

38<sup>th</sup> International Sun Valley Workshop on Skeletal Tissue Biology  
August 3-6, 2008, Sun Valley, Idaho, USA

The 38<sup>th</sup> International Sun Valley Workshop on Skeletal Tissue Biology was held August 3-6, 2008. There were 115 Workshop attendees representing a wide range of clinical, basic science and social science disciplines.

The W.S.S. Jee Remodeling in Bone (RIB) Award was given to Dr. Lance Lanyon, who spoke from his wide experience about “Strain-related Control of Bone (Re)modeling: Objectives, Mechanisms and Failures.” Dr. Lanyon was one of the first to apply strain gages to determine the actual mechanical inputs to bone, and subsequently moved on to examine the interface between the mechanical environment and hormonal determinants of bone adaptation. He has been at the interface of skeletal biology and engineering for nearly 4 decades, and in many ways has defined that field over this period of time. The plenary lecture was followed by a poster session that highlighted posters from the ten young investigators who received the Alice L. Jee Travel Award. The Workshop program was also highlighted by podium talks Monday evening from six young investigators who were selected winners of the ASBMR/Harold M. Frost Young Investigator Awards, which came with a \$1500 prize (supported in part by the ASBMR) and certificate.

Besides training, a primary focus of the workshop has been on the interaction of younger and more senior investigators. This year, we expanded the mentorship program established at the 30th Workshop in 2000, which arranged for those younger scientists who have received awards to share lunch with a senior investigator of their choice. This year, we provided lunch vouchers for any younger investigator who wished to meet with a senior investigator. The number of these mentor luncheons rose from 17 last year to 25 this year.

In addition, with the support of NIAMS, we were able to provide an NIH Workshop on Funding for Young Investigators. Special thanks goes out to Dr. Gayle Lester, who organized this special event, and also to Lynda Bonewald, Linda Sandell and Bob Recker, who acted as preceptors. The session was well attended, and hopefully will provide real benefits in improved opportunity for funding for those who attended.

This year at the 38<sup>th</sup> Workshop, we made an attempt (successful I think) to expand beyond skeletal biology and engage others working in the broader fields of musculoskeletal biology. This resulted in a session on “Translational Research in OA,” chaired by Rich Loeser, and one on “Muscle Biology,” chaired by Karyn Esser. This represented an attempt to provide more translational content, and for participants to think about how their “pet” tissue influences, and is influenced by, the other tissues that surround it. If we wish to solve real clinical problems that involve the musculoskeletal system, we will have to challenge ourselves to this brand of interdisciplinary translational research – something more often discussed than achieved.

The Workshop was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIAMS), and the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation (OREF). In addition,

contributions from industry came from pharmaceutical concerns (Alliance for Better Bone Health; Amgen; Pfizer Global Research and Development; Eli Lilly and Co.; Merck Research Laboratories) contract research companies (Charles River Laboratories) and manufacturers of imaging and diagnostic equipment and services (Immunodiagnostic Systems Inc., Micro Photonics Inc., Osteometrics; and Scanco USA, Inc).

The 39<sup>th</sup> International Sun Valley Workshop will be held August 9-12, 2009. We are currently planning to revisit Bone and Cancer, and are also preparing sessions on Osteoimmunology and Bone Marrow, and Skeletal Development and Regeneration. In the spirit of continuing the interdisciplinary sessions with other musculoskeletal tissues, a session is being organized on the Mechanobiology of Muscle and Bone. Finally, we are proposing a Tutorial on Design, Delivery and Application of siRNAs. We are excited to announce that Dr. Graham Russell will receive the W.S.S. Jee Remodeling in Bone (RIB) Award for his long-standing contributions to our understanding of pharmaceutical interactions with bone cells and tissues. Dr. Russell has been an invited speaker at the Workshop several times in the past, and will give the plenary lecture.

If you attended the Workshop in 2008, we hope you found it both educational and enjoyable. Whether you were able to attend or not, we hope that we find you in Sun Valley in August of 2009.

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