



5th Symposium of the Center of Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine (CABMM)

The 5th CABMM Symposium was held on November 13th, 2014, at the University of Zurich. An interesting program with two exciting keynote lectures attracted a large number of participants resulting in our most successful event so far. The program also comprised presentations about projects that were either supported by a CABMM Start-up Grant or performed on the CABMM Research Platform and, for the first time, a poster exhibition providing for further insight into CABMM-associated research.



Simon P. Hoerstrup



Walter Schaffner



Deborah Studer



Paolo Cinelli



After CABMM co-founder Prof. Dr. Dr. Simon P. Hoerstrup opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, Prof. em. Dr. Walter Schaffner from the University of Zurich gave the first, very appealing keynote speech. He talked about his career in gene regulation including top-ranking publications, inventions of lab equipment, a PhD thesis published in the Guinness World Records and numerous anecdotes – not only from the field of science. Subsequently, Deborah Studer from the ETH Zurich presented the results of her doctoral thesis concerning cartilage repair. In order to find the most suitable cell source for cartilage replacement, she compared different characteristics of mesenchymal stem cells as well as adult and fetal chondrocytes. In the next talk, PD Dr. Paolo Cinelli from the University Hospital Zurich spoke about the identification of tenocyte specific markers in the horse. Out of a large number of possible candidates, two new tendon specific markers could be identified in native equine tissue.

The following coffee break provided not only the opportunity for scientific exchange, but also the chance to visit the poster exhibition.

After the coffee break, the Scientific Director of the CABMM, PD Dr. Peter J. Richards, introduced our second keynote speaker, Prof. Dr. Christian Gerber from the Balgrist University Hospital in Zurich. In his presentation entitled “From bedside to bench” he highlighted impressively the importance of transferring questions from the patient into the lab using the example of tendon tears in the shoulder. Afterwards, representing the research group of Prof. Dr. Michael Blauth from the Medical University Innsbruck, Dr. Hannes L. Ebner spoke about the manufacturing process of so-called electrospun nano-meshes and their subsequent use to enhance the osteogenic differentiation potential of mesenchymal stem cells. In the last presentation, Prof. Dr. Dr. Michael O. Hottiger talked about the molecular regulation of osteoclast development, focusing on the role of protein modifications by ADP-ribosylation in this complex system.



Peter J. Richards



Christian Gerber



Hannes Ebner



Michael O. Hottiger

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Dr. Dr. Simon P. Hoerstrup thanked all speakers and the meeting organizers for their contribution. Subsequently, he released the audience into a nice Apéro, where all participants had the opportunity to discover common interests for future collaborations.



Many thanks to Life Technologies and PeproTech for supporting
our 5th Symposium!

We are already looking forward to our next Spring Seminar,
that will take place on June 12, 2015!

