



## From the Chairman

Welcome to our 8<sup>th</sup> Newsletter! Our DSMB Annual meeting this year was organised as a Joint Nordic Extracellular Matrix Meeting at the Panum Institute, University of Copenhagen 14-15<sup>th</sup> March together with the Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish connective tissues and proteoglycan societies, where we had a total of 101 delegates! The meeting was tagged together with the “PhD course “Extracellular Matrix and Proteolysis in Disease organised by Professors Marie Kveiborg and Niels Behrendt, which gave the PhD students in the course an opportunity to participate and present their research at an international meeting.



*DSMB board members (left to right): Abbas Jafari, Christine Chuang, Christian Couppé, Alejandro Mayorca Guiliani, Marie Kveiborg, Niels Behrendt and Daniel Madsen*

This meeting would not have been possible without the full support and help from everyone on the DSMB board, especially to Marie Kveiborg and Niels Behrendt for bridging the PhD course and the matrix meeting and to our treasurer, Abbas Jafari, for making this meeting so successful! On behalf of everyone on the board (refer to photo), we would like to thank our invited speakers for their excellent talks during the meeting and for motivating our younger researchers during the poster sessions. Congratulations to Oliver Willacy (University of Copenhagen), Valerio Izzi (University of Oulu) for winning the poster

awards and to Jarkko Koivunen (University of Oulu) for taking home the best oral presentation. Special thanks to Professors John Couchman and Michael Kjær for the hardwork of judging the presentations and a big thank you to all our sponsors for this meeting: MoMed PhD school, the Danish Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Nordic Biosciences, Tebu-bio and AH diagnostics.

Finally, we are excited to announce the next Joint Nordic Extracellular Matrix meeting will be in Finland in 2021, hosted by the Finnish Connective Tissues Society! We hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Christine Chuang

### Chairman

Christine Chuang (BMI, KU)  
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### Secretary

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### Treasurer

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## 2019 Joint Nordic Matrix Meeting, the Panum Institute, University of Copenhagen

This year, at the Nordic Meeting for Matrix Biology, I was given the chance to present my first poster at an international conference. I presented a decellularization and imaging project that I have contributed to during my master thesis in Janine Erler's lab. It was an honour to be recognised in a crowd of young investigators who presented some truly interesting and original research projects.

My background as a medical student speaks for an unconventional path into matrix research. I was originally drawn into the field for its translational appeal, but during this years' conference I was tested to widen my horizon. The talks covered all facets of ECM research and I was particularly wowed by Staffan Strömblad's talk on cell-matrix adhesion complex structures, even though it represented one of the lesser clinically translatable projects. Clair Baldock from Manchester delightfully demonstrated how basic research is needed in the clinic by unmasking how the structure of fibrillin microfibrils plays a role in several eye diseases.

It was a pleasure to spend two days accompanied by people who have a mutual interest in basic research. It turns out that there are quite a few matrix enthusiasts in the Nordic countries from both clinical and non-clinical backgrounds, and the setting opened up for several new fruitful relationships. In fact, an opportunity for a new potential collaboration surfaced during the poster session, which I'm very keen to pursue. Who knows, perhaps we will have something to present next year!

Oliver Willacy (Master student)  
Biotech Research and Innovation Centre (BRIC), University of Copenhagen, Denmark



*Oliver Willacy (left) receiving his Best Post Award from DSMB treasurer, Abbas Jafari (right).*



*Valerio izzi (left) receiving his Best Post Award from DSMB treasurer, Abbas Jafari (right).*

I attended this year's Joint Nordic Matrix Biology Meeting in Copenhagen and I have to say, it was extremely good!

First, the list of international speakers was just amazing, with "superstars" such as John Couchman and Staffan Strömblad delivering wonderful speeches as usual (I'd like to add Taina Pihlajaniemi too, but being in her group may make me sound biased). In addition to the usual suspects, I was also impressed by the talks of, e.g., Alejandro Mayorca and Guillame Jacquemet, just to name a few more great speakers. But really, the list would be much longer!

The thing I liked the most about this meeting was the amount of "raw science" it was packed with. Though all presentations were really well-thought and I could easily grasp any topic (though, sometimes, they were pretty much far from what I typically do), all speakers were eager to go into raw data, unfinished work, things

under construction and in development. That's simply wonderful! There were lots of possibilities to further interact, to discuss at coffee breaks and poster sessions and it was great to feel that kind of a vibe.

The location was amazing too, and the Auditorium was a perfect fit for the meeting. All in all, it was a great happening and I can't wait for the next!

Valerio Izzi, PhD

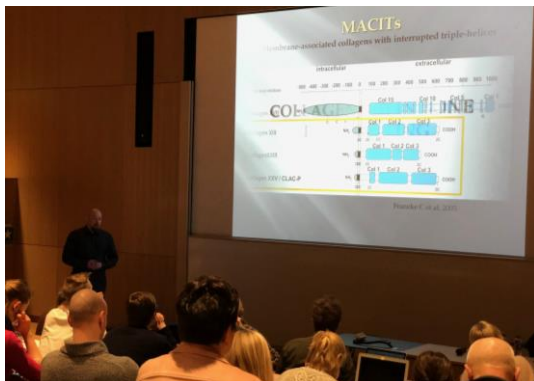
Faculty of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, University of Oulu, Finland

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The Joint Nordic Extracellular Matrix Biology meeting 2019 took place in Copenhagen. Previous joint Nordic meeting was held in October 2014 in Helsinki so it has been a while. The title has changed from "Connective tissue meeting" to "Matrix Biology meeting" but the topic remains the same. This time the conference venue was an impressive, copper-coloured Maersk building of the Panum institute. The summit was very enjoyable and the oral presentations were nicely selected to cover the ECM-research in the Nordic countries, from collagens to proteoglycans and from cancer to osteogenesis. The atmosphere in the meeting was friendly, and the poster sessions were active. New collaborations were born and the existing ones were strengthened. Personally, I was honoured by best talk-award. Moreover, for me, it was pleasant to meet our collaborators and furthermore, discuss with the DSMB board regarding the future of the joint meetings.



*Prof. Taina Pihlajaniemi (middle) receives the Best Presentation Award on behalf of Jarkko Koivunen, presented by Anne-Mette Larsen from Tebu-bio (left) and Prof. John Couchman*



Based on the Copenhagen ECM summit, it is clear to say that the Matrix really matters. On behalf of the Finnish Connective society, I would like to express my acknowledgments for the organizers to keep this Nordic tradition ongoing. Hopefully, we see you all in Oulu 2021 in the next Joint Nordic Extracellular Matrix Biology meeting.

*Jarkko Koivunen presenting*

Jarkko Koivunen, PhD

Chair of the Finnish Connective Tissue Society

Faculty of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, University of Oulu, Finland

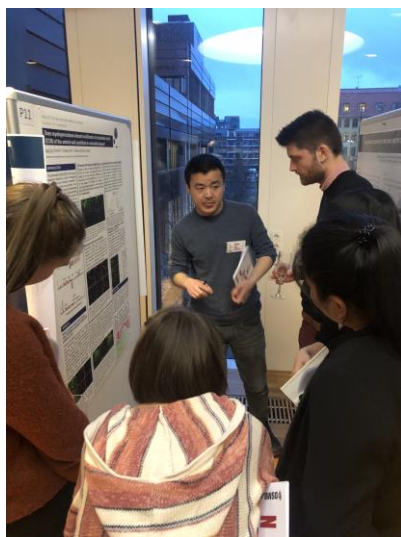




Prof. Michael Kjær opening the meeting



Douglas Dyer and Clair Baldock from WTCCR, UK



Poster presentation sessions

A BIG THANK YOU to our company sponsors:



Anne-Mette Larsen from Tebu-bio



Jan Wolfram and Thomas Carlsen from AH Diagnostics

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## Minutes of DSMB 2019 AGM

Date: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Time: 12.55-13:20

Place: Henrik Dam auditorium, Panum Institute, University of Copenhagen, Blegdamsvej 3B, 2200 Copenhagen N

*Board and members present: Christian Couppe (CC), Marie Kveiborg (MK), Christine Chuang (CYC), Alejandro Mayorca (AM), Daniel Madsen (DM), Abbas Jafari (AJ), Niels Behrendt (NB) and 4 members (Jakko Koivunen (JK), John Couchman, Michael Davies and Peter Schjerling)*

### Agenda

1. Chairman's annual report;
  - Acceptance of 2018 AGM minutes
  - Members (66 from 2017 DSMB annual meeting, 101 from Joint Nordic ECM meeting -> around 180)
  - 5x Meetings boards (excluding AGM)
  - 3x Newsletters (May, September, December)
  - Symposiums (DSMB annual meeting in April and Dr. Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina from Sydney, Australia)
2. Treasurer's annual report – total of 64,726 dkr as of 15/3/2019 (excluding any unpaid bills, reimbursements for invited speakers and prize awards)
  - MK and AJ will complete and organize the payments and and reimbursements
3. Current board members, election of office bearers will be determined at the next board meeting:

Christian Couppe, chair – would like to step down  
Abbas Jafari, treasurer  
Christine Yu-Nung Chuang, secretary and newsletter editor  
Alejandro Mayorca Guiliano, webmaster  
Marie Kveiborg  
Niels Behrendt  
Daniel Madsen

  - Introducing an additional board member Monika Bayer from Bisbpebjerg Hospital
4. Future Joint Nordic ECM meetings – JK (Chairman of Finnish Connective Tissues Society) has suggested that they would be happy to continue the Joint Nordic ECM meeting and for it to be held in Oulu, Finland in June 2021.
5. Date and time for next board meeting – CYC will send out doodle request for early-mid April meeting

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## **Membership**

Our membership (100 dkr) includes free registration to our annual meeting, 3-4 newsletters a year, updates on position openings and conferences as well as eligibility for travel grants to local and international matrix meetings. We also appreciate any extra donations and will acknowledge your contribution in our next newsletter.

**Please remember to EMAIL your name and receipt of your payment to our treasurer Abbas Jafari ([ajafari@sund.ku.dk](mailto:ajafari@sund.ku.dk)).** You can pay by:

- 1) Transferring via MobilePay to **46151** (Danish Society for Matrix Biology) *OR*
- 2) Transferring to the DSMB bank account: Reg: 1551 Account: 1227130 (Danske bank). Please indicate "DSMB membership" on your bank transfer *OR*
- 3) Email our treasurer Abbas Jafari ([ajafari@sund.ku.dk](mailto:ajafari@sund.ku.dk)) if you need to transfer from an international account, you can transfer via:

Bank Name: Danske Bank  
Account holder: Danish Society for Matrix Biology  
IBAN: DK3830000001227130  
BIC (SWIFT): DABADKKK

## **Upcoming meetings**



2019 ASMB Summer workshop  
**Fibroblasts: The Arbiters of Extracellular Matrix Remodeling**  
23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, USA  
<https://www.asmb.net/2019-workshop-1-fibroblasts-program>



2019 ASMB/Vanderbilt 2019 Workshop  
**Basement Membranes**  
10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> July, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, USA  
<https://www.asmb.net/basement-membrane-workshop>



2019 GRS and GRC on Collagens  
**Collagens and Associated Molecules Supporting Organ Structure and Function**  
13-19<sup>th</sup> July 2019, New London, NH, USA  
<https://www.grc.org/collagen-grs-conference/2019/>  
<https://www.grc.org/collagen-conference/2019/>



FASEB Science Research Conference  
**The Matricellular Proteins in Tissue Remodeling and Inflammation Conference**  
14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July, Lisbon, Portugal  
<https://src.faseb.org/matricellular-proteins>





2019 GRS and GRC on Elastin, Elastic Fibers and Microfibrils  
**Biochemical, Biomechanical and Biological Functions of Elastin and Related Fibers in Homeostasis and Disease**  
20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July, Manchester, NH, USA  
<https://www.grc.org/elastin-elastic-fibers-and-microfibrils-grs-conference/2019/>  
<https://www.grc.org/elastin-elastic-fibers-and-microfibrils-conference/2019/>



2019 BSMB Autumn meeting  
**Cell Adhesion Networks in Health and Disease'**  
9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September, University of East Anglia, Norwich, England  
<https://bsmb.ac.uk/meetings/>

11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Proteoglycans  
**New frontiers in the biology of proteoglycan research**  
29<sup>th</sup> September-3<sup>rd</sup> October, Kanazawa, Japan <https://www.proteoglycans2019.com/>

**Proteoglycans 2019**  
**New frontiers in the biology of proteoglycan research**  
**11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Proteoglycans**  
September 29 Sunday - October 3 Thursday, 2019  
Ishikawa Ongakudo, Kanazawa, Japan

**Chair: Hideto Watanabe (Aichi Medical University)**  
**Vice Chair: Shuhei Yamada (Meijo University)**

**International Organizing Committee**

**Anthony J Day** — University of Manchester, UK  
**Jeffrey D Esko** — University of California, San Diego, U.S.A.  
**Renato V Iozzo** — Thomas Jefferson University, U.S.A.  
**Nikos Karamanos** — University of Patras, Greece  
**Eok-Soo Oh** — Ewha Womans University, South Korea  
**Alberto G Passi** — University of Insubria, Italy  
**Liliana Schaefer** — University of Frankfurt, Germany  
**Jeremy E Turnbull** — University of Liverpool, UK  
**John M Whitelock** — University of New South Wales, Australia  
**Marian F Young** — National Institutes of Health, U.S.A.

**Domestic Organizing Committee**

**Katarzyna Anna Inoue** — Tokyo Medical and Dental University  
**Masayuki Ishihara** — National Defense Medical College  
**Naoki Itano** — Kyoto Sangyo University  
**Kenji Kadomatsu** — Nagoya University  
**Hiroshi Kitagawa** — Kobe Pharmaceutical University  
**Toshitaka Oohashi** — Okayama University

In conjunction with 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Proteoglycans – for young investigators

**Proteoglycans Future Leaders Symposium**

29<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September, Kanazawa, Japan

<https://www.proteoglycans2019.com/future-leaders-symposium>



**Proteoglycans Future Leaders Symposium 2019**

**September 28 Saturday – September 29 Sunday**  
IT Business Plaza Musashi, Kanazawa, Japan  
(15 minute walk from Proteoglycans 2019 venue)

**Organizing Committee**

Tabea Dierker	Uppsala University, Sweden
Brooke Farrugia (co-chair)	The University of Melbourne, Australia
Kyohei Higashi	Tokyo University of Science, Japan
Takashi Kobayashi	Kyoto Sangyo University, Japan
Marissa Maciej-Hulme	Radboud University Medical Center, The Netherlands
Shuji Mizumoto (co-chair)	Meijo University, Japan
Ryan Weiss	University of California, San Diego, USA

Like the Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) the  
**Proteoglycans Future Leaders Symposium 2019**  
will be held in conjunction with  
**Proteoglycans 2019**

The Symposium will comprise of keynote speakers and presentations by young scientists, as well as a skills building workshop and networking opportunities

Further Information and Updates  
<https://www.proteoglycans2019.com/future-leaders-symposium>  
[proteoglycansFLS2019@gmail.com](mailto:proteoglycansFLS2019@gmail.com)