

Connective Issues



BSMB Newsletter

Committee:

Prof. Bruce Caterson (Chairman), Prof. John Couchman (Secretary),
Dr. Graham Riley (Treasurer), Dr Mandy Plumb, Dr Ann Canfield,
Dr Jelena Gavrilovich, Dr Nikki Kuiper, Dr Wael Kafienah,
Dr Andrew Pitsillides and Dr David Young

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Editorial

By John Couchman

Welcome to the 72nd Connective Issues. September is rapidly approaching and I hope to meet many of you at the next BSMB meeting in Cardiff. This meeting is special in two regards. First we shall celebrate the academic achievements of Professor Tim Hardingham from Manchester University. He has a remarkable record of research accomplishment, and of course is a past Chairman of the BSMB. Second, there will be a plenary lecture from Professor Dick Heinegård of Lund University. He will receive the 2008 BSMB Fell-Muir award in recognition of his academic achievements and contributions to the BSMB.

Looking ahead to 2009, we shall depart from our usual 'two meetings a year' format. There will be a single larger meeting, in conjunction with the Bone Research Society, at University College London. The meeting is set for June 14-16. The BSMB will hold its AGM at that time, and it is anticipated that both the 2009 Fell-Muir and Young Investigator awardees will give lectures. Further details are provided below.

We are seeking a new Postdoctoral Representative to serve on the BSMB Committee. Anyone interested is encouraged to check the brief article below. We need a volunteer to get involved and help to provide future directions for the BSMB.

Last, we have had some feedback concerning the recent increase in membership fees, and it is clear that not everyone is aware of the background to this decision, and why we have chosen to increase the fee at this time. Anyone who has such concerns is welcome to contact me, or the Treasurer, for details.

We are always looking for opinion, member news or other topical issues of interest to the membership. If you are inclined to write a short piece for the newsletter, please contact me. The next deadline for material will be the end of December.

Chairman's Letter

By Bruce Caterson

The BSMB continues to prosper and move forward as an outstanding example of a national scientific society in the field of Matrix Biology. In my opinion our successes are largely due to the tremendous efforts and enthusiasm of our members and to the management decisions of our Committee over the past several years. The philosophy of this Committee and our Society is to provide internationally recognized annual national scientific meetings and give as much as possible back to our members, particularly our younger cohort, that attend these meetings. To this extent we continue to maintain financial stability that allows us to underwrite commitments for numerous bursaries to members to attend national and international scientific meetings and also provide annual awards of £1,000 each year to our recognized Young and Established investigators in Matrix Biology. Recent nuances in our portfolio have included an extensive updating of our website to include more user-friendly means for meeting registration, abstract submission, payment through credit cards and forthcoming meeting information. We also now include selection of postdoctoral and young faculty as co-Chairs of meeting sessions so please do not be shy in volunteering your services for this duty in our upcoming meetings. In the future we plan to provide funds for students and young postdocs, who have made award-winning presentations at our meetings, to attend and present at related international Matrix Biology meetings in other countries; e.g. the EU countries, USA and Australasia.

In September 2008, we in Cardiff shall be hosting the Autumn BSMB meeting. We shall honour and recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions that Professor Tim Hardingham has made to Matrix Biology in the UK as well as presenting the Fell-Muir Award to Professor Dick Heinegård for his internationally recognized contributions in our field of research. Thus, the organising committee for this meeting and I welcome you to Cardiff for this exciting event. Finally, I am now in my

last year as Chairman of this Society. Therefore, I encourage you all to provide nominations for candidates for our next Chairman who, like me, can and will enjoy the pleasures of overseeing the management of our prestigious Society. A call for nominations will appear towards the end of the year. My best regards to all our members.

Current BSMB Committee

Officers:

Chairman, Prof. Bruce Caterson (University of Cardiff; Caterson@Cardiff.ac.uk)

Honorary Secretary, Prof. John Couchman (University of Copenhagen; john.couchman@bric.dk)

Honorary Treasurer, Dr. Graham Riley (University of East Anglia; Graham.Riley@uea.ac.uk)

Elected and Seconded Members:

Dr. Nikki Kuiper (Keele University; n.j.kuiper@biol.keele.ac.uk)

Dr Andy Pitsillides (The Royal Veterinary College; apitsill@rvc.ac.uk)

Dr Jelena Gavrilovic (University of East Anglia; j.gavrilovic@uea.ac.uk)

Dr Ann Canfield (University of Manchester; ann.canfield@manchester.ac.uk)

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

Dr. Mandy Plumb (University of Aberdeen; m.plumb@abdn.ac.uk)

Dr. Wael Kafienah (University of Bristol; w.z.kafienah@bristol.ac.uk)

Co-opted Members:

Dr. Robert Lauder (Lancaster University; r.lauder@lancaster.ac.uk)

Prof. Anthony Hollander (University of Bristol; A.Hollander@bristol.ac.uk)

Dr. Darren Plumb (Postdoctoral Representative, University of Manchester; Darren.Plumb@manchester.ac.uk)

Mr. Chris Watson (Student Representative, University of Manchester; chris.watson@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk)

2008 BSMB Young Investigator Award to Dr. Emma Blain



Dr. Blain from Cardiff University receives the prize at the Autumn 2008 York meeting from (left to right) Treasurer Dr. Graham Riley, Young Investigator Committee Chair Prof. Anthony Hollander, BSMB Chairman Prof. Bruce Caterson and Secretary Prof. John Couchman. The Prize is awarded to a Young BSMB member for outstanding contributions to Matrix Biology.

Abstracts and the meeting report from the **Spring 2008 York 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 – Garrod award to Dr. Wael Kafienah

BSMB Committee member, Dr Wael Kafienah, Lecturer in Stem Cell Biology in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine at the University of Bristol, has been awarded the prestigious [Garrod Prize 2008](#) for his research on stem cells and cartilage repair.

The Garrod Prize is awarded annually by the British Society for Rheumatology (BSR) to a scientist with a non-clinical background who has demonstrated distinguished contribution to the field of Rheumatology. The Prize consists of £1,000, an invitation to give a

presentation of the work during the BSR Annual Meeting and an editorial by the winner to be published in the BSR journal, Rheumatology.



Dr. Kafienah (right) receives his award from BSR President, Dr. Andrew Bamji.

BSMB Autumn Meeting- 2008

“Cartilage Metabolism and Cell-Based Therapies for Tissue Regeneration”

Organised by Prof. Bruce Caterson, Prof. Vic Duance, Dr. Clare Hughes and Dr. Emma Blain. (Caterson@cardiff.ac.uk)

September 8-9th 2008.

Cardiff University

This year's autumn meeting is being held to mark the achievements and retirement of Professor Tim Hardingham (Wellcome Trust Centre, Manchester University). His contributions to the field of matrix biology and tissue engineering will be celebrated both formally through invited speakers (see below) and informally with a dinner and ceilidh at the Millennium stadium, so dust down your dancing shoes to participate in this special occasion! Invited plenary speakers, who have worked with Tim will take us through his defining research moments, as well as update us on their latest work as follows:-

Session 1: Cartilage Metabolism

Prof. David Eyre, University of Washington, USA “Cartilage collagen”

Session 2: Hyaluronan Metabolism

Prof. Vince Hascall, University of Cleveland, USA “How does hyaluronan modulate inflammation?”

Prof. Bryan Toole, Medical University of South Carolina, USA “Hyaluronan: from extracellular glue to signaling cue”

Session 3: Matrix Degradation

Prof. Mandy Fosang, University of Melbourne, Australia “Aggrecanases and collagenases in cartilage degradation”

Prof. Gill Murphy, Cambridge University, UK. “Controlling extracellular proteolysis: ECM and more”

Prof. Hideaki Nagase, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, UK “ADAMTS and arthritis”

Session 4: BSMB Open Session

Session 5: Tissue Engineering

Prof. Brian Johnstone, Oregon Health & Science University, USA. “Adult human stem cells and skeletal tissue regeneration”

Prof. Frank Barry, National University of Ireland, Eire. “Cellular therapies in arthritic diseases”

In addition, Prof. Dick Heinegård (Lund University, Sweden) the recipient of this year's Fell-Muir Award to honour lifetime achievements in the field of Matrix Biology will also present a lecture entitled “From aggrecan to matrix”. Each session, including the BSMB Society open session, will contain talks selected from submitted abstracts from matrix biology research areas outside the theme of the plenary speaker talks.

Key Date

- Regular registration closes **August 18th**. After this date, a late fee of £20 will apply. Please register now!

Please go to <http://www.bsmb.co.uk> for details and further meeting information.

In addition, a satellite meeting on “Cell Therapies for the Intervertebral Disc” has been organised by Profs. Sally Roberts and Jill Urban under the auspices of “Back-to-

back". This will be held at the same venue on September 7th. (Sally.Roberts@rjah.nhs.uk). Included in the programme is a BSMB sponsored lecture by Prof. Rita Kandel (Toronto) entitled "Current state of disc cell therapies".

Accommodation will be located in Talybont Halls of Residence (a 15-20 minute walk to the meeting venue) with standard single en-suite bedrooms with breakfast included (£35). Breakfast will be served from 7.30 – 8.30am in the Talybont Social Centre. For those staying on the Monday night only (September 8th), rooms will be available to check into from 10.30am.

For further information regarding the meeting, conference dinner, accommodation and directions to the university please go to: <http://www.bsmb.ac.uk/files/meeting%20information/Information%20pack%20-%20Cardiff%202008.doc>

BSMB 2009 Meeting

"Bone and Cartilage Biology - Lessons from development, vascular interactions, and dysplasia"

2nd Joint Meeting of the BSMB and Bone Research Society

June 14-16th 2009, University College London

BSMB Organisers: Andy Pitsillides (Royal Veterinary College) and Tonia Vincent (Kennedy / Imperial College London)
BRS Organisers: Tim Arnett (UCL) and Sanjeev Patel (SGUL)

Contact Information

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t.vincent@imperial.ac.uk
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spatel@sthelie.sghms.ac.uk

Set aside these dates in your diary as this is the only meeting of the BSMB taking place in 2009 and the second occasion on which we

have united with the Bone Research Society to create a meeting with a broad focus on the biology of cartilage and bone. An exciting programme featuring major International and UK speakers, as well as ample opportunity for talks selected from abstracts has been arranged. Five major sessions over two days (15th and 16th June) will be themed to cover the development, the vascular interactions and dysplasias of cartilage and bone. Several parallel sessions will also provide a focus on cancer in the skeletal system, matricellular proteins and new emerging technologies in cartilage and bone biology. The 'satellite' session on the 14th will include a workshop entitled: 'Life in an extreme environment', as well as dedicated sessions for Young Investigators and on 'New technologies for imaging cartilage and bone'. There will be good opportunities for social interaction & networking, including an extended reception / poster session on the evening of 15th June.

Excellent budget accommodation in UCL's newly-refurbished residences (all rooms with en-suite bathrooms) is available. The central London location offers easy access to fantastic local restaurants and pubs (a long list of recommendations will be provided!). Accommodation for additional nights should be available with early booking.

Further information will appear on the BSMB website and in the next newsletter.

Conference Bursaries from the BSMB – a New Scheme

The BSMB committee is pleased to announce that a new scheme for bursaries will be introduced later this year. These new bursaries will be ***in addition to*** the current bursaries for BSMB & FECTS meetings and will enable members to apply for funds towards the costs of attending other national and international meetings with a 'matrix biology' theme. Full details will be published on the web-site very soon – so keep checking for further information! www.bsmb.ac.uk

Dr. Ann Canfield

Thanks to Dr. Robert Lauder

The BSMB Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Lauder for his work on the BSMB website. Bob has indicated that due to many other commitments he wishes to step down from his role as web manager. Over many years, Bob has generously dedicated large amounts of his time to organise our website, and keep the content current. We recognise Bob's substantial contribution to this essential part of our activities. Dr. Graham Riley, the BSMB treasurer has kindly agreed to maintain our upgraded website, and our thanks also go to him for volunteering to be the new website manager.

Postdoctoral Representative for the BSMB Committee required! –

From Prof. John Couchman, Honorary Secretary.

For the past few years, the BSMB Committee has encouraged participation from younger members, by appointing one representative each from our Postdoctoral Fellow and PhD Student members. Dr. Darren Plumb (University of Manchester) has filled this role with enthusiasm over the past 18 months or so, but is now stepping down prior to relocating to the US. I am therefore seeking a replacement for Darren. The appointee should be a Postdoctoral Fellow, a member of the BSMB and willing to serve for a minimum of one year (from September 2008). It is expected that the appointee will attend the BSMB meeting(s), and Committee meetings. There are usually two Committee meetings held in Birmingham every year, separate from those at our scientific meetings. Recently these have been held in January and June.

On behalf of the BSMB Committee I would like to extend our warm thanks to Darren, for his many contributions to the work of the BSMB, his good humour and generous volunteering of his time to help us. We wish him well in his next post.

The work is important, but not onerous. If you would like to get involved, and help to shape the future of the BSMB, please get in

touch. A short application letter and complete CV should be sent by e-mail to me (john.couchman@bric.dk), together with a note from your supervisor agreeing to your participation. In the event that more than one person contacts me, and to avoid the necessity of an election, the first qualified applicant to contact me with all the relevant details will be appointed. So please act now!

Biosciences Federation

The BSMB is a member affiliate of the Biosciences Federation, an organisation dedicated to the promotion of the Biological Sciences in the UK. Most of the relevant, leading UK Societies are similarly affiliated with this organisation. The Biosciences Federation undertakes analyses of key issues, and is a recognised authority in relations with government, funding bodies and other interested parties. The BSF produces a number of reports annually, and often seeks input from member organisations and individuals. As a rule, we do not disseminate information from the BSF to our members, not least to avoid cluttering your in-boxes, but I recommend the BSF website for interested members. It is www.bsf.ac.uk. Recent reports include an analysis of the impact of open access publishing, and there is also an ongoing discussion with The Institute of Biology about forming one umbrella organisation from these two bodies.

John Couchman

Website upgrade – images required!

The BSMB website has been upgraded, to include a section where members can deposit an interesting, unusual or eye-catching image. If you have such an image, that will enhance the website and bring a little attention to your laboratory, please send it for consideration, with caption, to Ms Jane Lohmann (J.M.Lohmann@bristol.ac.uk). We ask that non-copyrighted images be submitted, in order to keep the process straightforward. Thank you.
