



Josep Monne Rodriguez



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The 10<sup>th</sup> annual CABMM Symposium was held on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the animal hospital of the University of Zurich. The program included a session with presentations of CABMM Start-Up Grant projects in the cardiovascular field, followed by a session showcasing GxP at the Zurich location, which comprised a panel discussion.

Dr. Silke Kalchofner-Mark, managing director of the CABMM, opened the meeting, welcoming all participants. Subsequently, she continued with introducing the speakers and moderating the event.

The first session had three presentations from projects funded by a CABMM Start-Up Grant, with focus on cardiovascular applications. Representing a CABMM Start-up Grant from CABMM member PD Dr. Dr. Benedikt Weber, Dr. Debora Kehl from the Institute for Regenerative Medicine of the University of Zurich presented results from the secretome analysis of human mesenchymal stromal cells, particularly focusing on their angiogenic potential and potential use for cardiac regeneration. Sprouting angiogenesis and regulation of endothelial cell proliferation and apoptosis was enhanced in Wharton's jelly stromal cells. In contrast, the lowest angiogenic proteome was observed in adipose-derived mesenchymal stromal cells. Dr. Kehl closed by highlighting the potential in using a secretome for regenerative applications and the possibility to synthetically replicate it in the future, creating an off-the-shelf solution containing a biomimetic balance of inhibitory and excitatory factors. The second presentation by Josep Monné Rodriguez from the University's Institute of Veterinary Pathology headed by CABMM member Anja Kipar focused on feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathies (HCM), a condition prevalent in feline patients (10-15 %) and characterized by the thickening of ventricle walls and interstitial fibrosis. The project aimed to characterize interstitial cells and showed that these cells were endogenous cardiac tissue cell populations with vascular and fibroblastic phenotypes. The third presentation showed results from a CABMM Start-up Grant of Prof. Simon Hoerstrup's group represented by Dr. Francesco S. Pasqualini from the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences in Cambridge, USA. He showcased the potential of heart-failure on-a-chip platform technology and whether such technology could be used to investigate if heart failure is an extracellular matrix disease, particularly involving periostin as a target. The session was followed by a coffee break which encouraged scientific exchange and networking between participants.

The second session focusing on GxP at the Zurich location was introduced by Prof. Simon Hoerstrup and included speakers representing crucial parts of the translational pipeline, including preclinical testing according to Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) at the Musculoskeletal Research Unit (MSRU), Vetsuisse Faculty Zurich, represented by Prof. Brigitte von Rechenberg, Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) at Wyss Zurich introduced by Dr. Martin Kayser, Good Clinical Practice (GCP) showcased by Dr. Regina Grossmann from the Clinical Trials Center of the University Hospital Zurich as well as industry representation by Beat Lechmann from DePuy Synthes Companies highlighting the importance of this pipeline. A spotlight summary of the session and the subsequent panel discussion entitled "**GxP at the Zurich location**" can also be found on our homepage.



f.l.t.r.: Beat Lechmann, Martin Kayser, Regina Grossmann, Brigitte von Rechenberg, Simon Hoerstrup

Prof. Hoerstrup then closed the Symposium and the following Apéro provided an opportunity for continued exchanges, discussions and connections.

**We cordially thank everyone for participating in the 10th CABMM Symposium!**

