcome to the Spring 2022 edition of the ASMB e-Newsletter!**

When we launched the ASMB e-Newsletter at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to create a vessel to keep our community together. 8 issues later, I am proud to say that we have accomplished what we aimed to do and that our community is more vibrant than ever: we have received a record number of entries to our annual image contest, the Communication and Outreach committee is launching next week the 2022 e-symposium series, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee is announcing its new mentoring program, and our president-elect, Ambra Pozzi, is ready to announce the dates and location of the 2023 ASMB meeting.

I am also excited to introduce a new section of the e-Newsletter, “Research resources for ASMB members”, where we will be advertising tools, reagents, and other resources made available by ASMB members to our community.

While our lives have regained a sense of normalcy and our scientific activities have resumed, we will strive to continue to deliver exciting content to your inbox!

Alexandra Naba, Editor-in-chief



## President's Message



As ASMB President for 2022-2023, I sincerely thank you for your interest in the Society. ASMB's chief goal is to promote the field of matrix biology by advancing knowledge about the ECM and facilitating the translation and dissemination of this knowledge to improve human health and aging and to better treat human disease. ASMB has activities and initiatives designed to both assist its members and to give members opportunities to contribute to the Society. We are pleased to announce a new mentoring program, read more about this exciting initiative from the DEI Committee featured below.

### Presidential Welcome April 2022

*Dear Members and Friends of the American Society for Matrix Biology,*

*As ASMB President for 2022-2023, I sincerely thank you for your interest in the Society. ASMB's chief goal is to promote the field of matrix biology by advancing knowledge about the ECM and facilitating the translation and dissemination of this knowledge to improve human health and aging and to better treat human disease. ASMB strives to accomplish this goal by sponsoring our large biennial meeting as well as smaller focused Workshops organized by members. Though we are only months out from the postponed but very successful hybrid 2021 biennial meeting in St. Louis, planning for our Fall 2023 joint meeting with the American Society for Investigative Pathology and the Histochemical Society is well underway, with our President-Elect Ambra Pozzi chairing ASMB's programming. The second ASMB Workshop on Fibroblasts, organized by Tom Barker and Merry Lindsey, will be held in October 2022, and the third ASMB Workshop on Basement Membranes, organized by Roy Zent and Rachel Lennon, is planned for 2024. I encourage you all to consider organizing a Workshop in 2024; expect a call for proposals in early 2023.*

*To further support the matrix biology community, ASMB promotes the careers of young scientists, women, and under-represented minorities. Meeting and workshop organizers prepare programs that reflect ASMB's Diversity/Equity/Inclusion goals and raise funds to provide travel awards. The biennial meetings include mentoring breakfasts, and ASMB 2021 featured a special lecture about achieving diversity in STEAM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Arts/Math) education. Special Interest Sessions at biennial meetings provide opportunities for ASMB postdocs to organize and chair symposia. Look for the call later this year to propose a SIS for the 2023 meeting.*

*Opportunities to actively participate in society operations are one important benefit of membership. Aside from service on meeting/workshop organizing committees and on Council, members are encouraged to serve on standing committees. Of note, the Communication and Outreach Committee operates the ASMB Twitter account, organizes the Image Contest, promotes special recognition days (e.g., Women in Science Day, Rare Disease Day), and spearheaded this article summarizing the ASMB 2021 Biennial Meeting. Please browse the ASMB website for details about the opportunities to participate in what I hope you consider your society. You can also send me an email ([minerj@wustl.edu](mailto:minerj@wustl.edu)) if you have questions, suggestions, or wish to volunteer.*

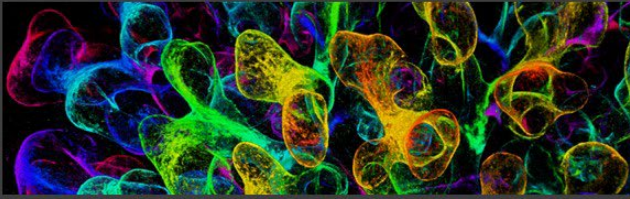
*Best wishes,*

*Jeff Miner, Ph.D.*

*Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis*

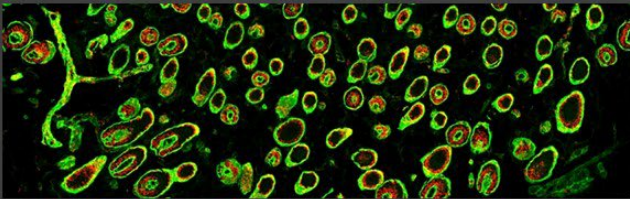
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**Congratulations to our 2022 Image Contest Winners**



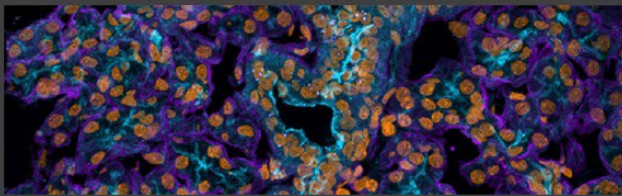
## Kaleidoscope of the branching kidney

Sarah Lipp, Purdue University



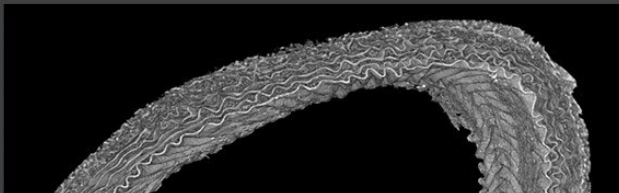
The intracellular message of an extracellular product (Laminin alpha 5 mRNA and protein in developing mouse skin)

Eva Korpos, University of Muenster



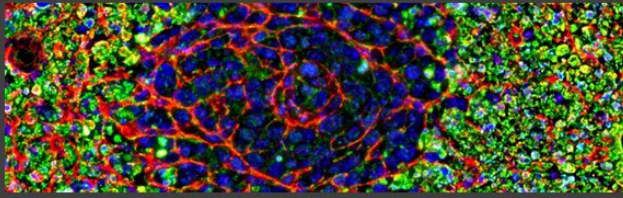
## Watery Crevasse

Tristen Tellman, *University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry*



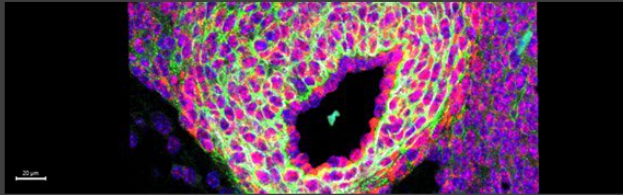
Volumic view of intramural extracellular matrix of a mouse aorta

Laurent Debelle, *University de Reims Champagne Ardenne*



Every rose has a fiber

Suzanne Ponik,  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison*



*People's Choice*  
Field of Roses—  
The Intricate Fibronectin Matrix

Brianna Alexander,  
*Rutgers School of Biomedical & Health Sciences*

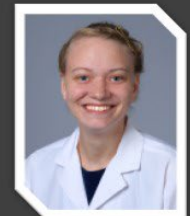
## Learn about the Science behind the images April 21, e-Symposium

### ASMB Image Contest Winners April 21 e-Symposium Speakers



**Brianna Alexander, Rutgers University**

"Investigating the regulation of Fibronectin (Fn1) in the Neural Crest during Aortic arch artery morphogenesis"



**Sarah Lipp, Purdue University**

"Intricate 3D patterning of kidney interstitial matrix structures depended on Foxd1 expression"



**Laurent Debelle,**

**University de Reims Champagne Ardenne**

"Synchrotron X-ray imaging of the vascular matrix"



**Suzanne Ponik,**

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**

"The tumor ECM as a target for anti-cancer therapy"



**Eva Korpos Pintye-Gyuri, University of Muenster**

"Intracellular message of an extracellular product"

**Tristen Tellman, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

"Hemidesmosomal Collagen XVII Influences Assembly of Salivary Ductal Microstructures"



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## ASMB Guest Society Session at EB2022

On April 5, 2022, ASMB presented a session at Experimental Biology in Philadelphia, PA. Three ASMB officers and two invited guests presented the following program:

### **Genetic and Acquired Diseases Reveal Pathological Processes Involving the Extracellular Matrix**

Karen Posey, *University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston*: “Pseudoachondroplasia early joint degeneration: a tale of ER stress.”

Edna Cukierman, *Fox Chase Cancer Center*: "Pancreatic cancer-associated fibroblasts and self-generated ECM constitute a functional unit."

Jouni Uitto, *Thomas Jefferson University*: “Molecular Genetics of Epidermolysis Bullosa: The Paradigm of Heritable Disorders of the Cutaneous Basement Membrane Zone”

Ambra Pozzi, *Vanderbilt University Medical Center*: “Role of receptor tyrosine kinases in kidney fibrosis”

Jeffrey Miner, *Washington University School of Medicine*: “Manipulating Glomerular Basement Membrane Composition in Alport syndrome”





## Update from the DEI Working Group

### Mentoring Program

ASMB is pleased to introduce a new volunteer Mentoring Program for its members. The goal is to provide individualized support and guidance for the next generation of matrix scientists. You can determine the level and type of interactions you would like in order to help advance your career in science. While this program was inspired by ASMB DEI initiatives, it is open to all.

ASMB seeks volunteer mentors as well as trainees who seek mentoring relationships.

To learn more about the Mentoring Program [click here](#).

## Research Resources for ASMB Members

Two knockout (KO) mice are available for ASMB members. Sparc (osteonectin) KO mice in FVB/N background (N12) and Spp1 (osteopontin) in FVB/N background (N9). Sparc KO in 129 and Spp1 KO in 129/B6 were generously provided by Dr. Helen Sage and Dr. Lucy Liaw, respectively. In the FVB background, these mice are especially useful for cancer-related studies as they are more susceptible to cancer development. Additionally, double KO mice can be generated for studies related to embryonic development and/or reproduction. For additional questions, please contact Pi-Ling Chang at [plchang@uab.edu](mailto:plchang@uab.edu).

Do you have a resource to share? Something to announce to the Matrix community? Let us know and we can post it here!

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**Save the Date for These Terrific Events**

## **e-Symposia are back!**

**April 21 - Image Contest Winners**

July - ISMB Guest Society Session

November - DEI and Health Disparities

### **Organize your own e-Symposia!**

Would you like to present your own work? Or organize a session with your choice of invited speakers? Let us know what you'd like to create! Send an application to chair your very own e-Symposia.

### **Call for ASMB E-symposium Proposals**

The ASMB seeks proposals from those interested in organizing and chairing an E-symposium focused on specific topic within the field of matrix biology.

#### **What are E-symposia**

These are 60-90 minute sessions held on-line using the Zoom platform that allow scientists from all over the world to join together to learn about exciting advances in matrix biology and connect with the featured speakers. ASMB has hosted these events since early 2020. These sessions typically feature 3-4 speakers within the allotted time. Our on-line events have been very successful often bringing over 100 attendees.

#### **The Role of the Chair(s)**

It will be up to the Chair(s) to decide on the topic they would like their E-symposium to focus on, as well as the number of speakers and the format of the talks. The Chair(s) are responsible for selecting speakers from the abstracts that will be submitted in response to ASMB's general call for abstracts but chairs may invite relevant speakers to submit proposals specifically for their session, or a combination of abstracts from both sources. On the day of the E-symposium the session will be co-Chaired by at least one member of the ASMB outreach and communication committee.

#### **When and Where will the E-Symposium be Held**

E-symposiums are tentatively scheduled for the third Thursday of the month. They will be held on-line using the ZOOM platform subscribed to by the ASMB and will run from 11 am to 12:30 pm Eastern time.

#### **How to Submit a Proposal**

E-symposium proposals should include the proposed topic title, a brief explanation of why your proposal would be of interest to the ASMB, the format for the event, and the names and affiliations of the discussion leaders and speakers. Further, please indicate what steps you will take to try and make your session as inclusive and diverse as possible. We will be happy to discuss your proposals with you. Potential chairs and speakers must be members of the ASMB. We encourage submissions from ASMB members at any career stage (including graduate students and post-docs) and welcome proposals from individuals or teams of two. Send your proposal by email to Kendra LaDuca ([kladcua@asmb.net](mailto:kladcua@asmb.net)).

Proposal Deadline is rolling. Send in your application ASAP!





## 2022 ASMB Fibroblast Workshop

### The Many Faces of Fibroblasts

October 16-18, 2022

University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia.

Registration and Abstract Submission Open in JUNE

Organized by ASMB members

**Thomas Barker**, *University of Virginia* and **Merry Lindsey**, *University of Nebraska Medical Center*

Full program information available on the [website](#).



## ASMB 2023 Biennial Meeting - SAVE THE DATE!

We are pleased to announce that ASMB will meet in Salt Lake City, UT, October 21-25, 2023 at the Grand America. We will be meeting jointly with the American Society for Investigative Pathology and The Histochemical Society. We have enjoyed collaborating with both of these groups for past events and look forward to planning this 2023 joint venture. Mark your calendar now!

Join us in Salt Lake City, October 21-25, 2023  
Tissues, Matrix, and Pathobiology

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Visit the ASMB Calendar for all the latest events and future happenings. If you have something to add to the ASMB Calendar, [[info@asmb.net](mailto:info@asmb.net)]let us know!