6th Symposium of the Center of Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine (CABMM)

The 6th CABMM Symposium took place on November 5th, 2015. In the spirit of the translational character of the Center for Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine, the event started with presentations and a round table discussion about innovative imaging technologies.

After her introducing words, Prof. Dr. Brigitte von Rechenberg welcomed the first speaker of the round table discussion "Innovative Imaging Technologies", Dr. Dirk Müller from Philips Healthcare. He presented Philips "IQon Spectral CT", the world's first spectral detector-based CT. Using two different energies, manifold structures can be displayed. Amongst other advantages, the instrument offers for example a great noise reduction. Subsequently, Dr. Christian Brönnimann, CEO and founder of Dectris Ltd., Baden AG, Switzerland introduced the audience to the various products of his company as well as the technology used. The aim of Dectris is to develop the fastest and most sensitive X-ray detector system for scientific and industrial purposes. During the following round table discussion, a lively scientific exchange about the possible fields of application of the presented technologies in basic research as well as clinical practice took place.


Brigitte von Rechenberg


Dirk Müller


Christian Brönnimann


Silke Kalchofner-Mark

After a short coffee break, Dr. Silke Kalchofner-Mark continued with the moderation of the event and introduced as first speaker one of our newest members, Prof. Dr. Dr. Farhad Hafezi from the ELZA Institute in Dietikon. He talked about the different application fields of corneal cross-linking (CXL). This method uses UV-A light and vitamin B2 and allows for example for the treatment of corneal instability and infection. During the next presentation from the field of applied biotechnology, Prof. Dr. Jeffrey Bode from the Laboratory of Organic Chemistry of the ETHZ reported about state-of-the-art chemical synthesis of proteins and hydrogels. His group successfully established methods to synthesize proteins with up to 200 amino acids as well as integral membrane proteins.


Farhad Hafezi


Jeffrey Bode


Gian Salzmann


Ece Öztürk


Karin Würtz-Kozak

During the last session, projects from the field of regenerative medicine were presented focusing on cartilage and disc research. Prof. Dr. Gian Salzmann from the Schulthess Clinic in Zurich gave an overview talk about current treatment options of acute and chronic cartilage defects as well as current main research topics in this field, e.g., the prevention of long-term effects such as osteoarthritis. Representing the research group of Prof. Dr. Marcy Zenobi-Wong from the Cartilage Engineering and Regeneration Laboratory of the ETHZ, Dr. Ece Öztürk presented the results of a project supported by a CABMM Start-up Grant that addressed cell-based cartilage repair using sulfated alginate hydrogels. The last presentation of the symposium was given by Prof. Dr. Karin Würtz-Kozak from the Laboratory for Orthopaedic Technology, ETHZ. She also reported findings from a CABMM funded study concerning the regulation and relevance of specific matrix degrading enzymes in intervertebral disc degeneration.

Chairwomen and co-founder of the CABMM, Prof. Dr. Brigitte von Rechenberg, closed our 6th Symposium. In her concluding remarks, she highlighted the great benefit of the translational event. She thanked all people for their interesting contributions and released the participants into an Apéro. In a relaxed atmosphere, fruitful discussions about translational research projects continued.

We are already looking forward to our next event, the 9th Spring Seminar which will take place on June 09, 2016!