



ASMB Newsletter

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American Society for Matrix Biology

President:

Francesco Ramirez (2004)

Vice Pres/President Elect

Linda Sandell (2005)

Past President:

Paul Bornstein

Secretary/Treasurer

William Parks (2004)

Council Members

Suneel Apte (2006)

Scott Argraves (2006)

Kevin Campbell (2005)

Elaine Davis (2006)

Jeffrey Esko (2005)

Cindy Farach-Carson (2005)

Walter Horton (2004)

Hynda Kleinman (2004)

Arthur Lander (2004)

Charles Little (2006)

John McPherson (2005)

Darwin Prockop (2004)

James Quigley (2004)

Sharon Terry (2005)

Anne Woods (2006)

Kenneth Yamada (2005)

PAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear ASMB Member:

It has been an honor to serve you as President of our Society during the 2003 calendar year. Three hundred and sixty-five days pass rather quickly, so not unexpectedly, lofty goals have been only partially met. Checco Ramirez, with an extra day in 2004, should be able to do better. Nevertheless, I think that progress has been made on several fronts. Much of my effort during the past year was devoted to preparation for our Second National Meeting that will be held in November of this year. Our Program Committee, under the leadership of Mark Ginsberg, has assembled an excellent program. Preparations for the meeting have been ably accomplished by our Organizing Committee, headed by co-chairs Vito Quaranta and Jim Quigley. They have chosen an exciting venue, the Grand Hyatt Hotel, which is adjacent to the Convention Center in San Diego. We are also fortunate to have the services of an excellent convention service, Scientific Associates Management, headquartered in Santa Fe and directed by Judith Sjoberg. I therefore think that we can look forward to an exciting meeting that will rival our highly successful first meeting in 2002. Please consult our website (www.asmb.net) for details of the meeting. You may also register and submit an abstract for the meeting online.

We have received a very good priority score for our application to the NIH for partial support of our meeting, and we are optimistic that the application will be funded. In addition, our application for partial funding to the Shriner's Hospital in Portland, Oregon has been approved. However, as is common with meetings of this size, the majority of the funding will come from registration fees. We therefore look forward to a strong showing on the part of our members, as well as non-members who wish to familiarize themselves with exciting new developments in diverse

areas of matrix biology. This meeting will be a chance to meet old friends and colleagues, as well as to make new ones, and it provides an unparalleled opportunity to gain an appreciation for the complex interactions between matrix biology and a host of other clinical and basic science disciplines.

I also wish to call attention to the fact that our Society will be a guest of the American Society for Investigative Pathology at EB 2004 in April of this year, a meeting to be held in Washington, D.C. We are co-sponsors of two symposia on the molecular and cellular basis of disease relating to the extracellular matrix, and I hope to see many of you there.

One of the many challenges for a Society of our current size is to increase its membership to a level that is able to support an effective infrastructure. The Society continues to grow slowly. It is approaching a total of 700 members, not all of whom have paid their dues for the current year, but we need an even larger Society. At our meeting in December of last year, our Council discussed ways in which membership growth could be achieved. Clearly, recruitment of new members by existing members is an effective way to expand our Society. I would therefore hope that those of you who have colleagues

who are likely to be interested in ASMB would extend an invitation to them to join. One can easily sign up online at our Web site.

Our reasons for seeking an increase in the membership of our Society are several. As stated in the brochure for our upcoming meeting, Matrix Biology is positioned at the nexus of a number of scientific disciplines, including cellular and molecular biology and other basic sciences, bioengineering, and a variety of clinical disciplines including orthopedics, dermatology, rheumatology, and tumor biology. The sharing of information and ideas among these various disciplines is almost certain to result in exciting new directions in our research. A more practical consideration is that the administration of our Society is in need of better continuity. The transfer of administrative responsibility on a yearly basis, as new Presidents assume the responsibilities of their offices, is inefficient and is prone to lapses in our ability to provide adequately for the needs of our membership. Our ability to hire an Executive Director, even if it is initially a joint appointment with one or two other Societies, would provide much needed continuity and reliability in administrative functions. However, the only reliable source of funds for our Society is membership dues, and a larger membership base is needed if dues are to be maintained at a reasonable level.

I am confident that these needs will be met in the near future, and I know that I leave the Society in good hands as Checco Ramirez assumes the Presidency in 2004, and Linda Sandell becomes President in 2005.

My best wishes,
Paul Bornstein

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ASMB members,

Let me begin by disagreeing with the opening statement of the preceding letter. I am afraid that one extra day in 2004, or for that matter one extra month, will not translate into more accomplishments than those achieved under Paul Bornstein's tenure. Paul has done a truly outstanding job unlikely to be replicated in nurturing the growth of our Society, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to his commitment and leadership. In succeeding Paul, I hope to be able at least to extend his legacy and complete the work he started. My first and foremost priority is therefore to continue to increase membership in the Society and attract investigators from diverse scientific and clinical disciplines. As Paul has correctly emphasized before, size and diversity are critically important aspects of an influential and intellectually vibrant scientific Society. My second goal is to ensure that an increased membership is also a membership in good standing, since financial soundness translates into an efficiently run Society to the benefit of its members and the whole field. My third priority is to work with Mark, Vito and Jim in making the San Diego meeting as successful as the one held in Houston in 2002. A well-attended and scientifically rewarding second ASMB meeting will be in fact the most tangible evidence of the maturity reached by our Society. My fourth priority is to ensure that the will of the membership, as expressed through the Council (and by direct e-mailing as well), is the main engine shaping the directions of the Society. As we ask for your active involvement and financial support you should in turn feel full ownership of the Society.

We have achieved so much in the brief span of two years thanks to the dedication and vision of so many colleagues who have volunteered and continue to volunteer their time. I am confident that with your support the Society will progress further on the current upward trajectory and I am looking forward to working with you, the Council and our next President, Linda Sandell, to achieve the goals we all share.

My best wishes,
Checco Ramirez

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 "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, Karen Johnson at: asmb@asmb.net

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

If you would like a link to your personal or lab web page added to the Society web site, send the URL to Karen Johnson at the above email address.

ASMB Lectureship Awards

The purpose of the ASMB Lectureship Awards is to recognize both senior and junior colleagues who have made significant contributions to a field in matrix biology and, more broadly, to promote research in these areas among the larger community of biologists. The society congratulates **Dr. Kenneth Yamada** and **Dr. Dwayne Stupack** for having been selected as the first recipients of the Senior and Junior ASMB Lectureship awards, respectively.

Linda Sandell Named President Elect

Linda Sandell of Washington University in St. Louis was elected by the ASMB membership to serve as Society President in 2005. She will succeed Francesco Ramirez, who is serving as President in 2004. Elected to the Society Council were Suneel Apte of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Scott Argraves of the Medical University of South Carolina, Elaine Davis of McGill University, Charles Little of Kansas University Medical Center, and Anne Woods of the University of Alabama Birmingham. The Society wishes to thank Renato Iozzo, Deane Mosher, Joshua Sanes, and Zena Werb who are rotating off of the Council.

Second National ASMB Meeting

San Diego, November 10-13, 2004.

Our second National meeting will be held in the Grand Hyatt Hotel, San Diego, November 10-13, 2004. The Hyatt is adjacent to the Convention Center and is close to the waterfront, the Gaslight District, and downtown San Diego. Dr. Robert A. Weinberg, Professor of Biology at MIT (Whitehead Institute), and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, has agreed to be our Keynote Speaker. The titles for the three Plenary sessions and nine Breakout sessions (three sessions of three concurrent meetings) are available on our website (www.asmb.net). Registration and submission of abstracts can be done on line. If you are not yet a member, take this opportunity to join the ASMB and save on the meeting registration fee.

Experimental Biology 2004

April 17-21, 2004, Washington DC

ASMB will be a guest society of the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) at EB 2004, and will co-sponsor a Symposium entitled "Molecular and Cellular Basis of Disease: Structure and Function of the Extracellular Matrix in Pathology". ASMB members will be able to register at FASEB member rates for this meeting. Please visit the ASIP web site (www.asip.org) for more information.