

Connective Issues



BSMB Newsletter

Committee:

Prof. Ray Boot-Handford (Chairman), Prof. John Couchman (Secretary),
Dr. David Young (Treasurer), Dr Mandy Plumb, Dr Wael Kafienah,
Dr Jelena Gavrilovich, Dr Tonia Vincent, Dr Chris Murphy, Dr Emma Blain,
Dr Philippa Hulley

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Editorial

John Couchman

Welcome to the 76th Connective Issues and greetings to all BSMB members. I hope you enjoy a good summer. I am writing this while attending the XXIInd FECTS meeting in Davos, Switzerland. The science has been, as usual, of very high quality, with a good mixture of talks from younger as well as more senior investigators. Clearly matrix biology is alive and well, but there are some clouds on the horizon. Total registration is around 260, a drop on last time, and part of a continuing trend. About 10% originate from the UK, again a drop in numbers on previous FECTS meetings. As Ray Boot-Handford mentions in his report, very few applications for bursaries were received. We would like to know the underlying reasons for reduced participation from our membership, and welcome feedback. Perhaps, as suggested by a Swiss colleague, it is because our own National meetings are of such quality, that many feel less inclined to attend FECTS. This was one of many compliments I have received from European colleagues regarding the BSMB and our meetings.

On that theme, and although it is still summer, it is nevertheless time to register for our September meeting in Norwich. Details are provided below. I hope you will attend, and we continue the tradition of good science coupled to a convivial environment.

Last, we have had some changes in the BSMB Committee as announced at our AGM in March. After six years of sterling service as Honorary Treasurer, Graham Riley has stepped down and is replaced by David Young. We thank Graham for his outstanding contributions and David for taking on this critical role. As usual we have two new Committee members, and new student and postdoctoral representatives as indicated elsewhere in the newsletter. More Committee vacancies will be announced in the January newsletter, as those whose terms are complete must be replaced at our Spring 2011 meeting in Bristol.

Very best regards, see you in Norwich!

Chairman's Letter

Ray Boot-Handford

Dear Fellow Matrix Biologists,

I first would like to congratulate Ann Canfield, who with the able assistance of Anna Fildes, organised the BSMB Spring meeting on Vascular Biology in Manchester in March. The meeting was very well attended and a great scientific success. The Spring meeting also marked the end of Ann's three year stint on the BSMB organising committee during which she took responsibility for organising and expanding the Society's Conference Bursary Scheme. I would like to thank Ann for all her hard work and effort on behalf of The Society. Mandy Plumb has taken over responsibility for running the bursary scheme. Money to support conference bursaries for our members is raised in large part from small surpluses gained through the success of our Spring and Autumn meetings. Bursaries for these meetings (presenter and reporter - see web site for details) are generally well-subscribed. However, as a committee, we are somewhat perplexed to have only been able to award two of the eight £600 bursaries on offer for FECTS this summer. I would welcome suggestions on how we can make our bursary support more attractive or available to members, particularly with respect to FECTS. Please send correspondence to Mandy Plumb (a.plumb@rgu.ac.uk) and me (Ray.Boot-Handford@manchester.ac.uk).

I am pleased welcome our new committee members elected at the spring AGM, namely Emma Blain (formerly the postdoctoral representative) and Philippa Hulley. Philippa has agreed to take responsibility for membership issues. We are also grateful to Graham Riley for agreeing to continue maintaining and developing the Society's website and to Graham and Wael Kafienah for taking on the Public Engagement portfolio. Finally, I hope to welcome you to our Autumn meeting on 'Inflammation Meets Matrix Biology' at UEA in Norwich organised by Jelena Gavrilovic in September. Registration is open and bursary applications are being accepted.

2010 BSMB Fell - Muir Award to Professor Gill Murphy



Professor Gill Murphy from the University of Cambridge receives the award from BSMB Chairman Prof. Ray Boot-Handford (left) and Secretary Prof. John Couchman at the Spring 2010 Manchester meeting, after her plenary lecture. The Prize is awarded to a senior investigator in recognition of their outstanding contributions to matrix biology and the BSMB.

Abstracts and the meeting report from the **Spring 2010 Manchester meeting** will be published later this year in the International Journal of Experimental Pathology, who are gratefully acknowledged for their continuing support. The meeting report can be also accessed on the BSMB website (<http://www.bsmb.ac.uk>)

BSMB member in the news – Michael Mason award to Dr. Chris Murphy

On 21 April Dr Chris Murphy, Senior Lecturer at The Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology was presented with the Michael Mason Award by the Heberden Committee of the British Society for Rheumatology at the Rheumatology 2010 conference in Birmingham.

The prize is named after Michael Mason who was a renowned clinical rheumatologist. Dr Murphy received a plaque, the Michael Mason Medal and a cheque for £1,000 in recognition of his excellence in scientific

research in the field of Rheumatology. Dr Murphy also presented his work, entitled

“Hypoxia, a force for good in cartilage – implications for joint repair” - in the conference’s plenary session.

Congratulations to Chris.



Dr. Chris Murphy receives his award from Dr. Deborah Bax, President of the British Society for Rheumatology.

BSMB 2010 Autumn Meeting

“Inflammation meets Matrix Biology”

Organised by Dr. Jelena Gavrilovic
University of East Anglia;
j.gavrilovic@uea.ac.uk

September 6-7th 2010. University of East Anglia, Norwich

This meeting will focus on the interplay between inflammation and matrix biology. Expert speakers from the USA, Europe and the UK will bring us up to speed with new data emerging from cross-talk between these areas of interest. The Young Investigator Lecture will be given by the winner of this prestigious award and Mark Fidock from Pfizer will give a presentation on Careers in Big Pharma which will provide interesting insights into this career option.

Session 1 Overview of Inflammation and markers of Inflammation Luke O'Neill (Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland) and Mark Fidock (Pfizer, Sandwich UK)

Session 2 ECM, Metalloproteinases and Inflammation; Bill Parks (University of Washington, Seattle, USA) and Sussan Nourshargh (William Harvey Institute, London, UK).

Session 3: Novel aspects of cell adhesion/migration in inflammation; John Couchman (University of Copenhagen, Denmark); Alicia Arroyo (Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares, Madrid, Spain); Mikala Egeblad (Cold Spring Harbour, USA)

Session 4: BSMB Open Session: Andrew Doyle (NIH, Bethesda, USA); Andrew Newby (Bristol Heart Institute, UK)

Session 5: Cell Signalling in inflammation: Lilian Schaefer (Klinikum der Goethe Universitaet Frankfurt, Germany); Drew Rowan (Musculoskeletal Research Group Newcastle, UK)

Oral presentations in all sessions will be selected from submitted abstracts. This includes the open BSMB session where all topics related to matrix biology will be covered. Poster sessions will be an important component of the meeting, and as with the BSMB session, are not restricted to inflammation, but open to all aspects of matrix biology.

All events will be held on the pleasant University of East Anglia campus with the conference dinner to be held at the world-renowned Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts (<http://www.scva.org.uk/>) also on campus.

Key dates:

- **Registration** is now open and closes on **August 8th 2010** after which a late fee of £30 will apply, so please register without delay!
- **Abstract Deadline July 26th 2010**
- **Bursary Deadline July 26th 2010 (applicants will be notified by August 5th)**

Satellite meeting

“Tendon Biology and Pathology”

September 8th 2010, University of East Anglia, Norwich

Local Organiser: Dr. Graham Riley
University of East Anglia –
Graham.Riley@uea.ac.uk

This meeting will focus on the latest research findings in tendon biology and pathology. The programme for the meeting is being finalised, but there will be contributions invited from most of the groups active in tendon research in the UK.

The keynote speaker is Professor Ronen Schweitzer, Oregon, USA. More details will be available on the BSMB website.

BSMB Conference Bursaries

Young members of BSMB are encouraged to apply for bursaries to assist in expenses associated with attending the Spring or Autumn BSMB meetings or other selected meetings such as those organized by the Federation of the European Connective Tissues Societies (FECTS). Applicants should be at an early stage of their career and, therefore, emphasis is given to young researchers such as graduate students and early post-docs. The BSMB bursary scheme has two distinct application routes:

Conference Presentation Bursaries

The BSMB will offer 4 ‘Conference Presentation’ bursaries for young researchers wishing to present their research at BSMB meetings. The research must be relevant to BSMB **but need not be on the ‘theme’ of the meeting**. Applications for a bursary must be accompanied by the abstract of the research to be presented. Where application numbers exceed available bursaries, the quality and impact of the science to be presented together with previous bursary support will be taken into account.

Conference Reporter Bursaries

The BSMB will offer 3 'Conference Reporter' bursaries for BSMB meetings. Applicants undertake to write a report on the talks at the conference for publication on the BSMB website and subsequently in the International Journal of Experimental Pathology. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals to develop their scientific writing and reporting skills. If desired, reports on each talk can be attributed to the individual reporter responsible, enabling the resulting publication to be used by authors as examples of their output within their Professional Skills Development Portfolio. Applicants need not be presenting a poster at the meeting. In the case of application numbers exceeding bursaries available, previous bursary support will be taken into consideration.

The bursaries (of up to £200) will cover conference expenses (e.g. registration, accommodation, conference dinner) and a contribution towards travel costs. In exceptional circumstances, a request for further assistance with travel costs may be considered by the committee.

Qualification criteria

To qualify for a bursary, applicants need to have been members **at least 3 months prior to the opening of registration** for the meeting.

Application procedure

- All applications must be sent by e-mail to Dr Mandy Plumb (a.plumb@rgu.ac.uk)
- Closing date for the BSMB Autumn Meeting: July 26th 2010, with decisions by August 5th, 2010.
- Full details and application forms are available at <http://www.bsmb.ac.uk/> under 'Bursaries'.

Current BSMB Committee

Officers:

Chairman, Prof. Ray Boot-Handford (University of Manchester; Ray.Boot-Handford@manchester.ac.uk)
Honorary Secretary, Prof. John Couchman (University of Copenhagen; john.couchman@bric.ku.dk)

Honorary Treasurer, Dr. David Young (Newcastle University; d.a.young@ncl.ac.uk)

Elected and Seconded Members:

Dr Jelena Gavrilovic (University of East Anglia; j.gavrilovic@uea.ac.uk)
Dr Emma Blain (Cardiff University; blain@cardiff.ac.uk)
Dr. Mandy Plumb (University of Aberdeen; a.plumb@rgu.ac.uk)
Dr. Wael Kafienah (University of Bristol; w.z.kafienah@bristol.ac.uk)
Dr. Tonia Vincent (Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, Imperial College London; t.vincent@imperial.ac.uk)
Dr. Chris Murphy (Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, Imperial College London; c.murphy@imperial.ac.uk)
Dr. Philippa Hulley (University of Oxford; Philippa.Hulley@ndorms.ox.ac.uk)

Co-opted Members:

Dr. Graham Riley (University of East Anglia; graham.riley@uea.ac.uk)
Dr. Sarah Howat (Postdoctoral Representative, (Kings College London; sarah.howat@kcl.ac.uk)
Ms Eleanor Jones (Student Representative, University of East Anglia; Eleanor.R.Jones@uea.ac.uk)

New Postdoctoral Representative for the BSMB Committee – Dr. Sarah Howat

Continuing with our tradition of involving younger members in the running of the BSMB and planning its future events, we welcome Sarah Howat to the Committee. Sarah is a Senior Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Vascular Biology Group, Division of Medicine, King's College London. Our postdoctoral members should make contact with Sarah regarding any issues they would like to raise concerning the



BSMB and its roles. Her e-mail address is sarah.howat@kcl.ac.uk

Sarah replaces Emma Blain, who has now become a full Committee member. We extend warm thanks to Emma for her work on the Committee, and look forward to more of the same!

From the BSMB Committee Student Representative, Eleanor Jones -

I am a second year student at the University of East Anglia, and I have recently been appointed as the postgraduate student representative of our Society. In this role I would like to encourage the development of student resources, for example conference sessions, aimed specifically at postgraduate students as well as seeking to improve the information available on the BSMB website. I would also like to encourage postgraduate students to become active members of the society. There are numerous benefits, such as the opportunity to apply for bursaries to attend meetings and reduced BSMB meeting registration fees. If any student member has any ideas or any issues they wish to raise at concerning BSMB activities, please contact me (Eleanor.R.Jones@uea.ac.uk) or speak to me at the September conference in Norwich.

Welcome to New Members!

We welcome the following new members and student members to the BSMB:

Dr. Christoph Ballestrem, Peter Bell (University of Manchester), Dr. Catherine Bui, Christos Gabrielides, Christopher Macdonald, Catherine Syddall, Steven Woods, Yaobo Xu (University of Newcastle upon Tyne), Dr. Thomas Cox (Institute of Cancer Research), Dr. Sarah Franklin (University of Oxford), Simon Goodson, Dr. Mari Nowell (Cardiff University), Dr. Noor Jamil (University of Edinburgh), Leandro Lo Cascio, Szymon Manka, Dr. Anna Piccinini, Michaela Ruhrmann, Anna Woskowicz (Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology), Tone Lygren (University of Copenhagen), Amani Owaidah (University of Bristol), Jasmine Penny

(University of Nottingham), Dr. Markella Ponticos (University College London), and Sarah Turner (RJ & AH Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen).

We hope you all find membership of the BSMB to be enjoyable and rewarding.

New Arthritis Research UK Centre for Cardiff University

At the request of the Secretary, BSMB member Professor Vic Duance writes about this new venture -

In 2009 Cardiff University won the bid to establish the Arthritis Research UK Biomechanics and Bioengineering Centre. This prestigious £2.5million award was matched with funding from Cardiff University, meaning that at least £10million over 10 years will be invested in biomechanics and bioengineering research into the causes, prevention and treatment of arthritis and other musculoskeletal disorders. The Biomechanics and Bioengineering Centre will advance joint research by harnessing technologies and expertise across several research areas to ensure an integrated approach. Six University Schools (Biosciences, Engineering, Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Healthcare Studies) are driving the project forwards, committing six new lectureships and 14 new PhD studentships to address the arthritis challenge. The Centre Director is Professor Vic Duance and the research is organised into three Research Teams led by Dr. Debbie Mason (Biomechanics, Inflammation and Pain), Dr. Cathy Holt (Biomechanics, Motion Analysis and Rehabilitation) and Professor Sam Evans (Mechanical Loading of Tissues, Cells and Materials). The Centre offers a unique opportunity to integrate established research strengths and collaborations within Cardiff University in biomechanics, bioengineering, mechanotransduction, pain, inflammation, orthopaedics, rheumatology and physiotherapy to define, identify and target mechanical mechanisms underlying arthritis pathology.

The primary aims of the Centre are to:

- Quantify forces within normal and diseased human joints.
- Define how human joint function changes with age, exercise, disease and physiotherapy.
- Provide clinical tools to quantify changes in human joint function for diagnosis and treatment.
- Determine the molecular pathways involved in mechanotransduction that promote joint degeneration.
- Identify mechanically regulated biomarkers of joint degeneration and repair.
- Identify pain indicators that correspond to joint loading and identify therapies that target pain, pathology and inflammation in arthritis.
- Model the processes that cause cements to crack and improve coatings and cements to resist failure, enhance osseointegration and reduce infection.
- Identify factors that influence recovery and dysfunction to inform rehabilitation.

One novel approach that the Centre is taking is to investigate interactions between biomechanics, inflammation, pathology and

pain in arthritis. Common mechanisms of joint destruction in arthritis include local effects of pro-inflammatory cytokines and increased production of degradative enzymes. However, the way in which these inflammatory and degradative processes are influenced by mechanical loading through the joint, and interact with pain perception is not understood. To investigate these interactions we are correlating mechanical stress patterns in individual OA patients with neurotransmitter and cytokine profiles, investigating mechanically-influenced pain in subgroups of OA patients using structural and functional MRI and developing techniques to determine the role of specific neurotransmitters or cytokines in pain perception.

The Centre's research focuses on an interdisciplinary approach addressing novel cutting edge research ideas but the strength underlying the research is the continuum of basic research through to new treatment regimes in the clinic, a "molecule-to-man" approach.

duance@Cardiff.ac.uk



British Society for Matrix Biology Autumn Meeting

INFLAMMATION MEETS MATRIX BIOLOGY
6th-7th September, University of East Anglia, Norwich

Local Organiser: Jelena Gavrilovic

Confirmed speakers:

Alicia Arroyo, John Couchman, Andrew Doyle, Mikala Egeblad, Mark Fidock, Andrew Newby, Sussan Nourshargh, Luke O'Neill, Bill Parks, Drew Rowan, Liliانا Schaefer

Abstract deadline July 26th 2010

Satellite Meeting: **TENDON BIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY**
8th September, University of East Anglia, Norwich

Local Organiser: Graham Riley

Keynote speaker: Ronen Schweitzer, Oregon



For more information visit www.bsmb.ac.uk

REGISTER NOW AND SEE YOU IN NORWICH!