



## From the Chairwoman

It has been a fruitful year for DSMB members with several travel grants and poster awards been given out at our “Role of Extracellular Matrix in Inflammation and Immunology” symposium as well as at the DSMB annual meeting (minutes from our AGM is attached in this newsletter), which was held in conjunction with the Matrix Biology PhD course. Congratulations also to our treasurer, Chloé Yeung, as the recipient of the British Society for Matrix Biology ECR award this year at the 89<sup>th</sup> Harden Conference, UK in September.

DSMB is also back in action on social media with our new website ([www.dsmb.dk](http://www.dsmb.dk)), new [LinkedIn](#) page for organisations and of course on [X](#). Here are some save the dates for you to mark in your calendar that DSMB is involved in: [the ECM Pharmacology Congress](#) (17-19<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Copenhagen), the [Matrix Biology Europe meeting](#) (24-27<sup>th</sup> Sep 2024, Lyon), DSMB annual meeting (Nov 2024, Copenhagen), 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Nordic Matrix meeting with the German Matrix Society annual meeting (17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> March, 2025, Freiburg). We will also be opening a call soon for abstracts to select a DSMB nominee for the Dick Heinegård Young Investigator Award at the MBE2024 meeting in Lyon, France. Follow us on our revamped social media for further updates!

We are happy to announce that DSMB is now officially affiliated with the [Danish Biochemical Society \(Dansk Biokemisk Forening\)](#), which is also part of [FEBS: Federation of European Biochemical Societies](#). Therefore, our current DSMB members have automatically become members of the Danish Biochemical Society and have access to apply for fellowships and support to attend workshops and conferences. Our members should all have received an email to join the Danish Biochemical Society in early December. More detail about our affiliation with the Danish Biochemical Society is provided in this newsletter.

DSMB also now have a new committee with Karen Yang-Jensen (BMI, University of Copenhagen) joining us as our newly elected secretary and our new board members, Kevin Baker (CCIT, Herlev Hospital) and Gloria Kyrila (CGC, University of Copenhagen). Their research background is in this newsletter! A big thank you goes to Monika Bayer (stepping down as secretary), for helping DSMB to get this far and also to our past board members, Alejandro Mayorca Guiliani, Daniel Madsen and Rebecca Miller for all the help in the previous year(s). DSMB would also like to thank our company sponsors, [Tebu-bio](#), [Optics11 Life](#) and [AH Diagnostics](#) for their continuous contributions of travel grants, poster awards and support for the symposium and meetings we have had this year and many more to come in the coming year! I also extend my appreciation to our current board and DSMB members, especially for your participation and support this year.

Finally, we would like to wish you all Happy Holidays and New Year and we look forward to another year of exciting seminars and new matrix research in 2024!

Best wishes,  
Christine Chuang

### Chairwoman

Christine Chuang (BMI, KU)

✉ [cchuang@sund.ku.dk](mailto:cchuang@sund.ku.dk)

### Secretary

Karen Yang-Jensen (BMI, KU)

✉ [karency@sund.ku.dk](mailto:karency@sund.ku.dk)

✉ [@KYangJensen](#)

### Treasurer

Chloé Yeung (ISMC, Bispebjerg Hospital)

✉ [chloe.yeung@gmail.com](mailto:chloe.yeung@gmail.com)

✉ [@ccstorytime](#)

### Council Members

Kevin Baker (CCIT, Herlev Hospital)

✉ [kevin.james.baker@regionh.dk](mailto:kevin.james.baker@regionh.dk)

✉ [@KJBaker\\_Cork](#)

Gloria Kyrila (CGC, KU)

✉ [gkyrila@sund.ku.dk](mailto:gkyrila@sund.ku.dk)

✉ [@GKyrila](#)

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## **DSMB half-day symposium and the Annual Meeting**

Thank you to all the speakers, poster presenters, organizing committee and members for participating and sharing your research during our half-day symposium “Role of extracellular matrix in inflammation and immunology” in January and our 2023 DSMB Annual Meeting in October. Here are some snapshots and feedback from our awardees:

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*Max Merkel, PhD student at the Institute of Sports Medicine Copenhagen, Bispebjerg Hospital, Denmark*



I am delighted to share with you from our recent meeting. It was a pleasure to be part of a dynamic gathering, where researchers from various backgrounds came together to discuss different aspects of matrix biology. As a representative of human physiology and a researcher at Bispebjerg Hospital, I had the privilege of presenting my work on tendon vascularization.

I am grateful that I was fortunate to receive an award, recognizing the significance of my research. This award has been appreciated greatly and has supported my study travels to University of Oxford, where I am currently further exploring the subject of tendon histology.

I would like to express my gratitude to the DSMB for an interesting and well-executed meeting, and would encourage other young researchers to attend future meetings.

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*Karen Yang-Jensen, PhD student, Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

This year I've had the pleasure of attending not just one, but two DSMB events. At the DSMB half day symposium in January, I was given the opportunity to give a flash talk on my research. I presented work from my Master's thesis project on oxidant-induced modification of the ECM component fibronectin in the setting of atherosclerosis, which I carried out in Michael Davies' group at the University of Copenhagen. I am very grateful to have received an award with a generous travel grant sponsored by Tebubio, which allowed me to present my research in the beginning of September at the 12th International Human Peroxidase Meeting held in Budapest, Hungary.

In October, it was time for the DSMB annual meeting. I was happy to present a poster about my continued work on the role of oxidative modification of ECM in cardiovascular disease. I am very grateful for



*Left to right: Karen Yang-Jensen (Uni. Copenhagen, DK), Daniel Madsen (Herlev Hospital, DK), Rebecca Miller (Uni. Copenhagen, DK)*

receiving an award for my poster along with a DSMB travel grant. I am sure that this award will support me in going to future ECM meetings.

Prior to this year, my experience with DSMB was limited to the 2020 annual meeting, which was held over Zoom due to the Covid pandemic. While that meeting was great, it has been an entirely different experience to attend this year's physical meetings and to listen to interesting talks in the same physical space as all the speakers and attendees. Thank you to the DSMB board members organizing two fantastic events. I am looking very much forward to future meetings!

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*Casper Søndenbroe, Postdoc at the Institute of Sports Medicine Copenhagen, Bispebjerg Hospital, Denmark*

I would like to express my gratitude to the Danish Society for Matrix Biology for being awarded a prize for best poster.

My research focus lies at the intersection of skeletal muscle, exercise, and aging, meaning that participating in this year's annual meeting was a truly novel experience for me. In testament to the words of the chairwoman, the meeting was well organized and packed with a diverse range of presentations, showcasing the different perspectives within the field of matrix biology.

I presented some novel and unpublished data on how muscle cells isolated from physically active individuals somehow influence motor neuron survival and growth positively when cultured together. However, within a "matrix context", a particularly fascinating finding was that a substantial part of the motor neuron transcriptome was differently regulated, depending on whether they were exposed to muscle stem cells or muscle fibroblasts. We are currently delving into these findings, but this could indicate a novel player in understanding what drives age-related loss of muscle function.



I want to thank DSMB for including sessions aimed specifically at younger researchers, as I know, from past experiences, that molding a great presenter takes practices. Additionally, I once again extend my thanks for selecting my poster from a pool of exceptional researchers and their outstanding work. Lastly, my appreciation goes out to the judges and everyone who took the time to visit my poster.

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*Grith Højfeldt, Postdoc at the Institute of Sports Medicine Copenhagen, Bispebjerg Hospital, Denmark*

On October 30th-31st I attended my first ever Danish Society for Matrix Biology meeting. As my research focus predominantly revolves around the contractile parts of the muscle and thus intracellular "bits" I was unsure what to expect. However, I was quickly reminded by the invited speakers that matrix is everywhere and affects most tissues. So, no matter your research focus, knowledge in this field is often necessary and always relevant. This was highlighted by very interesting presentations on very different topics, and by individuals both from an academic setting and industry setting. Relevant for my own research were possibilities for new methods to use and new collaborations.

The Danish Society for Matrix Biology is very good at recognizing early career researchers, which is rare, and very much appreciated. I was fortunate enough to have my abstract selected for an oral presentation. In the study I explored the collagen turnover in Achilles tendons before and after a rupture (PMID: 37313851). I won one of the two oral presentation prizes, which was a travel grant that I will use towards future conferences.

I definitely plan to attend the next annual meeting and would recommend colleagues to do the same. The organizers ensured interesting content and very good options for networking.



Left to right: Seyda Ünsal (Southern Denmark University, DK), Michal Dudek (Uni. Manchester, UK), Joan Chang (Uni. Manchester, UK), Grith Højfeldt (Bispebjerg Hospital, DK)

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### **Dick Heinegård Young Investigator Award**

The Dick Heinegård award, created to commemorate the work of the matrix biologist Dick Heinegård (1942 – 2013), will be given to the most promising young matrix biologist from Europe during the dedicated Young Investigator Award Session at the MBE2024 meeting in Lyon, France. The winner is chosen from candidates nominated by their respective national matrix society.

Candidates for this award should be a DSMB member and have no more than 5 years of postdoctoral research experience. Candidates should apply by sending their CV, including the list of their applications, and an abstract of the work to be presented at the MBE2024 meeting, and email to [dsmb.dk@gmail.com](mailto:dsmb.dk@gmail.com) by 5th April, 2024. The winner of the DSMB nomination will receive a DSMB travel grant to cover some expenses associated with attending the MBE2024 meeting.

**Applications will be open in late January, 2024, the closing date will be 5th April, 2024.** Stay tuned for further details and updates!

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### **New board committee members**

*Karen Yang-Jensen (PhD student) at the Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.*

My research focuses on better understanding the role and consequences of oxidation and oxidative modifications of the extracellular matrix in the (de)stabilization of atherosclerotic plaques.

*Kevin Baker (Postdoc.) at the Center for Cancer Immune Therapy, Herlev Hospital, Denmark.*

My research focuses on better understanding the emerging role of the Extracellular Matrix as an immunoregulatory component of the tumor microenvironment and how we can use this newfound knowledge to improve current treatment strategies.



*Gloria Kyrila (PhD student) at the Copenhagen Glycomics Center, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.*

My research primarily focuses on understanding cell surface receptor modifications, particularly exploring the significance of O-Man glycosylation on adhesion molecules. Previously, I investigated the regulation of ECM secretion, studying Tango1 and Hsp47

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## Biokemisk Forening - an umbrella for Danish societies in life science

The scientific society Biokemisk Forening (Danish Biochemical Society; <https://biokemi.eu/>) aims to increase scientific exchange and development in Denmark within the fields of biochemistry and molecular biology.

In order to reach more researchers, to provide a more interesting program, and to be a better representative of the biomedical research landscape in Denmark, we are now trying to become an umbrella organization for Danish scientific societies, each with a more specialized focus within biomedical sciences. **Scientific societies that join Biokemisk Forening will become independent sections, which are free to decide about their internal organization, external interactions, etc. Importantly, they will retain a budget of their own, which they independently can decide about.**

Each member of Biokemisk Forening can indicate a section membership. **Of the yearly Biokemisk Forening membership fee of 300 DKK (automated email will be sent out to all current members in June 2024 for renewal), 200 DKK will be transferred back to DSMB, while 100 DKK will be used for the travel fellowships, conference support, and central administration of Biokemisk Forening.** At the yearly general assembly of Biokemisk Forening, section members will decide about the use of the central budget as any other member of Biokemisk Forening. They also can be members of the board of Biokemisk Forening.

Biokemisk Forening provides:

- A tested and functioning organization management system (wildapricot)
- Within this system, there are tools for conference organization, helping fx. with automatic mails and registration
- Membership of [FEBS: Federation of European Biochemical Societies](#), which is required to apply for different FEBS fellowships and FEBS conference support
- Bank account for collecting membership fees and conference related money transactions
- Central homepage which can link to already existing homepages of scientific societies

We believe that joining of many small Danish scientific societies under the umbrella of Biokemisk Forening will result in more scientific interaction, more offers for the members, and a more attractive environment for young students and researchers working in life sciences in Denmark.

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## **Membership**

Our membership (300 DKK) includes membership to the Danish Biochemical Society and FEBS: Federation of European Biochemical Societies, free registration to our annual meetings, 2-3 newsletters a year, updates on position openings and conferences as well as eligibility for fellowships, support and travel grants to FEBS workshops, local and international matrix meetings.

Membership of Danish Biochemical Society is obtained through the Danish Biochemical Society here. The membership fee covers membership of both the Danish Society for Matrix Biology and the Danish Biochemical Society. Remember to indicate that you wish to be affiliated with 'DSMB' during the sign up process.

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## **Future meetings – save the dates**

17-19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 ECM Congress, Copenhagen, DK – flyer

24-27<sup>th</sup> September 2024 MBE2024, Lyon, France – flyer

Early November 2024 DSMB Annual meeting, Copenhagen, DK

26-29<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Matrix Nexus (3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Nordic Matrix meeting, German Society Annual Meeting), Freiburg, Germany

## Minutes of DSMB Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday 30th October 2023

Time: 01:55 – 02:20pm

Place: Nielsine Nielsen Auditorium, University of Copenhagen

### 1) Chairwoman's report:

- Christine Chuang reports that the board held approximately 5 meetings
- DSMB held a one-day symposium ("Role of Extracellular Matrix in Inflammation and Immunology") in January
- Announces the joint German-Scandinavian matrix meeting 26 - 28 March 2025

### 2) Treasurer's report

- Chloé Yeung notifies there are ca. 9.000DKK on the DSMB account
- The January meeting costed ca. 15.000DKK
- The DSMB Annual meeting in October ca 28.000DKK

### 3) Elections

- Christine Chuang reelected as chairwoman
- Chloé Yeung reelected as treasurer
- Karen Yang-Jensen elected as DSMB secretary
- Kevin Baker elected as board member
- Gloria Kyrila elected as board member

### 4) The DSMB members unanimously vote for the DSMB becoming associated with the Danish Biochemical Society



the  
**extracellular  
matrix**  
pharmacology  
congress



INFLAMMATORY  
DISEASES



LUNG DISEASES



LIVER DISEASES



KIDNEY DISEASES



CARDIOVASCULAR  
DISEASES



INFLAMMATORY  
BOWEL DISEASE



CANCER



DERMATOLOGY



TARGET DISCOVERY



PHARMACOLOGY

35 speakers - 12 sessions - 2 ½ days



# ecm 2024 copenhagen

## aim

ECM2024 aims to discover new drug targets and bring together ECM experts across different diseases.

## key dates

Abstract submission  
deadline:

**4 March 2024**

Late-breaking abstract  
submission deadline:

**13 May 2024**

Early registration deadline:

**15 April 2024**

# confirmed speakers



Browse the  
program

**Dr. Raghu Kalluri**  
University of Texas MD  
Anderson Cancer Center,  
USA

**Dr. Detlef Schuppan**  
Mainz University Medical  
Center, Germany

**Dr. Gisli Jenkins**  
National Heart and Lung  
Institute, Imperial College  
London, UK

**Dr. Morten Karsdal**  
Nordic Bioscience,  
Denmark

organised by the International  
Society of Extracellular Matrix  
Pharmacology

**Dr. Eric White**  
Boehringer Ingelheim  
Pharmaceuticals, USA

**Dr. Judith Ertle**  
Boehringer Ingelheim,  
Germany

**Dr. Thomas Cox**  
Garvan Institute and  
Kinghorn Cancer  
Centre, Australia

**Dr. Sylvie Ricard-  
Blum**  
University of Lyon,  
France

**Dr. Florian Rieder**  
Cleveland Clinic,  
USA

**Dr. Rachel  
Chambers**  
University College  
London, UK

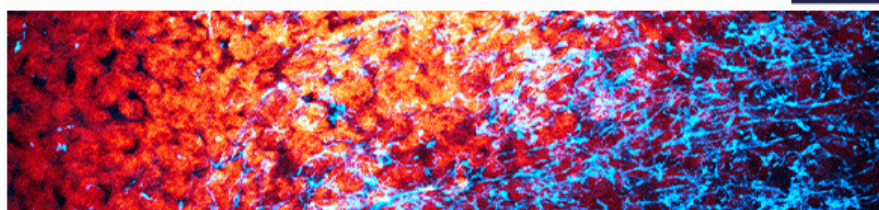
**Dr. Alexander  
Nyström**  
University of Freiburg,  
Germany

**Dr. Simon Thomsen**  
Bispebjerg Hospital,  
Denmark

# MATRIX BIOLOGY EUROPE 2024

24-27 SEPTEMBER, 2024

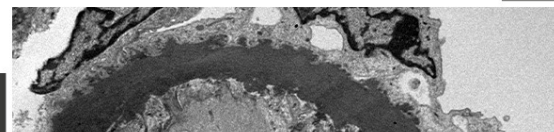
Lyon - France



## YOUTH@MBE

SATELLITE MEETING

Lyon - France



Julia Marzi (DE), Arnaud Mieville (CH)  
Hisoilat Bacar (FR), Thomas Loustau (FR)

## Invited Speakers

Vassilis Aidinis (Greece)  
Paolo Bonaldo (Italy)  
Bert Callewaert (Belgium)  
Joan Chang (United Kingdom)  
Collin Ewald (Switzerland)  
Martin Humphries (United Kingdom)  
Thomas Kammertoens (Germany)  
Rachel Lennon (United Kingdom)  
Catherine Moali (France)  
Johanna Myllyharju (Finland)

## Invited Speakers

Alexandra Naba (USA)  
Ellen vanObberghen-Schilling (France)  
Francesco Pasqualini (Italy)  
Yuval Rinkevitch (Germany)  
José Carlos Rodriguez Carota  
Lydia Sorokin (Germany)  
Brian Stramer (United Kingdom)  
Lieven Thorrez (Belgium)  
Daniel Wehner (Germany)  
Chloé Yeung (Denmark)  
.../...more to come

<https://mbe2024.sciencesconf.org>

### Local Organizing Committee

Florence Ruggiero, Chair

Laurent Duca

Carine Le Goff

Sabrina Kellouche-Gaillard

Laurent Muller

Sylvie Ricard-Blum

Patricia Rousselle

Ulrich Valcourt

### International Organizing Committee

Janette Burgsen, Netherlands

Julia Etich, Germany

Andrew Pitsillides, United-Kingdom

Nikos Karamanos, Greece

Valerio Izzi, Finland

