

**7<sup>th</sup> Symposium  
of the Center for Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine  
(CABMM)**



Brigitte von Rechenberg



Silke Kalchfner-Mark

On 10 November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the 7<sup>th</sup> CABMM Symposium was held once again at the Irchel campus of the University of Zurich. More than 70 registered participants followed an interesting program including presentations of CABMM Start-up Grant projects, as well as sessions about burn wounds and technologies transfer in the spine field.

The meeting was opened by CABMM co-founder Prof. Brigitte von Rechenberg, who welcomed the audience to this translational event. Subsequently, Dr. Silke Kalchfner-Mark, the managing director of the CABMM, introduced the invited speakers.

In the first part, projects were presented that were funded by a CABMM Start-up Grant. At first, PD Dr. Dr. Caroline Ospelt, presented the results of her study about the topographic differences in synovial fibroblasts (SFs). SFs from different anatomic locations and different forms of arthritis showed characteristic gene expression patterns, specific DNA modifications, as well as functional differences. Subsequently, Prof. Franck Forterre gave a talk about inflammatory processes associated with intervertebral disc herniation in dogs. His study revealed an important role for the pro-inflammatory cytokine IL-6 that is also involved in pain sensation. Afterwards, Dr. Olga Krupkova illustrated the anti-inflammatory properties of epigallocatechin gallate, a substance found in green tea. Its slow release from a thermosensitive hydrogel showed positive effects in cell- and organ culture models. The first coffee break provided the opportunity to start with the exchange of scientific ideas.



Caroline Ospelt      Franck Forterre      Olga Krupkova



Lee Ann  
Laurent-Applegate

Paris Jafari

Tamis Darbre

The second part focused on new advances in burn wound treatment and their translation from the clinic to the lab and back again. In a keynote lecture, Prof. Lee Ann Laurent-Applegate summarized the use of cell therapies and connected regulatory hurdles. Subsequently, Dr. Paris Jafari talked about the burn wound microenvironment. Exudates include not only different growth factors but also toxic substances, which influence wound healing. Finally, PD Dr. Tamis Darbre illustrated the synthesis of specific peptides with antimicrobial effects. When being integrated into the delivery matrix of biological bandages, they can help to prevent bacterial infections.

In the following coffee break, lively discussions about the presentations and potential collaborations took place.



Harry Gebhard

Jörg Meyer

Thomas Steffen

The last session addressed scientific and regulatory aspects of technology transfer in the spine field. Dr. Harry Gebhard gave a clinical overview talk about past and current treatment options for intervertebral disc problems, highlighting the importance of exchanging ideas for further improvements. Afterwards, Dr. Jörg Mayer talked about regulatory and scientific challenges to establish the BoneWelding® Technology from an industrial point of view. Finally, Prof. Thomas Steffen gave a keynote lecture about potential difficulties when patenting and commercializing scientific products or methods. Many years of experience led him to the following conclusion: "Success equals two thirds of sweat and one third of luck".

Prof. Brigitte von Rechenberg concluded the meeting. She underlined its translational character and the opportunities for collaborative research between basic scientists and clinicians at the CABMM. During the following apéro, all participants had the possibility to talk to other people from the CABMM network – not only about science.