



ASMB Newsletter

A Publication of the American Society for Matrix Biology January 2003: Volume 2, No. 1

American Society for Matrix Biology

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Paul Bornstein (2003)

Vice Pres/President Elect

Francesco Ramirez (2004)

Past President

Robert Mecham

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William Parks (2004)

Council Members

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Charles Little (2003)

John McPherson (2005)

Deane Mosher (2003)

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Joshua Sanes (2003)

Sharon Terry (2005)

Zena Werb (2003)

Kenneth Yamada (2005)

Administrative Assistant

Kathleen Doehring

Past President's Message

Dear ASMB Member:

2002 was an important year for the ASMB. It was our first year as a fully operating Society during which the organizational structure has matured and the Society officers and Council have developed a sharper vision of our mission and objectives. We had our first National meeting that was by all accounts a tremendous success. Our membership is increasing and the Society is gaining recognition in the American scientific community. Matrix biology is, by its very nature, a 'field' situated at the nexus of many scientific disciplines and as such it includes scientists with diverse research interests. As a Society, it is our purpose to foster communication among those working in the field, to increase the visibility of our discipline, and to promote the growth of matrix biology through interaction with funding agencies.

Our membership is now roughly 450. I am sure that there are more people who would benefit from membership in ASMB. We have intentionally kept membership dues low to encourage participation. Our modest dues support Society mailings, the Web page, and meeting support and development. In addition, membership dues funded travel grants for young investigators to attend this year's national meeting. I encourage each of you to talk to colleagues and work to help to increase our membership.

A major (and perhaps defining) event this past year for our Society was our first National meeting. There were ~425 registered attendees and approximately 250 abstracts presented at the conference. I wish to thank the meeting organizers who worked hard to make the meeting a success. Bjorn Olsen and members of the program committee put together an outstanding list of speakers who addressed timely and important topics in our field. Benoit de Crombrugge and Magnus Höök were in charge of meeting logistics and planning and deserve special thanks for their efforts. Planning is now underway for our next meeting, which will be held in San Diego in 2004. Vito Quaranta is chairman of the local arrangements committee and Mark Ginsburg will chair the program committee. Meeting updates will be included in future Society newsletters and on our web site.

As I leave office after having served as your first Society president, I would like to thank Society officers and members of the Council for their dedication and hard work in launching the Society and in taking care of the numerous matters that required much more attention than any of us anticipated. Five members, Priscilla Ciccariello, Vincent Hascall, Joanne Murphy-Ullrich, Lynn Sakai, and Barbara Smith, are rotating off of the Council and I wish to acknowledge their help and participation. For a new organization, the ASMB has made great progress and I am pleased to leave it in the capable hands of Paul Bornstein, who will be the next President. I also want to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts received to date from the Society membership and encourage you to continue to support the Society.

Sincerely,

Bob Mecham

Past President

NEW SOCIETY OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

With the change of presidency, the ASMB administrative office has now moved to the University of Washington. Our Administrative Assistant is Kathleen Doehring (asmb@asmb.net) and the address of the Society is Department of Biochemistry, Box 357350, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195. Tel: 206-616-9475; FAX: 206-685-4426

NATIONAL MEETING POSTER AWARD WINNERS

The Society would like to congratulate the following National Meeting Poster Award Winners:

Justin Annes

New York University

Defining the role of LTBP in latent TGF β activation

Brandon Burback

University of Wisconsin

Syndecan-1 Extracellular domain disrupts adhesion and invasion of T47D breast carcinoma cells

Robert Johnson

Northwestern University Medical School

The dystroglycan-like protein DGN-1 is required for multiple epithelial and neural functions

Leyla Valenick Williams

Princeton University

Differential effects of α 4 β 1 and α 5 β 1 fibronectin receptors on cellular response to LPA

Wenlin Yuan

Washington University School of Medicine

A genetic model for congenital diaphragmatic hernia created by a null mutation in the Slit3 gene

SOCIETY ELECTION RESULTS

Selection of new Society officers and Council members is completed. Each of the individuals elected is committed to the future of our Society so feel free to contact any of them to share your ideas and thoughts.

President Elect

Francesco Ramirez

Council Members (3 year term)

Kevin Campbell

Jeffrey Esko

Cindy Farach-Carson

John McPherson

Sharon Terry

Kenneth Yamada

VISIT AND USE THE ASMB WEB SITE

We have spent a great deal of effort updating our Society web site (www.asmb.net). Although the look-and-feel of the site has not changed much, the engine under the hood has been rebuilt and redesigned to be much more interactive with the user. Now when you log into the "Members Only" site (if you have forgotten your password, please contact the ASMB office), you will immediately see your dues payment status and a listing of your journal subscriptions. By selecting the "Dues and Subscriptions" button you can pay your dues online and subscribe to any of the optional journals made available to members at substantial discount. The "Update" and "Search" buttons allow you to review and update your own contact information as well as search our member database. Society members can advertise job opportunities, meetings, etc. on the web site and there are useful links to other sites and to member web pages. If you would like a link to your personal or lab web page added to the Society web site, send the URL to asmb@asmb.net. The web site also contains information about funding opportunities and the latest news about the ASMB national meeting. We want to make the web site a useful and informative tool for our members, so please visit and use the site and feel free to make suggestions for improvement.

From the ASMB Web Site

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

FACULTY POSITIONS IN CELL BIOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

The Department of Cell Biology and Physiology at Washington University School of Medicine invites applications for tenure track positions at the rank of Assistant Professor. Outstanding individuals investigating fundamental problems in cell biology are encouraged to apply. Candidates must demonstrate the ability to develop an independent research program and a commitment to excellence in graduate education. Applicants must have a Ph.D. and/or M.D. and postdoctoral experience. Please send curriculum vitae, a summary of current and proposed research programs, and arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent to: Cell Biology and Physiology Search Committee; Attn: Dr. Maurine Linder, Washington University School of Medicine, 660 South Euclid Ave. - Campus Box 8228, St. Louis, MO 63110. Washington University is committed to increasing representation of women and members of minority groups on its faculty and particularly encourages applications from such candidates.

Email: linder@cellbiology.wustl.edu.

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION – GLYCOS-AMINOGLYCANS IN DEVELOPMENT

Postdoctoral position available to identify and characterize GAGs that regulate the proteolytic activation of a signaling molecule that specifies ventral (mesoderm) development in the *Drosophila* embryo. Genetic and novel biochemical approaches will be used, and will synergize with ongoing studies of serine proteases regulated by these GAGs (PNAS 98:5055-5060, 2001; TICB 9:102-107, 1999; Development 125:4045-4053, 1998). Candidates must have a Ph.D.; prior experience in the biochemical characterization of ECM molecules, developmental biology, or molecular biology is desirable. Send curriculum vitae and names/contact information for three references to: Ellen K. LeMosy, M.D., Ph.D., Dept. of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, Medical College of Georgia, 1459 Laney Walker Blvd., CB2915, Augusta, GA 30912-2000. Fax: 706-721-6120.

E-mail: elemosy@mail.mcg.edu

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION - THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY AND CUTANEOUS BIOLOGY

NIH-funded project to investigate the interaction of cells with extracellular matrix containing mutated collagens. In particular, the project will investigate the effects of mutations in fibrillar collagens on the behavior of cells. The project will utilize a technology for the production of recombinant collagens, synthetic nanofibrillar matrices, and cells. Highly motivated individuals with experience in molecular biology and protein chemistry are encouraged to apply. Prior experience with mammalian cell culture is preferred, but not required. Thomas Jefferson University offers an excellent scientific environment. Send curriculum vitae and the names of three references to: Andrzej Fertala, Ph.D., Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Biology, Thomas Jefferson University, BLSB, Room 424, 233 South 10th Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19107. Phone: 215-503-0113.

E-mail: Andrzej.Fertala@mail.tju.edu

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY; POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS IN PROTEOGLYCAN RESEARCH AND CANCER

Two postdoctoral positions are available to investigate the biology of perlecan and decorin, two proteoglycans involved in tumor angiogenesis and tumor suppression, respectively. The candidates are sought to join a multi-disciplinary team of researchers involved in investigating the molecular mechanism by which these two proteoglycans and/or processed forms affect cell growth and tumor development (J. Biol. Chem. 276:10263-10271, 2001; J. Clin. Inv. 108:165-167, 2001; J. Clin. Inv. 108:349-355, 2001; Oncogene 21:3688-3695, 2002; Oncogene 21:4765-4777, 2002; J. Biol. Chem. 277:35671-35681, 2002). Requirements include a Ph.D. or an M.D./Ph.D. in biochemistry or cell biology. A molecular biology background is highly desirable. Send resumé and three letters of reference to: Dr. Renato V. Iozzo, Department of Pathology, Anatomy & Cell Biology, Thomas Jefferson University, Jefferson Medical College, 1020 Locust Street, Room 249 JAH, Philadelphia, PA 19107-6799, U.S.A., Fax (215) 923-7969; Thomas Jefferson University is an equal opportunity employer.

Email: Iozzo@lac.jci.tju.edu

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

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. With many aspects of the structural biology of MMPs now well established, it is time to turn to innovative methods of studying and resolving the dynamic nature of MMPs in catalysis and in vivo by new imaging techniques. 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
Email: chris.overall@ubc.ca

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 Chairs is William C. Parks, Ph.D. (parks_w@kids.wustl.edu) and the co-chairs are Paul Martin (paul.martin@ucl.ac.uk) and Judy Abraham (judy_Abraham@chiron.com). 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/>

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

2002 Gordon Research Conference on Signal Transduction by Engineered Extracellular Matrices

This conference will focus on the converging roles of the extracellular matrix (ECM) and soluble factors for the repair or replacement of tissue lost or damaged due to degenerative disease, cancer, or trauma. Emphasis will be placed on discussion of state of the art, unpublished research in tissue engineering and the molecular mechanisms by which the ECM regulates cell fate. The Chairpersons are: Donald Bottaro (EntreMed) donb@entremed.com and Shu Chien (UCSD, shuchien@ucsd.edu). More information about the conference, including the schedule of speakers, can be obtained from the Chairpersons or directly from the GRC website <http://www.grc.uri.edu/>.

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Internation Conference on Pathobiology of Proteoglycans

An International Conference on the "Pathobiology of Proteoglycans" will be held 20th- 25 of September 2003 in Parma, Italy. This is the third international meeting on this topic, and follows meetings in Japan (1999) and Amblesdie, UK (2001). The meeting will use a Gordon Conference format and is limited to 150 attendees. Interested members of the Society are encouraged to apply early, possibly including an Abstract with the application. On-line application forms will be available on an interactive web site

(assb.biol.unipr.it/PG2003) prepared specifically for the meeting, starting January 2nd, 2003. Continuous updates on the details of the Conference will be available on the web site.

We look forward to see you in Parma.

ROBERTO PERRIS, PhD, CBiol

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PARMA 43100, Italy

Tel +39-0521-906601

Fax +39-0521-906019

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/>.