



# ASMB Newsletter

A Publication of the American Society for Matrix Biology November 2001: Volume 1, No. 1

## **American Society for Matrix Biology**

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### **Administrative Assistant**

Terese Hall

Dear ASMB Member:

As President of the American Society for Matrix Biology, I am writing to provide you with an update on the status of our Society and to make you aware of member benefits and our future agenda. Organizing a new professional society is no small task. I would like to personally thank Dr. Paul Bornstein whose vision, persistence, and hard work brought our Society through the formative stage to a functioning society with a growing and active membership.

The ASMB was organized to bring together "matrix biologists" from diverse disciplines and to promote interchange or ideas between scientists. The study of extracellular matrix and cell-matrix interactions has undergone rapid growth in the last few years. Today, the extracellular matrix touches on most aspects of cell biology, developmental biology, and clinical research. Because of this breadth of interest, none of the existing professional organizations provide the network for communication or represent all of the interests of the matrix biology field. ASMB has been formed to address this need.

Who should be a member of ASMB?--All basic and clinical scientists who share an interest in the extracellular matrix. Although ASMB was formed primarily for scientists in North America, membership is not restricted on the basis of geographic location. Anyone, from anywhere can join. Dues for the Society are very reasonable. The current rate for full members is \$50 and for postdoctoral fellows \$25. There are no dues for graduate student members. While the response to our original call for membership was relatively successful, to date many members have not paid their dues for this year (reminder, our "dues year" is July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002). The email that contained this attachment should indicate your membership status and the amount of dues paid. If you are one of the members who has not paid, let this letter be a reminder to you to do so. I have attached a dues remittance form that is easy to fill out and send back. You can also pay directly on the Society web site ([www.asmb.net](http://www.asmb.net)) with Visa or Mastercard. The attached form can also be used for registration of new members. I encourage all of you to take an active role in helping our Society grow by recruiting colleagues who are not now members of the ASMB.

A good place to start would be to make certain that everyone in your lab joins the Society. Application forms are available on the ASMB web site. If you have questions about dues or other administrative matters, please contact Terese Hall in the ASMB office by email ([asmb@cellbiology.wustl.edu](mailto:asmb@cellbiology.wustl.edu)) or by phone (314-362-2254) or fax (314-362-2252).

As a member of the ASMB, you can obtain personal subscriptions to *Matrix Biology* and *Connective Tissue Research* at rates far below the "newsstand" price. Society members can also advertise job opportunities, meetings, etc. on our web site and in the Society newsletter. The web site also has a searchable listing of Society members, information about the ASMB National Meeting, and useful links to other meetings and, shortly, to member web pages. 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.

One of the major goals of ASMB is to promote communication among matrix biologists, primarily through the organization and sponsorship of scientific meetings. The Society's first national meeting will be held November 6-9, 2002, in Houston, Texas. Drs. Magnus Höök, Benoit De Crombrugge, and Bjorn Olsen are the organizers and have planned an excellent and exciting program. Detailed information about the meeting will be available soon on our Society web site ([www.asmb.net](http://www.asmb.net)). A listing of the preliminary program is included at the end of this newsletter. I urge you to mark the meeting dates on your calendar and plan to attend and participate. Participation of graduate

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students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty is especially encouraged. Plenary sessions will present cutting edge research from leaders of several fields. Speakers will also be selected from submitted abstracts. Poster sessions will span the entire meeting to foster discussion and sharing of ideas. Students and postdoctoral members are eligible to win travel awards.

Finally, I would like to request your active participation in shaping the philosophy and activities of this new society. If you would like to serve as an ASMB officer or as a member of the council, please let me know and I will put your name in nomination for our election in the spring of 2002. We are also looking for members who will volunteer to serve as our web site webmaster (site maintenance and development) and editor of the Society newsletter. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, send me an email. Your help and suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your participation and please encourage your colleagues, students and postdocs to join our Society.

Sincerely

Bob Mecham  
Society President  
[bmecham@cellbiology.wustl.edu](mailto:bmecham@cellbiology.wustl.edu)

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### **An Invitation to ASMB Members to Use our Society Web Site: [www.asmb.net](http://www.asmb.net)**

#### **Features of the ASMB Web Site**

- Information about the organization, including bylaws, officers, membership, etc.
- Announcements--items of interest to matrix biologists
- Information about the ASMB National meeting
- Employment Opportunities
- ASMB Newsletter archive
- Directory of members.

#### **Planned Features:**

- Links to member's web sites
- Online forum to ask & answer questions about matrix biology
- Virtual library of experimental techniques in matrix biology

To post information about a **job opening** or **job wanted**, send detailed information to our Administrative Assistant Terese Hall:

[asmb@cellbiology.wustl.edu](mailto:asmb@cellbiology.wustl.edu)

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 Dr. Robert Mecham:

[bmecham@cellbiology.wustl.edu](mailto:bmecham@cellbiology.wustl.edu)

### **ASMB National Meeting**

November 6-9, 2002

JW Marriott Hotel, Houston, Texas

August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002: Deadline for abstract submission and advanced registration

#### **Registration fees:**

Regular \$350

Postdoctoral fellow: \$275

Graduate Student: \$175

The Co-Chairs of the local organizing committee are Magnus Höök and Benoit de Crombrughe. The Chair of the Program Committee is Bjorn Olsen.

*The final program and registration information will be posted on the ASMB web site.*

### **Member Registration is Easy with Our On-Line Membership Form**

ASMB is now able to accept membership applications and dues payment via on-line submission from the ASMB web site ([www.asmb.net](http://www.asmb.net)). There is no need to mail the application since we receive it on-line and process it immediately.

*PRELIMINARY PROGRAM*  
**AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MATRIX BIOLOGY  
NATIONAL MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 6-9, 2002  
JW MARRIOTT HOTEL, HOUSTON, TEXAS**

Wednesday evening    **KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Philip Beachy

**Plenary Sessions**

Thursday morning    **Assembly and Remodeling**  
Speakers: Erhard Hohenester, Zena Werb, Kevin Campbell, Jouni Uitto,  
Craig C. Garner

Friday morning    **ECM and Signaling**  
Speakers: Fillippo Giancotti, Erkki Ruoslahti, Eric Brown, Joan Brugge

Saturday morning    **Migration and Motility**  
Speakers: Peter Friedl, Douglas A. Lauffenburger, Ruth Lehmann

Saturday afternoon    **Cell Differentiation and Cell Fate**  
Speakers: Francesco Ramirez, Charles Emerson, James Kramer

**Afternoon Break-Out Sessions**

- 1. Structural Biology of ECM Components**  
Speakers: Iain Campbell, Wolfram Bode
- 2. ECM, Infection and Host Defense**  
Speakers: Ralph Isberg, Anne J. Ridley
- 3. Cell Adhesion Mechanisms**  
Speakers: Ivan Stamenkovic, Reinhard Fässler, Joshua Sanes
- 4. ECM and Vascular Biology**  
Speakers: Luisa Iruela-Arispe, Alan Rapraeger, David Cheresh
- 5. ECM and Skeletal Development**  
Speakers: Matt Warman, Stefan Mundlos, Andrew McMahon
- 6. Degenerative and Chronic Diseases Involving ECM**  
Speakers: Daniel Rifkin, Harry Dietz, Rikard Holmdahl

**Abstract & Registration Deadline**

15 August, 2002

**Registration Fees:**

Regular Members: \$350  
Postdoctoral Fellows: \$275  
Graduate Students: \$175



**ASMB 2001-2002 DUES**  
July 1, 2001 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002

**Dues**

Dues for the current year (July 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002) are listed on the right. If you are uncertain whether or not you have paid, please email Terese Hall at [asmb@cellbiology.wustl.edu](mailto:asmb@cellbiology.wustl.edu) and she can check our records for you.

**Contributions (Voluntary)**

Members can make voluntary contributions to support the activities of the society, which include travel assistance for student and postdoctoral members to the national meeting and other programs at ASMB.

**Publications**

Personal subscriptions to *Matrix Biology* and *Connective Tissue Research* are available at special member rates. Please indicate your selections on the order form and include the appropriate amount in your remittance. Please allow 6-8 weeks for arrival of hard copy subscriptions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
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State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip/Mail code \_\_\_\_\_  
Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make certain that your email is correct so that we can expedite your registration and activation of on-line subscriptions.

**REMIT TO:**

**ASMB**  
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**ASMB 2001-2002 Dues**

July 1, 2001 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002

**DUES**

Regular Member	\$50	_____
Postdoctoral Fellow	\$25	_____
Graduate Student	\$0	_____

**CONTRIBUTION**

**PUBLICATIONS**

*Matrix Biology*  
Online only \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

*Matrix Biology*  
Hardcopy +Online \$80 \_\_\_\_\_

*Connective Tissue Research*  
Hardcopy only \$75 \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

**We strongly encourage you to make payment online at [www.asmb.net](http://www.asmb.net) (Visa or Mastercard accepted).** If you prefer to pay by mail, send a check payable to ASMB in U.S. currency, drawn on a U.S. bank. We cannot accept purchase orders. You may also mail or fax your credit payment (Visa or Mastercard) by providing the following information:

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_