

The Annual American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) meeting is prime time for bone, mineral and musculoskeletal research where the best clinical and basic science is presented. It is international, interactive, and insightful – an intense meeting that provides novel ideas and clinical recommendations for the attendants. This year will be different. Instead of meeting face to face in beautiful Seattle, we will convene in the first Virtual ASBMR Annual Meeting ever, and maybe not the last. Clearly, the Covid-19 pandemic changed plans for all of us, speakers, moderators, attendants, exhibitors, and media. By now, most of us have more or less adapted to the New Normality. Attending the Annual ASBMR Meeting in September has been a fixed date in my calendar for the past 25 years – and I only skipped a single one in 2001. This year, the core is the same, only the format is different. We are proud to share an exciting, innovative and collaborative virtual experience with our ASBMR Community. Through this virtual event space, you will be able to view the latest science in the bone, mineral and musculoskeletal field, connect with new and familiar colleagues from around the globe and visit the ASBMR Virtual Exhibit Hall.

Program Committee

I was honored to be invited by **Teresita Bellido MD, PhD**, President of the ASBMR, to serve as Program Committee Chair. The structure of a dedicated Program Committee Chair is to allow the President to focus on strategic initiatives while overseeing the work of the Program Committee, but not directly planning the meeting. Tere and I worked closely to identify a multitalented team of experienced and dynamic scientists as co-chairs. We were fortunate that **Stavroula Kousteni PhD** agreed to serve as basic chair, **Nicola Napoli MD** agreed to serve as clinical chair and **Tamara Alliston PhD** agreed to serve as translational chair – a truly international group of individuals that were born in Argentina, Bavaria, Greece, Michigan, and Sicily. This dedicated group teamed up with the marvelous **Lauren Anderson** to shape the program for the past 15 months. The Program Committee worked hard with weekly phone conferences to balance the clinical and basic science content, to include new exciting developments, and to ensure a broad and diverse representation of speakers and chairs. Most importantly, we could rely on over one hundred ASBMR members, who volunteered to chair sessions and review abstracts. Nonetheless, we were caught off-guard with the need to switch gears from a face-to-face meeting as we know it to a virtual meeting in June 2020. In this process towards a plan B and exploring unknown territory, the group displayed resilience and a great team spirit to make it happen.

Program Advisory Committee

To advise the Program Committee, we identified a representative and international Program Advisory Committee with diverse approaches and synergistic expertise to get fresh ideas for interesting topics and compelling speakers. Loyal to the ASBMR, the members of the Program Advisory Committee shaped the program and oversaw the review of abstracts. Members of the Program Advisory Committee are:

Bjorn Busse, Ph.D.

Peter Croucher, Ph.D.

Roberta Faccio, Ph.D.

Theresa Guise, M.D.

Ed Guo, Ph.D.

Ivo Kalajzic, M.D.

Brendan Lee, M.D., Ph.D.

Fanxin Long, Ph.D.

Laurie McCauley, DDS, Ph.D.

Martina Rauner, Ph.D.
David Roodman, M.D., Ph.D.
Ernestina Schipani, M.D., Ph.D.
Dolores Shoback, M.D.
Natalie Sims, Ph.D.
Hanna Taipaleenmaki, Ph.D.
Marjolein van der Meulen, Ph.D.
Jennifer Westendorf, Ph.D.

Abstract Selection

Selection of the best abstracts is the most challenging task of the Program Committee since they provide the scientific excellence that form the core of the meeting. The process is transparent and fair and follows established standards. The committee relied on peer review to score the abstracts, and each abstract was generally reviewed by six reviewers. An overwhelming response to our call for volunteer reviewers allowed us match the diverse expertise with the different categories. The Program Committee then selected the best of these abstract for oral presentation. Instead of meeting in person in DC for 2 days, we scheduled 2 half days of videoconferences with the support of the 2021 Program Committee. Of the 988 submitted abstracts, 8% were selected for oral presentations. The highest scoring abstracts will be presented in oral session. To ensure the poster presentations are core aspect of the ASBMR 2020 Annual Meeting Virtual Event we have not only e-posters to view throughout the duration of the meetings, but poster presenters were able to record a short presentation of the poster and will have the ability to connect with attendees through email or one-on-one messaging through the virtual event space.

Plenary Lectures

We are honoured that **Dr. Paolo Sassone-Corsi, Director of the Center for Epigenetics and Metabolism at the University of California, Irvine** was to deliver the 2020 Gerald Dr. Aurbach Lecture. Dr. Sassone-Corsi unexpectedly passed away this this year, and his colleague, **Dr. Selma Masri of the University of California, Irvine** will deliver the Gerald D. Aurbach Lecture entitled, “The Scientific Legacy of Paolo Sassone-Corsi: A Tour Through the Fields of Transcriptional Regulation, Epigenetics, Metabolism and Circadian Rhythms.” Her lab is dissecting how genetic disruption of the circadian clock in mouse models affects colorectal cancer to drive Wnt signaling and metabolism. In her lecture, she will discuss Dr. Sasson-Corsi’s work and legacy, as well as the future of the field.

Dr. Theresa A. Guise is Professor at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Scholar and Co-Director of the Rolanette and Berdon Lawrence Bone Disease Program of Texas, and will deliver the Louis V. Avioli Lecture on “Cancer, Bone and Beyond: An Integrated View of the Bone Microenvironment.” Dr. Guise will discuss tumor-bone interactions which result in pathologic bone destruction mediate these well-recognized morbidities. Local events in the bone microenvironment due to cancer and cancer treatment which result in pathologic bone destruction may have wide-spread systemic consequences that further increase morbidity and mortality. In her lecture, she will highlight cutting-edge concepts potential mechanisms and therapy for bone metastases.

Plenary Symposia

This meeting is full of highlights. The plenary symposium on **Artificial Intelligence and Precision Medicine in Musculoskeletal Health** will give us a glimpse of the future. The ASBMR/ECTS Clinical Cutting Edge Symposium deals with **Optimizing Sequential Osteoporosis Treatment**, which along with several talks on long-term safety and efficacy will be a *Leitmotiv* for the entire meeting. The Bench to Bedside presentation on **Beta Blockers and Bone** is a great example of translational research, while the Basic Symposium **Of Bones, Guts and Brains** provides inspiring and thought-provoking insights into novel physiology and tempting teleology. Another fascinating Cutting Edge symposium is on **Inspiring Mechanistic Bone Stories from Around the Animal Kingdom**, a must-see for those employing preclinical animal models. This year you won't lose time on the hallways to switch between the talks.

ASBMR- European Calcified Tissue Society (ECTS) Debate

A Treat to Target Approach is Helpful for Osteoporosis Management. Dr. Michael McClung, the ASBMR representative, will argue against the motion and Dr. Celia Gregson, the ECTS representative, will argue for the motion. No draws, no overtime - one will get the Golden Femur Award!

Welcome to the 2020 ASBMR Annual Meeting

Let's abide!

Lorenz C. Hofbauer, MD
Program Committee Chair