



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Spring Seminar of the Center of Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine (CABMM)

One of the two major yearly events of the CABMM took place on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the University of Zurich – namely our 2<sup>nd</sup> CABMM Spring Seminar. Subsequent to the plenary meeting, several CABMM members took the opportunity to introduce themselves and presented their research to the CABMM network.

The scientific director of the CABMM, Dr. Peter J. Richards chaired the sessions and welcomed more than 50 participants to a very diverse program. He first introduced Dr. Alfredo Franco-Obregón from the ETH Zurich who talked about the influence of Pulsed Electromagnetic Fields (PEMF) on ion channels in the context of muscle cell function. Afterwards, PD Dr. Dominik Meyer from the Balgrist University Hospital presented data relating to chronic tendon repair and demonstrated how experimental results from yesteryear clearly influence the study design of today. The last talk of the session was by Prof. Dr. Lee Ann Laurent-Applegate from the University Hospital of Lausanne. She took the audience through a kind of time travel with respect to stem cell research over the last three decades, illustrating problems concerning the definition of stem cells, difficulties regarding revisions of statutes and the multifaceted possibilities of stem cell therapies.



Dr. Alfredo Franco-Obregón



PD Dr. Dominik Meyer



Prof. Dr. Lee Ann  
Laurent-Applegate



Dr. Raffaella Santoro



Prof. Dr. Claudia  
Spadavecchia



PD Dr. Stefan Stübinger

The intervening short coffee break gave time enough for the first scientific discussions.

Representing the field of Molecular Medicine, Dr. Raffaella Santoro from the University of Zurich opened the second session of the seminar. She gave an impressive overview with respect to the role of noncoding nucleic acids in the epigenetic control of cell identity. Afterwards, one of our new members, Prof. Dr. Claudia Spadavecchia from the University of Bern, took the opportunity to introduce herself and talked about veterinary pain research. Last but not least, PD Dr. Stefan Stübinger finished the series of lectures by presenting aspects of different characteristics of dental implants and their strong influence on integration into the bone.

At the end of the seminar, Prof. Dr. Brigitte von Rechenberg, chairwomen of the CABMM Steering Committee, announced the departure of Dr. Pedro Bittmann as a member of the CABMM Scientific Advisory Board and wished him all the best for the future.

Shortly after the speakers and organizers had been congratulated for their contribution to our successful 2<sup>nd</sup> Spring Seminar, all participants had the opportunity to meet, to socialize and to discuss scientific topics during an Apéro in glorious sunshine.

**We would like to thank all participants for their contribution making our 2<sup>nd</sup> Spring Seminar a very successful event!**

**We already look forward to welcoming all of you again at our next meeting!**

