



Connective Issues

BSMB Newsletter

Committee:

Prof John Couchman (Chair), Prof Kim Midwood (Secretary),
Dr Tom van Agtmael (Treasurer), Ms. Laura Collins (Student rep),
Dr Michal Dudek (Post doc rep), Prof Qing-Jun Meng,
Prof George Bou-Gharios, Dr James Whiteford,
Dr Giovanna Nalesso & Dr Stephen Robinson

Registered Charity no. 281399

No. 92, June 2018

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Editorial

Welcome to the 92nd Connective Issues; and this issue is all about Matrix Biology Europe 2018! This meeting is the only one organized by the BSMB this year and is a fantastic opportunity not only to hear ground-breaking science from Matrix Biologists from around the world, but also to present your work at one of the poster sessions scheduled during the conference. More information is included throughout the newsletter, but please do consider:

- **Visiting the MBE2018 website:** <http://www.conferecare.manchester.ac.uk/events/mbe2018/> This website has all you need to know about the meeting, including the programme, registration site, abstract submission site, as well as travel and accommodation information.
- **Submitting an abstract:** You can still submit an abstract for a poster presentation. The deadline for this is June 15th 2018. Abstracts can only be submitted using the MBE2018 website listed above. There are 6 poster prizes up for grabs!
- **Registering early:** Early bird registration ends on June 15th. If you sign up before then students will save £30 and other members £40. Why not join us in Manchester this summer?
- **Finally, please note that the BSMB website is currently offline:** this is to allow us to become fully GDPR compliant, to refresh the underlying platform and to improve your browsing experience. We expect to be back online by the Autumn, but fear not, in the meantime everything you need for the summer can be found on the MBE2018 website.

Kim Midwood, Honorary Secretary

Chair's Letter

Dear BSMB Members:

The message of this newsletter is to ask for your support and participation in MBE2018.

Many of you may remember the very successful FECTS meeting that was hosted by our Society in 2002. Sixteen years later, it is our turn to host the meeting once again. The venue shifts from Brighton to Manchester, where there are excellent facilities on the University campus. Our meeting organisers, Ray Boot-Handford and Qing-Jun Meng have worked tirelessly on the details and fund raising for this celebration of 50 years of FECTS meetings. With exactly seven weeks to go, everything looks set for an outstanding conference. The scientific programme provides a wonderful cross-section of the latest developments in matrix biology. Programme details are contained in this newsletter, along with links to the website for registration, abstract submission and accommodation. MBE2018 certainly shows that matrix biology is thriving across a wide array of disciplines in biology, medicine and engineering.

We look forward to the participation of our colleagues from the FECTS Member Societies, the American Society for Matrix Biology and The International Society for Matrix Biology. In addition, we have contributors from across the world of matrix biology but primarily I look forward to meeting BSMB members in Manchester for what will be, in some ways, a typical BSMB meeting characterised by excellent science, informality and collegiality.

Please join us!

With best wishes to all.

John Couchman
BSMB Chair

BSMB News

Matrix Biology Europe 2018: 7 weeks to go!

The British Society for Matrix Biology is organising the next Matrix Biology Europe (formerly FECTS) conference together with the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell-Matrix Research in Manchester (21st- 24th July, 2018). We have an amazing programme of speakers lined up and have had a fantastic response to abstract submission so far. There's still time to submit yours and register if you want to join us:

Key dates:

- Early Bird registration deadline is on the 15th June.
- Deadline for late breaking hot topic abstracts for posters: 15th June.

For further information and to register, please visit:

<http://www.conferecare.manchester.ac.uk/events/mbe2018/>

You can also follow us on...

Instagram: [@matrixbiologyuk](https://www.instagram.com/matrixbiologyuk)

Twitter: [@BSMB1](https://twitter.com/BSMB1)

Facebook: [@BritishSocietyForMatrixBiology](https://www.facebook.com/BritishSocietyForMatrixBiology)

More details below.

Mark your diary

Matrix Biology Europe 2018
Manchester July 21-24 2018

BSMB Spring 2019 Meeting
Liverpool April 8-9 2019

BSMB Autumn 2019 Meeting
UEA September 9-10 2019

Welcome to new BMSB members!

(since January 2018)

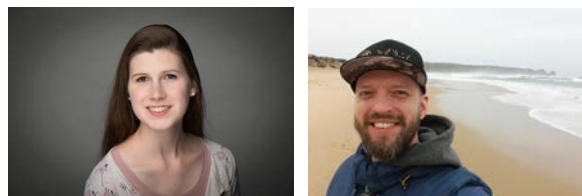
Yasmene Alanazi	Laura Paletto
Sacha Jensen	Neil Marr
Eleanor Feneck	Jessica Sykes
Marta Radwan	Huan Cai
Mark Morgan	James Ralphs
Soraia Silva	Jade Perry
Timothy Hopkins	Nikolaos Kouvatsos
Anna Gatseva	Ashlea Rowley

BSMB Committee

Meet your student and post doc reps at MBE2018



Sunday night at MBE2018 is student and postdoc night. Come along to the social organized by your BSMB reps for some food and drinks, and to meet your reps and your fellow student and post doc Matrix Biologists



We will also be available by the BSMB reps poster during poster sessions so everyone can also come and chat to us then!

Laura Collins and Michal Dudek

Welcome new committee members!



Stephanie Dakin graduated as a veterinary surgeon in 2003 from the Royal Veterinary College. After 6 years in practice as an equine clinician, she completed a PhD researching inflammation in equine tendinopathy. To translate her research from horse to human, Stephanie moved to NDORMS, University of Oxford in 2013 and was awarded consecutive Fellowships from Arthritis Research UK and Oxford-UCB. In 2017 she was appointed Associate Professor and is the current Director of the Taught MSc in Musculoskeletal Sciences at the University of Oxford. Stephanie's research focuses on investigating the mechanisms underpinning the development of chronic inflammation, pain and fibrosis in disorders of musculoskeletal soft tissues and has particular interest in the biology and pharmacology of resolution of inflammation.

Jeremy Turnbull is the Johnston Professor of Biochemistry at the Biochemistry Department, at the University of Liverpool. He undertook his PhD and postdoctoral studies at Manchester University working with Prof John Gallagher, and subsequently received a Senior Fellowship from the MRC to start his own lab, initially at Birmingham University (1996-2003). His research interests have focussed on the development of analytical tools for studying structure-function relationships of heparan sulfates, their application in various biological contexts, and discovery and exploitation of new targets in drug discovery for neurodegeneration and cancer.

Award winning talks at MBE2018

The BSMB Fell-Muir Award



Ray Boot-Handford is the recipient of the 2018 Fell-Muir Award. The BSMB's highest honor, this award recognizes lifelong scientific excellence in the field of Matrix Biology and outstanding service to the British Society for Matrix Biology.

Ray will present his lecture "Gene cloning to clinical trials - the trials and tribulations of a life with collagen" at 16.40 on **Monday 23rd July 2018**. This session will be followed by a drinks reception to celebrate Ray's achievements.

The ISMB Rupert Timpl Award



Alexandra Naba is the recipient of the 2018 Rupert Timpl Award. Selected by the International Society for Matrix Biology Council, this award recognizes outstanding young investigators in the field.

Alexandra will talk about “The Matrisome Project: bioinformatic and proteomic tools to study the ECM in health and disease” at 17.10 on **Sunday 22nd July 2018**, followed by a drinks reception.

The Dick Heinegård European Young Investigator Award



Congratulations to Chloe Yeung, the nominee representing the British Society for Matrix Biology for this award, which recognizes the achievements of early career, post doctoral scientists.

Chloe, along with the national nominees from affiliated European Matrix Biology Societies, will present on the morning of **Tuesday 24th July 2018** at the **Dick Heinegård Young Investigator Award Session**. The Awards Committee will select the winner of 2018 Award following the oral presentations. The full list of speakers is as below:

Karl Emil Tykesson
The Swedish Connective Tissue Society
"Crystal structure of dermatan sulfate epimerase 1 and its interaction with dermatan 4-sulfotransferase 1"

Chloe Yeung
British Society for Matrix Biology
"Regulation of tissue homeostasis by the tendon clock"

Andrea Lolli
Dutch Society for Matrix Biology
"Hydrogel-based delivery of antiMir-221 enhances cartilage matrix production by endogenous cells: towards microRNA therapy for cartilage repair"

Raphael Reuten
German Society for Matrix Biology
"Modulating the physico-mechanical properties of basement membranes through the extracellular-matrix protein netrin-4"

René Brüggebusch Svensson
Danish Society for Matrix Biology
"Mechanical properties of collagen fibrils in tendon"

James Whiteford
Chair, BSMB Young Investigator Award committee

John Couchman
Chair, FECTS Award committee

International Society for Matrix Biology News

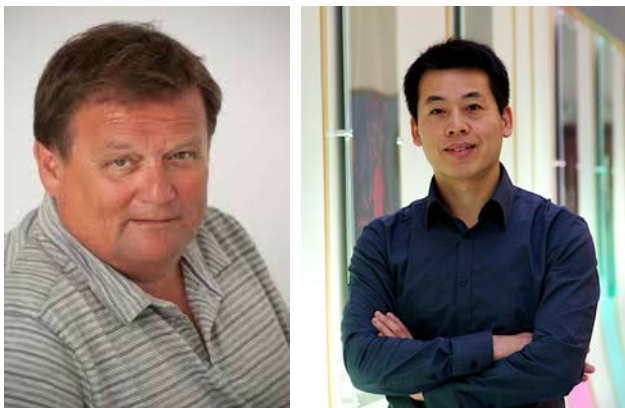
The next issue of the ISMB newsletter will be released end of May/early June. As the summer conference season gets underway, a reminder that the next deadline for ISMB International Travel grant applications for young scientists is 1st July 2018. These are awards of up to 800 Euros for graduate students or postdoctoral researchers up to 5 years after Ph.D. award (with extensions for maternity leave, military service, etc). Candidates should be ISMB members (the subscription for early career members is 20 Euros, see membership page for details). Grants are for international travel only and are awarded on the basis of scientific excellence and relevance to matrix biology. Full details of how to apply can be found on the ISMB web site (ismb.org).

Jo Adams

Matrix Biology Europe 2018

Celebrating 50 years of FECTS Meetings

Manchester, 21st - 24th July 2018



Local organisers: Ray Boot-Handford & Qing-Jun Meng

It is our great pleasure to invite you to attend MBE2018 in Manchester. The meeting is organised by the British Society for Matrix Biology together with the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell-Matrix Research and will be hosted at The University of Manchester. We are grateful for support from both the ISMB and ASMB and all our other sponsors.



The MBE2018 meeting in Manchester will mark, almost to the day, 50 years since the very first conference of European matrix biology societies in Cambridge (30th June-2nd July 1968). At MBE2018, we will continue this emphasis on young career researchers.

The conference will include 6 plenary sessions and 8 workshops each centred on a specific theme of Matrix Biology, plus the BSMB Fell-Muir Award Lecture, the ISMB Rupert Timpl Award Lecture and the Dick Heinegård Young Investigator Award Session....plus talks from selected abstracts and posters galore (6 poster prizes). A list of plenary and workshop speakers together with the preliminary programme are listed on pages 9-12.

Early Bird registration deadline is on 15th June (Save £40 for full members and £30 for students).

The deadline for **abstract submission** to be considered for an oral presentation has passed. However, there are still opportunities for posters (till 15th June)



The Welcome Reception will take place at the Living World Gallery of the Manchester Museum. Time for you to re-engage with colleagues and friends by the polar bears and tigers, with drinks, food and a string quartet.



The MBE Conference Dinner takes place at the Manchester United Football Club (the Old Trafford Stadium- “the Theatre of Dreams”) in a pitch-viewing functional suite. Admiring the glory of one of the most successful clubs in English football history? Missed the FA Cup Final? Here is your chance to catch up. Coaches to and from the venue have been arranged.



Due to the size limitations of the Suite, dinner numbers will be limited to first come first served and we would recommend you book early to avoid disappointment.



Prior to the Dinner reception, we are also arranging for tours of the stadium to take place. Transport will be provided at an earlier time for those booking the stadium tour.

Transport

With over 225 non-stop flight routes, Manchester Airport offers flights to more destinations than any other UK airport. The airport is situated just 10 miles (16 km) from Manchester city centre and is connected by direct trains which run every 10 minutes to Piccadilly train station.

Airport to city centre by train: 10 miles / 15 minutes / c. £3.50

Airport to city centre by taxi: 10 miles / 20-25 minutes / c. £20.00



Manchester - City Life

Manchester has grown from the first industrial city, the home of splitting of the atom and the first programmable computer, to be the central hub of the “Powerhouse of the North” of England – an influential, modern, knowledge-based city amongst the top European locations for science, healthcare, education, business and leisure. Victorian architecture dominates the city, although the city's medieval roots can be seen around the Shambles as well as the 500 year old Chetham's School and Library buildings.



Chetham's Library, founded in 1653, is where Marx met Engels, has the oldest public library in the English-speaking world and is just a short walk from the main conference venue. Similarly the extraordinary and priceless John Rylands Library is close by on Deansgate, and

hosts one of the finest collections of rare books, manuscripts and archives in the world.



From artistic masterpieces to the history of football, Manchester has an impressive range of museums and galleries, most of which are free. The Museum of Science and Industry brings innovation to life in the world's oldest railway station, while the Imperial War Museum North demonstrates how war shapes people's lives. Manchester is also home to the National Football Museum and the People's History Museum all of which are free to enter.



FOOD & DRINK

In a city as culturally diverse as Manchester, it's no surprise that the city has a great reputation for food and drink. You'll find cuisine from practically every nation and to suit any budget, from high-class dining to top-notch takeaways. We have the UK's second biggest Chinatown, where you'll find

great Asian restaurants, and the neon-lit 'Curry Mile' begins just a short walk from the city centre. Restaurants, bars and clubs can be found in most parts of the city centre, from the bustling Deansgate Locks and The Printworks to the upmarket Spinningfields and the bohemian Northern Quarter.



**For further information and to register,
please visit:**

<http://www.confercare.manchester.ac.uk/events/mbe2018>

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Saturday 21st July 2018

16.00-20.00 Registration

Plenary Session 1

Chairperson: Ray Boot-Handford

18.00 – 19.00 Reinhard Fässler (Martinsried)

Keynote Address, ‘The Kindlin Universe’

Sunday 22nd July 2018

Plenary Session 2

Chairperson: Kim Midwood

9.00 – 9.30 Farshid Guilak (Washington Uni):

‘Engineering new biologic therapies for arthritis’

9.30 – 10.00 Janine Eler (BRIC Copenhagen):

‘ECM remodelling during cancer progression’

10.00 – 10.50 Coffee break

10.50 – 12.30 Workshop 1: Stem Cells and Matrix Engineering

Chairperson: John Bateman

10.50 – 11.10 Gerjo van Osch (Erasmus MC, Netherland): ‘Adult human Mesenchymal Stem Cells; heterogeneity and cartilage matrix engineering capacity’

11.10 – 12.10 4 x 15 min talks selected from abstracts

12.10 – 12.30 Dimitrios Zeugolis (NUI Galway, Ireland): ‘Extracellular matrix rich supramolecular assemblies in regenerative medicine’

10.50 – 12.30 Workshop 2: Fibrillar/Matricellular Signalling

Chairperson: Patricia Rousselle

10.50 – 11.10 Laurent Duca (Reims, France): ‘Elastin modification during vascular aging and pathophysiological consequences’

11.10 – 12.10 4 x 15 min talks selected from abstracts

12.10 – 12.30 Wei Kong (Beijing, China): ‘Cartilage Oligomeric Matrix Protein Interactome in Vascular Homeostasis’

12.30 – 14.30 LUNCH and POSTERS (15 min lunch time workshop from key sponsors)

14.30 – 16.10 Workshop 3: Rhythms and Matrix Dynamics

Chairperson: Qing-Jun Meng

14.30 – 14.50 Karl Kadler (Manchester) ‘On the existence of a circadian matrix that is mechanoprotective and able to respond quickly to injury’

14.50 – 15.50 4 x 15 min talks selected from abstracts

15.50 – 16.10 Kazuhiro Yagita (Kyoto, Japan): ‘Regulation and mis-regulation of cellular differentiation-coupled circadian clock functionality in mammals’

14.30 – 16.10 Workshop 4: ECM Microenvironment, Adhesion and Cell Fate

Chairperson: Zhigang Zhang

14.30 – 14.50 Christa Maes (KU Leuven, Belgium): ‘Osteolineage Cells’

14.50 – 15.50 4 x 15 min talks selected from abstracts

15.50 – 16.10 Alberto Passi (University of Insubria, Italy): 'Epigenetic control of hyaluronan synthesis'

16.10 – 16.40 *Tea Break*

Plenary Session 3

Chairperson: Liliana Schaefer

16.40 – 17.10 Taina Pihlajaniemi (Uni Oulu, Finland): Collagen XVIII and its contributions to development of tissues and tumourigenesis

17.10 – 18.00 ISMB Rupert Timpl Award Lecture followed by Reception

Alexandra Naba (Uni of Illinois at Chicago)
The Matrisome Project: bioinformatic and proteomic tools to study the ECM in health and disease

Monday 23rd July

Plenary Session 4

Chairperson: Sylvie Ricard-Blum

9.00 – 9.30 Joanne Murphy-Ullrich (University of Alabama at Birmingham): The ER stress and calcium regulatory protein calreticulin in fibrosis in diabetic nephropathy

9.30 – 10.00 Andy Blanchard (GSK Stevenage): 'Translating research to therapies for lung fibrosis'

10.00 – 10.50 *Coffee break*

10.50 – 12.30 Workshop 5: ASMB sponsored session: Pathobiology and Therapeutics to Fibrosis

Chairperson: Joanne Murphy-Ullrich

10.50 – 11.10 Rebecca Wells (UPenn): 'The effect of a complex matrix on the mechanics of liver fibrosis'

11.10 – 12.10 4 x 15 min talks selected from abstracts

12.10 – 12.30 Tom Barker (Uni Virginia): 'Post-translational modifications of Fibronectin as therapeutic targets for Fibrosis?'

10.50 – 12.30 Workshop 6: Mechanisms of Matrix Disease

Chairperson: Kathy Cheah

10.50 – 11.10 Nikos Karamanos (Univ. of Patras, Greece): 'ERs as regulators of ECM: from epigenetics to breast cancer cell behaviour'

11.10 – 12.10 4 x 15 min talks selected from abstracts

12.10 – 12.30 Mike Briggs (Newcastle): 'New therapeutic targets in genetic skeletal diseases'

12.30 – 14.30 LUNCH and POSTERS (15 min lunch time workshop from key sponsors)

14.30 – 16.10 Workshop 7: The Immunology/Matrix Interface

Chairperson: John Whitelock

14.30 – 14.50 Liliana Schaefer (Goethe University, Germany): ‘Small leucine-rich proteoglycans in inflammation: two sides of the coin’

14.50 – 15.50 4 x 15 min talks selected from abstracts

15.50 – 16.10 Judi Allen (Manchester): ‘Regulation of Matrix by Type 2 cytokines: Learning from Helminths’

14.30 – 16.10 Workshop 8: Matrix Mechanobiology

Chairperson: Checco Ramirez

14.30 – 14.50 Viola Vogel (Zürich, Switzerland) “Mechanobiology of Extracellular Matrix Fibers in vitro and in vivo”

14.50 – 15.50 4 x 15 min talks selected from abstracts

15.50 – 16.10 Maria Dolores Martin Bermudo (Sevilla, Spain): ‘Cellular contractility controlled by cell-ECM interactions sculpt organs and tissues’

16.10 – 16.40 Tea Break

16.40 – 17.30 Plenary Session 5 BSMB Fell-Muir Award followed by reception

Chairperson John Couchman

Ray Boot-Handford (Manchester): Gene cloning to clinical trials - the trials and tribulations of a life with collagen

Tuesday 24th July 2018

9.00 – 10.45 Dick Heinegård Young Investigator Award Session

10.45 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.00 Plenary Session 6

Erhard Hohenester (Imperial College London): ‘Biosynthesis and function of (honorary) glycosaminoglycans: insights from structural studies’

12.00 – 12.30 2 x 15 min Hot topics (selected from abstracts)

12.30- 13.30 MBE AGM, Prizes, closing ceremony and lunch

For further information and to register, please visit:

<http://www.conferecare.manchester.ac.uk/events/mbe2018>

Conference timetable at a glance

Day 1 (Sat 21 st July)	Day 2 (Sun 22 nd July)		Day 3 (Mon 23 rd July)		Day 4 (Tues 24 th July)
	9:00-9:30, PL1 (Farshid Guilak) 9:30-10:00, PL2 (Janine Erler)		9:00-9:30, PL4 (Joanne Murphy-Ullrich) 9:30-10:00, PL5 (Andy Blanchard)		9:00-10:45, Dick Heinegård Young Investigator Award presentations (6x15')
	10:00-10:45 Coffee break		10:00-10:45 Coffee break		10:45-11:30 Coffee break
Registration: 16:00-20:00	10:45-12:30 Workshop 1 Stem cells and Matrix Engineering (2x20' Invited + 4x15' STs)	10:45-12:30 Workshop 2 Fibrillar/Matrical Signalling (2x20' Invited + 4x15' STs)	10:45-12:30 Workshop 5 ASMB sponsored session: Pathobiology & Therapeutics to Fibrosis (2x20' Invited + 4x15' STs)	10:45-12:30 Workshop 6 Mechanisms of Matrix Disease (2x20' Invited + 4x15' STs)	11:30-12:30 PL7 (Erhard Hohenester) 2x15' Hot topic STs
Opening Ceremony: 17:30-18:00	12:30-14:30 Lunch/ Posters (14:15-14:30 Group photo)		12:30-14:30 Lunch/ Posters (14:00-14:30 BSMB AGM)		12:30-13:30 MBE AGM/ Prizes/Closing ceremony/Lunch
Keynote Lecture: Reinhard Fässler	14:30-16:10 Workshop 3 Rhythms and Matrix Dynamics (2x20' Invited + 4x15' STs)	14:30-16:10 Workshop 4 ECM Microenvironment, Adhesion and Cell Fate (2x20' Invited + 4x15' STs)	14:30-16:10 Workshop 7 The Immunology/ Matrix Interface (2x20' Invited + 4x15' STs)	14:30-16:10 Workshop 8 Matrix Mechanobiology (2x20' Invited + 4x15' STs)	14:30-18:00 BSMB Committee meeting
Welcome Reception: 19:00-21:00	16:10-16:40 Tea break		16:10-16:40 Tea break		
Manchester Museum	16:40-17:10 PL3 (Taina Pihlajaniemi)		16:40-17:30 PL6 (Fell Muir Award: Ray Boot-Handford) with reception afterwards		
	17:10-18:00 Rupert Timpl Award with reception afterwards		17:30-18:00 (MBE Reps committee meeting)		
	Free time Post-doc/PhD social		19:30-23:00 Conference Dinner (Old Trafford)		(STs, selected talks)

BSMB MEETINGS IN 2019

BSMB Spring 2019 Meeting

Liverpool University

April 8-9th 2019

Stroma, Niche, Repair

Organised by George Bou Gharios

This will be a joint meeting held together with Matrix Biology Ireland.

BSMB Autumn 2019 Meeting

University of East Anglia

September 9-10th 2019

Organised by Stephen Robinson

Current BSMB Committee

Chairman, Prof. John Couchman
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john.couchman@bric.ku.dk

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SEE YOU IN MANCHESTER IN JULY!



The banner features a light blue background with a faint grid pattern. At the top left is the Wellcome Centre Cell-Matrix Research logo. At the top right is the British Society for Matrix Biology (BSMB) logo. The central text reads 'Matrix Biology Europe 2018 Celebrating 50 years of FECTS Manchester, United Kingdom. 21-24 July 2018'. Below this is a row of three images: a modern building, a city skyline at night, and a DNA double helix. The bottom section lists confirmed speakers and sponsors, including the ISMB and ASMB, and provides a website link.

**wellcome
centre
cell-matrix
research**

**MANCHESTER
1824**
The University of Manchester

Matrix Biology Europe 2018
Celebrating 50 years of FECTS
Manchester, United Kingdom. 21-24 July 2018

BSMB
BRITISH SOCIETY
FOR MATRIX BIOLOGY

Confirmed speakers

Judith Allen, Maria Dolores Martin Bermudo, Tom Barker, Andy Blanchard, Ray Boot-Handford
Mike Briggs, Janine Erler, Reinhard Fässler, Laurent Duca, Farshid Guilak, Erhard Hohenester
Karl Kadler, Nikos Karamanos Wei Kong, Christa Maes, Joanne Murphy-Ullrich, Liliana Schaefer
Gerjo van Osch, Alberto Passi Taina Pihlajaniemi, Martin Schwartz
Rebecca Wells, Kazuhiro Yagita, Dimitrios Zeugolis

(Rupert Timpl Award; Fell Muir Award; Dick Heinegård Young Investigator Award)

 Kindly sponsored by the ISMB and ASMB 

www.confercare.manchester.ac.uk/events/mbe2018/

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION and POSTER ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
CLOSE JUNE 15TH 2018**