

The most important annual meeting of the CABMM took place for the third time on November 23<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Animal Hospital, University of Zurich. Over 65 participants attended the meeting, with oral presentations being given in the fields of Regenerative Medicine and Experimental Medicine and Surgery. For the first time during the existence of our centre there was one session dealing with studies funded by the CABMM start-up grant.



Prof. v. Rechenberg



Prof. Ferguson



Prof. Weber

Prof. Dr. Brigitte von Rechenberg, chairwomen of the CABMM Steering Committee, opened the meeting and handed over the chair to our scientific director Dr. Peter J. Richards.

Prof. Dr. Stephen J. Ferguson from the Institute of Biomechanics, ETH, Zurich, gave the first keynote lecture. He elegantly described the problems associated with treating spinal fractures from a biomechanical point of view, and gave important insights into how biomaterial- and biological-based approaches are helping to improve both our understanding and also the treatment of such injuries. Subsequently, the second keynote speaker Prof. Dr. Franz E. Weber from the department of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery, University Hospital Zurich, presented an in-depth overview of the many contributory factors, such as the Bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs), which have been described over the past years as being centrally involved in governing bone formation.

After a refreshing coffee break, the second session began with Prof. em. Dr. A. Robin Poole introducing presentations based around projects funded by CABMM Start-up grants. In the first presentation, Dr. Peter J. Richards from the Zurich University, described recent work concerning the serine protease HTRA1 and its potential role in bone disease. He showed results describing for the first time the involvement of HTRA1 in the modulation of extracellular matrix proteins and its influence on bone formation. This project has since been published in the scientific journal Stem Cells. Dr. Karin Wuertz from the Institute for Biomechanics, ETH, Zurich then gave an overview of some of her recent findings relating to the involvement of Toll-like receptors (TLRs) in disc degeneration and inflammation, with most prominent effects for TLR2.



Prof. Poole



Dr. Richards



Dr. Würtz



Prof. Kircher



Dr. Kulscar



Dr. Kuhn

The last session of our 3<sup>rd</sup> symposium was opened with a presentation given by Prof. Dr. Patrick R. Kircher from the division of Diagnostic Imaging, University of Zurich. He gave an insightful overview of some of the current imaging technologies currently being used in the field of veterinary medicine and discussed their scientific applications. Following this talk, Dr. med. Zsolt Kulscar from the Hirslanden Hospital in Zurich – representing the group of Prof. Dr. Daniel Rüfenacht, gave an interesting account of the research currently being undertaken to help better our understanding of how to treat aneurysms, with emphasis being placed on bench-to-bedside approaches. Dr. med. vet. Gisela Kuhn from the group of Prof. Dr. Ralph Müller, Institute of Biomechanics, ETH, Zurich, delivered the final presentation. She talked about the combinatory effects of pharmacological substances and mechanical loading in a mouse model of osteoporosis.

Prof. Dr. med. vet. Brigitte von Rechenberg closed the event by delivering the take home message that the CABMM offers an ideal platform for the promotion of interdisciplinary collaborations, and that this was re-confirmed yet again by the overwhelming success of the symposium.

The following Apéro offered the opportunity to exchange scientific ideas - not only discussing the presented projects, but also finding people for the beginning of new collaborations.



**We would like to thank all participants for contributing to our 3<sup>rd</sup> symposium.**

**We are looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting!**



**Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>**