



Pittsburgh Center for Interdisciplinary Bone & Mineral Research April 2021 Newsletter

Dear PCIBMR Community,

P30 grant update:

Sadly, our PCIBMR P30 grant application was “not discussed”, but there were many positive comments in the Summary Statement, which we recently received and are still digesting. What they loved the most is you – our PCIBMR membership! They also liked our themes, scientific quality, and the sophistication of the cores. The comments with concerns were constructive and, we think, addressable. We will consult with the internal PCIBMR advisory board and eventually you, our membership, to define the best strategies to improve the PCIBMR and be able to prepare a more competitive application for the next RFA (expected 2 years from now). We will use this opportunity to continue to strengthen the PCIBMR and its ability to serve our community!

Updated Website News:

Please check out the updated PCIBMR website (<https://pcibmr.pitt.edu/>). You can search the site (box top right) to find people who may have resources/knowledge that you need. All the faculty member profiles are complete except for very few individuals that have not sent us everything yet. Also, for your convenience, there is an **active Teams link to the PCIBMR Seminars** on <https://pcibmr.pitt.edu/enrichment/> as well as in the specific Event information and flyer listed on our calendar <https://pcibmr.pitt.edu/events/>

Please note the Helpful links (internal & external) at <https://pcibmr.pitt.edu/links/>

New Members:

We would like to introduce new Faculty members that have joined since last summer:

Jarrett Cain

Wei Du

Evan Ray

Please check out their profiles (and yours!) at <https://pcibmr.pitt.edu/members/>

Your News wanted:

We would like to post information about **your new grants, published papers and accolades in our News section** and eventually in our newsletter, so please send the information to the **new PCIBMR@pitt.edu email** with **“For PCIBMR Website News” in the subject line.**

Also please send information about suggestions for additional helpful links and relevant upcoming national meetings and calls for abstracts that we can post and alert our membership. **For example:**

ASBMR annual meeting abstract call for May 12, 2021 at <https://www.asbmr.org/ASBMR-abstracts> for the ASBMR 2021 Annual Meeting Oct 1-4, 2021

Annual Symposium:

An ad hoc committee has been assembled to organize the next PCIBMR Annual Symposium. Co-chairs of the committee are **Dr. Giuseppe (Beppe) Intini** (Periodontics, School of Dental Medicine) and **Dr. Shilpa Sant** (Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy), and members of the committee are **Dr. Hongshuai (Ken) Li** (Orthopaedics, School of Medicine), **Dr. Hang Lin** (Orthopaedics, School of Medicine), **Dr. Fatima Seyed-Picard** (Oral and Craniofacial Sciences, School of Dental Medicine), **Dr. Pouneh Fazeli** (Medicine, School of Medicine), **Dr. Elsa Strotmeyer** (Epidemiology, School of Public Health), and **Dr. Kristen Koltun** (Epidemiology, School of Public Health).

The Symposium is tentatively scheduled for the second half of the month of October 2021. The Committee meets bi-weekly and is working hard to organize a truly interdisciplinary event encompassing the newest and most exciting research in the fields of Advanced Bioimaging, Bioengineered Models, and Cell and Tissue Characterization. Additional details to come!

Member News:

Drs. Almarza and Taboas awarded R01 to study new regenerative therapy

Drs. [Alejandro Almarza](#) and [Juan Taboas](#) have been awarded a 4-year NIH R01 grant to evaluate a new regenerative therapy for mandibular condylar cartilage degeneration. The articulating tissue of the condyle consists of an intricate interface between fibrous, cartilaginous, and bony tissue that is essential for normal function. The most severe cases of temporomandibular joint disorders (TMJs) suffer condyle degeneration, but no clinical regenerative therapies exist. The objective of this study is to regenerate the fibrocartilage-bone interface of the condyle in skeletally mature goats using a comprehensive tissue engineering approach. The PI's will create a groove-shaped condylar defect in adult goats and treat it with a novel multilayer scaffold implant designed to promote site-specific tissue regeneration. A multilayer scaffold will provide for site-specific fibrous-cartilage-bone regeneration when compared to a homogenous sponge scaffold and untreated control defects. This work will lead to therapies for TMJ mandibular cartilage degeneration and serve as a basis for successful osteochondral tissue regeneration in other sites. The grant is awarded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) to the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine for over \$2.5 million dollars.

Best Regards,

Deb Galson

Giuseppe Intini

Dobrawa Napierala