

4th Symposium of the Center of Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine (CABMM)

On December 5th, 2013, the main yearly event of the CABMM took place - the 4th Symposium. All participants had the opportunity to follow an interesting program and to hear - amongst others - presentations from both members of the CABMM Steering Committee and members of our Scientific Advisory Board.



Prof. Dr. Brigitte von Rechenberg



PD Dr. Paolo Cinelli



PD Dr. Frank Steffen

As is customary, the meeting was opened by the chairwomen of the CABMM, Prof. Dr. Brigitte von Rechenberg from the University of Zurich who also started the presentations with a talk about quality accreditation for medical research. She highlighted the growing need for translational medicine at universities and the associated regulatory issues that come with it. She confirmed that the University of Zurich is one of the first European universities that offers GMP, GLP and GCP at the same institution. Afterwards, PD Dr. Paolo Cinelli from the University Hospital in Zurich talked about the methods to identify and isolate different stem cell populations for subsequent use in the regeneration of bone tissue. The last speaker of this session was PD Dr. Frank Steffen from the University of Zurich who discussed work related to a clinical pilot study evaluating the use of stem cells for spinal disc repair in dogs.

The second session started with a keynote lecture given by Dr. Esra Neufeld who introduced everyone to the field of activity of the IT²IS foundation in Zurich. He mentioned the importance of image-based models of physical and physiological processes. The second keynote lecture was given by one of the members of the CABMM Scientific Advisory Board, namely Prof. Dr. Frank P.T. Baaijens from the Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands. He gave an overview of the current situation in the field of heart valve prostheses and the problems concerning re-intervention or reduced life expectancy. He mentioned that *in situ* cardiovascular tissue engineering is a promising technology for improving heart valve transplantation.



Dr. Esra Neufeld



Prof. Dr. Frank P.T. Baaijens



PD Dr. Gantenbein-Ritter



PD Dr. Peter J. Richards

The third session included reports of projects that were funded by CABMM Start-up Grants. PD Dr. Benjamin Gantenbein-Ritter from the University of Bern started with a talk about the regenerative effects of notochordal cells. Last but not least, PD Dr. Peter J. Richards from the University of Zurich talked about the effects of different bisphosphonates on the osteogenesis of mesenchymal stem cells from osteoporotic patients. He demonstrated that both zoledronate and alendronate have a positive effect on osteoblast formation and mineralization.

In her concluding remarks, Brigitte von Rechenberg thanked all speakers and organizers for their contribution. Additionally, she said good-bye to Dr. Margarethe Hofmann-Antenbrink and Prof. em. Dr. Peter Sonderegger as members of our Scientific Advisory Board and thanked both of them for their support over the last years. Thereupon, another successful meeting ended with an Apéro for all participants offering a relaxed platform to discuss scientific themes and to strengthen collaborations within the CABMM.



We would like to thank all participants for contributing to our 4th Symposium.

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