

# Connective Issues

## BSMB Newsletter

British Society for Matrix Biology

**Committee:** Prof. Tim Hardingham (Chairman), Dr. Rose Maciewicz (Secretary), Dr. Jay Dudhia (Treasurer),  
Dr. Jo Lewthwaite, Dr. Louise McKenna, Dr. Garry Rucklidge, Dr. Ian Clark, Dr. Anthony Day, Dr. Alison Reith, Dr. Norman McKie

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## Editorial by Rose Maciewicz

Welcome to the 56<sup>th</sup> edition of Connective Issues. As you will note this is a short newsletter but contains important items.

- Preliminary Agenda for the AGM.
- Ballot form for new BSMB committee member.
- Subscription renewal form for 2000 membership fee.

Please make a note of the preliminary programme for the Autumn 2000 BSMB meeting. Note also the new date, which will now take place in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on September 11<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> 2000.

Finally don't forget to check our website which can be accessed via <http://www.bsmb.ac.uk>. Between Newsletters all new information received by the Society can be found at the site.

See you all at the Millennium Spring BSMB meeting in London on Monday and Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2000.

## Current BSMB Committee

### Officers:

Chairman, Prof. Tim Hardingham (University of Manchester; [tharding@fs1.scg.man.ac.uk](mailto:tharding@fs1.scg.man.ac.uk))  
Honorary Treasurer, Dr. Jay Dudhia (The Royal Veterinary College, London; [jdudhia@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:jdudhia@rvc.ac.uk))  
Honorary Secretary Dr. Rose Maciewicz (AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; [rose.maciewicz@astrazeneca.com](mailto:rose.maciewicz@astrazeneca.com))

### Elected Members:

Dr. Garry Rucklidge (Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen; [gjr@rri.sari.ac.uk](mailto:gjr@rri.sari.ac.uk))  
Dr. Jo Lewthwaite (Eastman Dental Institute, UCL; [J.Lewthwaite@eastman.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:J.Lewthwaite@eastman.ucl.ac.uk))  
Dr. Ian Clark (University of East Anglia; [i.clark@uea.ac.uk](mailto:i.clark@uea.ac.uk))  
Dr. Anthony Day (University of Oxford; [ajday@bioch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ajday@bioch.ox.ac.uk))  
Dr. Alison Reith (University of Bergen, Norway; [alison.reith@pki.uib.no](mailto:alison.reith@pki.uib.no))  
Dr. Norman McKie (Medical School, University Newcastle-upon-Tyne; [nmckie@hgmp.mrc.ac.uk](mailto:nmckie@hgmp.mrc.ac.uk))

### Ex-officio Member:

Dr. Louise McKenna (University Erlangen, Germany; [louise.mckenna@patho.med.uni-erlangen.de](mailto:louise.mckenna@patho.med.uni-erlangen.de))

## Nominations for BSMB Secretary and Committee member

The Secretary (RAM) and one committee member (GR) are due to retire in **Spring 2000**. We have had no nominations for the position of Secretary, therefore the Committee has nominated Dr. Rose Maciewicz to stand another 3 year term of office. She has agreed to this nomination. We have received 2 nominations for the position of Committee member: **Dr. ANTHONY HOLLANDER** and **Dr. PAUL ROONEY**.

Because we have more than one nomination for the one committee place a Ballot is required. You will find this ballot attached to the end of this Newsletter. Please indicate your choice by placing a cross (X) in the box. Voting for more than 1 name will be deemed null and void. Please return your ballot paper by **March 31<sup>st</sup> 2000** to the BSMB Secretary.

To aid in your choice here follows thumbnail sketches of the nominees.

### Name: **Anthony Hollander**

Position: Reader, University of Sheffield Medical School

Research Interests: My main interests have been cartilage biology and mechanisms of collagen degradation in arthritis. More recently I have become very interested in tissue engineering of cartilage and bone as well as in gene transfer to chondrocytes for use in tissue engineering. In addition, I have been involved in other connective tissue studies, including investigations of MMPs in patients with inflammatory bowel diseases.

### Why I Want To Be On The Committee:

I have been involved in connective tissue research for 14 years and a member of the BSMB since 1994. I have regularly attended and presented work at BSMB and FECTS meetings. I now want to contribute to the Society by helping out on the committee. I can offer my research experience both in Canada and the UK and a willingness to come up with new ideas for tackling old problems in the organisation of meetings. I also feel that Sheffield should be represented on the committee. We have a wide range of connective tissue researchers here, many of whom contribute to BSMB meetings. Also, Sheffield is an ideal location for a future meeting, being not too far from anywhere else in the UK!

### Name: **Paul Rooney**

Position: Senior Lecturer in Connective Tissue Research, Department of Basic Dental Science,

University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff.

**Research Interests:** Cell biology of cartilage and bone formation; cartilage vascularisation in health and disease; bone marrow-derived osteogenesis; osteogenic potential of dental pulp.

**Why I Want To Be On The Committee:**

I have been an active member of the BCTS/BSMB for more than 15 years and have presented at several of their meetings. The BSMB is one of the most friendly societies where people of all levels feel able to interact and communicate with each other - I want to help keep it that way! I have enjoyed both the social and scientific aspects of the meetings and feel it is time I gave something back. I would bring enthusiasm to the post, I am keen to increase the involvement of younger scientists and to broaden the range of topics covered by meetings such that people outside the old favourites of cartilage/bone/skin/kidney etc. would be encouraged to attend. I also feel that since Cardiff is one of the major centres of matrix biology research in the U.K. it should be represented on the committee once again.

### Membership Renewal Information

The membership fees for 2000 are now due. We are requesting that all members complete the attached form '**Membership Subscription for 2000**', which can be found on the penultimate page of this newsletter. The completed form with membership payment should be forwarded to the BSMB Secretary. The form should be self-explanatory but if you have any queries please contact the Secretary by e-mail.

Note that the 2000 membership fee is £10.00 for full members and £2.00 for student members. As in the past no subscription is payable by Honorary Members. If you pay by Direct Debit can you please give us your Bank details so that we can confirm this arrangement. If you do not pay by Direct Debit please send us a cheque immediately. Please note membership fee is collected on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. If you fail to send us your 2000 subscription fee we will have to cancel your membership. Please help the Society to stay solvent by paying your membership fees.

Under the provision of the Data Protection Act 1994 s.33(3) we are required to inform our members that we are holding a mailing list on computer disc. The information is only for the purpose of distributing or recording the distribution of articles of information to members and consists only of their names; addresses and other particular necessary for such

distribution. A member objecting to the information being held as mentioned should notify the current BCTS Secretary.

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting will be held at the Spring BSMB meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2000. The preliminary agenda follows. Items for inclusion should be sent to the BSMB Chairman, Professor Tim Hardingham.

#### Preliminary AGENDA

#### BRITISH SOCIETY OF MATRIX BIOLOGY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2000

17:00- 17:30

Camden Campus, The Royal Veterinary College

1. Approval of Minutes of the last AGM held in Oxford on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1999 (Tim Hardingham)
2. Matters Arising (Tim Hardingham)
3. Secretary's report (Rose Maciewicz)
4. Treasurer's report (Jay Dudhia)
5. Election of Secretary and New Committee Members (Tim Hardingham)

### Announcement

I am delighted to inform the BSMB membership that one of our members, Professor John Scott of University of Manchester, has been elected an Honorary Member of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland following a vote at a recent AGM of that Society. To quote the By-laws of the Society, 'Honorary Membership is given to a limited number of persons who have distinguished themselves in promoting the anatomical and related sciences'. Currently there are 12 Honorary members including Professor G. Burnstock FRS, Professor R.E. Coupland, Dr. D.W. Fawcett, Sir A. Huxley, Dr. G.E. Palade and Professor Guillery FRS amongst others. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Professor Scott on this election.

## Autumn 2000 BSMB meeting in Newcastle-upon-Tyne

### 'Cell-Cell and Cell Matrix Interactions in Development and Pathology'

The Autumn 2000 meeting of the BSMB will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2000. The venue for this meeting will be the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and will be organised by Dr. N.McKie and Dr. M.A. Birch [Telephone 0191-222-5541; Fax 0191-2225455 Medical School, Framlington Place, Newcastle NE2 4HH; e-mail nmckie@hgmp.mrc.ac.uk]. Talks are scheduled to take place in the Medical School Lecture theatres at the University and are an approximately 10 minute walk from the Leazes Halls of residence where the main accommodation will be located.

This conference will have a main theme relating to connective tissue development and to known pathologies which compromise connective tissue function. Speakers will discuss aspects of bone, cartilage, and muscle cell biology, which are concerned with adhesion and proteolysis and the development of form. Several speakers have been invited and a have already accepted but amongst the current list of invitees are Professor M.A. Horton, Professor Hermona Soreq, Dr. J.D. Becherer, Dr. A.P. Hollander, Professor Zena Werb, Professor Cheryl Tickle, Professor Pamela Robey and Professor T.M. Skerry.

There will be a poster presentation session and several posters will be selected for short oral presentations during the main lecture series. Deadlines for abstracts will be the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2000 and registration forms will be available from the BSMB website by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2000.

The conference dinner will take place on Newcastles quayside and it is rumoured that a night club in the locale will be offering a very reasonable cut price entry for BSMB members coupled with a stretcher service for those that are overwhelmed by the quality of the talks to be witnessed during the course of Newcastles first BSMB meeting.

## XVIIth FECTS

The XVIIth Meeting of the Federation of the European Connective Tissue Societies (FECTS) will be held in Patras Greece on July 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, 2000. Further information can be found on their website:

<http://www.chemistry.upatras.gr/fects/Index.html>

The Chairman of this meeting is C.Tsiganos, +30-61-997154; constiganos@chemistry.upatras.gr. The Scientific Secretary is N. Karamanos (Department of Chemistry, University of Patras, 261 10 Patras, Greece. Tel. & Fax: +30-61-997153 ; N.K.Karamanos@upatras.gr). Correspondence concerning the meeting should be addressed the Organising Secretariat: Erasmus Horison Ltd, FECTS 99 Dinokratous Str., erasmhor@athena.compulink.gr

### Topics to be covered

Proteoglycans, collagens and matrix proteins  
Cell-matrix interactions, Developmental aspects  
Matrix genes, Connective tissue disorders,  
Connective tissue remodelling, Biomechanics and Biomaterials

**Invited speakers:** J. Engel (Switzerland), C. Kadler (UK), A. Colombatti (Italy), Paulsson (Germany), J.T. Gallagher (UK), L.-A. Fransson (Sweden), N. Perrimon (USA), G. David (Belgium), K. von der Mark (Germany), H. Rauvala (Finland), M.W. Ferguson (UK), R. Timpl (Germany), D. Heinegard (Sweden), R. Hata (Japan), B. de Crombrughe (USA), J. Heino (Finland), L. Peltonen (USA), T. Krieg (Germany), H. Nagase (UK), B. Caterson (UK), J.C. Monboise (France), M. Maragoudakis (Greece), E.B. Hunziker (Switzerland), A. Ratcliffe (USA).

**Workshop areas:** 1. Structure-function relationship, 2. Novel analyses of matrix macromolecules, 3. Biosynthesis, post-translational modification and catabolism, 4. Gene expression, regulation, post transcriptional modifications, 5. Genetic manipulations, 6. Cell-cell and cell-matrix interactions, 7. Receptor, signal transduction, 8. Cytokines, growth factors and ECM, 9. Development, 10. ECM and cancer, 11. Tissue regeneration and repair, 12. Ageing, apoptosis, 13. Angiogenesis and neovascularisation, 14. Biomineralisation, 15. Genetic, autoimmune and degenerative diseases, 16. Basement membranes: structure, function and pathobiology, 17. Modified biopolymers and artificial tissues, 18. Tissue properties and response to mechanical load.