

# ASMB Newsletter



## OFFICERS

### President:

Linda Sandell (2006)

### Vice Pres/President Elect

Renato Iozzo (2008)

### Past President:

Francesco Ramirez

### Secretary/Treasurer

William Parks

### Council Members

Sherri Adams (2007)

Suneel Apte (2006)

Scott Argraves (2006)

Kevin Campbell (2005)

Elaine Davis (2006)

Jeffrey Esko (2005)

Cindy Farach-Carson (2005)

Mark Ginsberg (2007)

Charles Little (2006)

John McPherson (2005)

Allen Rapraeger (2007)

Sharon Terry (2005)

Tom Wight (2007)

Anne Woods (2006)

Kenneth Yamada (2005)

Marion Young (2007)

## President's Letter

Dear Colleagues:

I am very pleased to assume the Presidency of the American Society of Matrix Biology – I think it is truly wonderful to have this Society: a place for convergence of many scientific disciplines!

I will be the first President to have the honor of serving for two years instead of the traditional 1-year term (thanks to my dear friend Checco). First order of business is a heart-felt thanks to Checco Ramirez for his leadership over the past year – our Society has grown both in number of members and financially – the 2004 Biannual Meeting was a great success – and the organizational structure was improved to foster stability of the Society. I look forward to working with Checco over the next two years in his new role as Past President.

No less important is *Congratulations* to Renato Iozzo on his election as Vice-President/President Elect of the Society. I fully expect him to play a much larger role than was expected of me! I welcome the new Council members, Sherri Adams, Mark Ginsberg, Allen Rapraeger, Tom Wight and Marion Young; and extend a well deserved “thanks” to those rotating off the Council, Walter Horton, Hynda Kleinman, Arthur Lander, Darwin Prockop and Jim Quigley.

The goal of the next two years is simple – we will work to move from a nascent Society to a full blown mature and stable Society. The following actions are directly related to this goal:

1. We have locked in the dates, hotel rates, etc., for our next two meetings. I am pleased to announce that the **2006 Biannual Meeting** will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, November 1-4! It will be chaired by Billy Hudson and myself with the help of the local committee, Jeff Davidson and Roy Zent, and a Program Committee to be selected soon. The **2008 Biannual Meeting** will again be held in San Diego December 6-9. It will be chaired by Renato Iozzo.

2. A constant priority is to increase our paid membership and increase meeting attendance. **Our goal is to have 1000 members by 2008 and to have 600 people attend the 2006 meeting!** Of course, this will take a yeoman's effort by this office, the Council and all of the members of the Society. I will be appointing a Membership Committee made up of members of the Council and the Society to establish and implement a membership plan.

3. In order to provide stability in our management, meetings and finances, we will establish a professional team to manage and house our Society. A committee is currently working diligently on this goal.

4. Once these goals are met, I would like to initiate a planning process that would broaden the value of our society and establish our actions and roles in the scientific community over the next 5-10 years.

In keeping with the progress over the last three years, these goals are set high, but I am confident that with your support the Society will continue to grow and flourish! The most important priority of the next two years is to make membership in the Society valuable and meeting attendance fun and intellectually stimulating. We are committed to the will of the membership and I would like to ask for your interest and participation. Please feel free to contact me with ideas or to volunteer your time - at any time over the next two years!

Warmest Regards to All,  
Linda Sandell  
*sandelll@msnotes.wustl.edu*

## Past President's Message

Dear ASMB,

It is customary to begin one of such letters with praising the honor of having served in a leadership capacity, and this letter is no exception. It has indeed been an honor and a privilege and a great experience as well, to have been the President of the ASMB during 2004. If you recall my first message – which I am sure you do considering that there have been only two – I outlined three major priorities during my tenure. They included to increase the number of members, to assist my colleagues in organizing our 2nd National Meeting, and to ensure that the Council implement the will of the membership in shaping the direction of the Society. I am happy to report that these goals have been met. Membership in ASMB has increased. The San Diego meeting was a resounding success, scientifically, socially and financially. The Society Council has legislated and the membership has ratified the extension of the President and Vice-President terms to 2 years in order to provide more continuity to this important office. We have also appointed a number of task forces to examine issues critical to the growth and viability of our Society, such as our relationship with the International Society of Matrix Biology, the future of the journal Matrix Biology, the development of a permanent ASMB office and the expansion of our Web site functions. These task forces will be making their recommendations sometime in the very near future. I am therefore leaving this office with the Society financially healthy and in an upward trajectory. And yet more than before, we need your active participation and support to ensure that the dream of organizing ourselves to disseminate, foster and protect matrix biology research becomes a lasting reality. The challenges are still many and some are particularly difficult, particularly in light of a shrinking NIH budget. As I join the group of Past Presidents, my last job is to lobby NIH to ensure a fair and competent representation of matrix biology experts in the new study section structure. These and other important issues will be now in the capable hands of our President Linda Sandell and Vice-President, President-elect Renato Iozzo. To both of them my best wishes for a successful tenureship; to all of you my heartfelt thanks for having given me this great opportunity and for your trust and support.

Grazie & ciao,

Checco Ramirez

## Use The ASMB Web

Site [www.asmb.net](http://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](mailto: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: [asmb@asmb.net](mailto:asmb@asmb.net)

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

Nashville, TN, November 1-4, 2006

### Third National ASMB Meeting

Mark your calendars! Our Third National ASMB meeting will be held in Nashville, TN from November 1-4, 2006. The meeting will be chaired by Billy Hudson and Linda Sandell with the help of the local committee, Jeff Davidson and Roy Zent. Meeting information will be posted on the Society web site ([www.asmb.net](http://www.asmb.net)).

Kimball Union, NH, Jul 31 - Aug. 5, 2005

### 2005 Gordon Research Conference on Elastin and Elastic Fibers

This meeting will be held July 31-Aug 5, 2005, at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire. Dr. Cay Kielty ([cay.kielty@man.ac.uk](mailto:cay.kielty@man.ac.uk)) is chairing the

conference and the co-chair is Dr. Elaine Davis ([elaine.davis@staff.mcgill.ca](mailto:elaine.davis@staff.mcgill.ca)) Information about the conference site, program, registration, etc., can be obtained at: <http://www.grc.uri.edu/>.

Kohala Coast, Hawaii, Nov. 30 - Dec. 5, 2005

### 6th PanPacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium

6th PanPacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium. November 30 - December 5, 2005 Hilton Waikoloa Village, Kohala Coast Hawaii. For further information, please contact Christopher Sowers, Shriners Research Center, Shriners Hospitals for Children, 3101 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, OR 97239 Telephone 503-221-1537, Fax 503-221-3451, email: [hpb@shcc.org](mailto:hpb@shcc.org)

Philadelphia, PA, June 15-18, 2005

### 17th International Symposium on Basement Membranes

The local organizing committee is pleased to invite you to attend the 12th International Symposium on Basement Membranes. This Symposium continues the tradition of "Matrix Biology Days" that have been held at Thomas Jefferson University since 1987. This meeting is supported by the Lennox K. Black International Prize for Excellence in Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University. The 12th International Symposium is a biennial event which now returns to the U.S. after having been held in Europe in 2001 and Japan in 2003. This symposium will be organized to pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Rupert Timpl, a colleague and friend, who was the 1997 recipient of the Lennox K. Black International Prize. The format of the meeting consists of invited speakers who will review the latest advances in molecular and cellular aspects of basement membrane biology and pathology. In the tradition of the "Jefferson meetings," announcements of recent breakthroughs are expected. In addition to invited speakers, all participants are welcome to submit abstracts, and selected abstracts will be invited for platform presentations. In addition, we have a special Matrix Biology Symposium to honor Darwin Prockop, a scientist, teacher and mentor. Bjorn Olsen will organize this reunion that will pay special tribute to Dr. Prockop and includes his previous trainees and colleagues as guest speakers. Collectively, these two events--The 12th International Symposium on Basement Membranes and the Matrix Biology Symposium-- constitute the Jefferson Matrix Biology Days - 2005. For Further information Telephone: 215-503-5785 Fax: 215-503-5788

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<http://www.jeffersonhospital.org/matrixbiology2005>