
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 Steph Dakin, Prof Jerry Turnbull,
Dr Kasia Pirog, Dr Blandine Poulet, Dr Maria Fragiadaki and Dr Anna
Maria Piccinini

Registered Charity no. 281399

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Editorial

Welcome to the 99th Connective Issues. As we look beyond a summer of gradual freedom regained, thoughts turn to the BSMB Autumn meeting. This has been organized with flexibility in mind; ideally run as a blended meeting, so that anyone who wishes to can attend in person in Newcastle, and anyone who can't travel can attend online; it can also be run wholly online if needs be. Final details will be released once government guideline changes are confirmed in July, so for now please save the dates (September 6-7). Registration and abstract submission will open at the end of July, and there is already an excellent speaker list lined up.

At this meeting, regardless of format, we'll be running the Early Career Researcher Award and John Scott Lecture. Formerly the Young Investigator Award, this has been rebranded, with approval from John's family, to be more inclusive of scientists at early stages, regardless of age. The recipient will enjoy a substantial cash prize, the opportunity to present their work as a keynote speaker, and to submit a review for publication on a theme of their choosing. You can find details of how to apply within.

We are also delighted to announce the inaugural round of the Couchman Travel awards. Following a generous gift from our Chair, these funds provide a source of funding to cover the cost of attending BSMB and matrix-related meetings. In a world where the number of matrix-relevant meetings is expanding as rapidly as funding support for travel is shrinking, these awards will be invaluable in enabling travel for BSMB members. Open to all, but particularly aimed at early career scientists, you can apply now – please see details below!

At Newcastle we also hope to raise a toast to our Chair, John Couchman, to thank him for 6 fantastic years of service in post and to welcome his successor Andy Pitsillides. What better incentive to book your place when you can....

Finally, on committee matters, we are currently seeking a new Treasurer, committee member and student rep. Please see below for more details of what these roles involve and how to apply.

Kim Midwood, Honorary Secretary

Chair's Letter

A journey is best measured in friends rather than in miles – Tim Cahill, travel writer

Many greetings to all BSMB members.

Summer is upon us, and with it thoughts about the next BSMB meeting in the autumn. At that time, my term as Chair of the BSMB will finish, and so this is my final piece for the newsletter. Time has certainly flown by, it is hard to believe that 6 years have passed since I took on this role. Probably this has to do with the fact that it has been one of the most pleasant roles I have taken on in my career. I cannot exactly say how long I have been a member of the BSMB (and the BCTS before that) but it is something in excess of 35 years. Over the years I have joined many Societies, but none is quite like this one. Quite apart from the high quality science that has been a hallmark of our meetings, the camaraderie and collegial nature of the BSMB is special and something to be treasured. I have no doubt at all that Andy Pitsillides will do a great job as the next Chair, bringing his irrepressible good humour, style and leadership skills.

A few words of thanks to Jo Adams. She has been a staunch supporter of the BSMB

over many years, and also a key participant in the ISMB. For us, Jo has been the link between the ISMB and BSMB and we are very grateful for her many contributions. However, as Jo steps down from our Committee, I am delighted that our wonderful Secretary, Kim, is now elected to the ISMB Council and so we shall maintain the link and benefit from a BSMB presence in the ISMB.

Looking forward, it has never been more obvious how relevant matrix biology is to many facets of biological and biomedical science. Early on the focus was cartilage and arthritis, but as the various technologies advanced quickly it became clear that, although remarkably complex and challenging, matrix biology is an indispensable piece of the puzzle. There is no sign this will change, the pathogenesis of so many rare and common diseases has a vital matrix biology component. It has been a great field to be in, and I am confident that it will remain so. When I look at the composition of our Committee, it is terrific that so many of the next generation of matrix biologists have volunteered to help steer the BSMB. Our Society has always stressed the importance of supporting future researchers in our field, and it is gratifying to see that some are now leading the way on our Committee.

These past 15 months have been difficult for many, and that includes the BSMB. However, by virtue of hard work by members of our committee, we were able to put on two virtual meetings that were tremendously successful. We shall follow this with a further virtual meeting in Spring 2022, organised by Giovanna Nalesso. Before that, our attention is focussed on Kasia Pirog's meeting that we hope will allow us to meet in person in September. It will also be time for the overdue celebration of 40 years of the BSMB.

As life and research return to something approaching normal, I hope the BSMB will continue its journey. The visibility of matrix biology is vital, and as the largest such Society in Europe we have an important role to promote the science and justify the precious resources that are needed for progress. I would only ask that you encourage your colleagues to join the Society, and take part in our meetings. Moreover, there will always be room for some to join the Committee and become more involved. For sure, organising and running a meeting is a substantial commitment, but it's an opportunity to see the science that you want and invite the speakers you wish to hear. Moreover, there are experienced hands available to help and advise. In my various roles on the Committee over the years there was never a moment of doubt that this is a very enjoyable way to meet colleagues and gain new friends. My grateful thanks to all past and present colleagues in the BSMB.

Very best wishes to all members.

John Couchman, Chair

Mark your diary

BSMB Autumn 2021 Meeting

University of Newcastle
Extracellular matrix in rare disease
September 6-7 2021

BSMB Spring 2022 Meeting

Online via the University of Surrey
The "fatty matrix": biochemistry and
clinical relevance of the lipids/matrix
interaction.
April 12-13 2022

BSMB Autumn 2022 Meeting

University of Liverpool
The matrix in development
September 2022

BSMB News

BSMB Autumn 2021 meeting in Newcastle: save the date!

The British Society for Matrix Biology is organising the next autumn meeting in Newcastle upon Tyne (6-7th September 2021). The theme of the meeting is “Extracellular matrix in rare disease” and we have an amazing programme of speakers lined up, highlighting the importance of cell-matrix research in the rare disease field. We are planning to run the meeting in a hybrid format and hoping that it will go ahead in person for our UK participants. We are looking forward to seeing everyone after the long break.

Final details including the format and the program as well as registration details will be released in July after the government Covid19 announcement. For further information please visit: bsmb.ac.uk

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)

WELCOME TO NEW BSMB MEMBERS!

Full Members:

Brett Bartram (Surrey)

Chrissy Hammond (Bristol)

Anna Gray (Manchester)

Alexandra Damerau (Berlin)

Tanya Shaw (Kings College London)

Emma Gutierrez-Waldron (Liverpool)

Student Members:

Mohammad Alhashmi (Liverpool)

Mia Mohammed (Surrey)

Noor Al-Maslamani (Liverpool)

Deandra Belo de Freitas (Kings College London)

Oliver Dillon (Affiliation unknown)

Callum Stewart-McGuinness (Manchester)

Francesca Johnson de Sousa Brito (Newcastle)

Nick Day (Surrey)

Emma Gutierrez-Waldron (Liverpool)

Rachel Pearson (Newcastle)

Jean-Baptiste Richard (Oxford)

Tian Lan (Keele)

Abdulrahman Gremida (Liverpool)

Jill Merlini (Manchester)

Megan Priestley (Manchester)

Nabina Pun (Manchester)

Ren Jie Tuieng (Manchester)

In print!

In print: Abstracts from the Glasgow BSMB Autumn meeting 2020 are currently in print online in the International Journal of Experimental Pathology.

In prep: Abstracts from the Oxford BSMB Spring meeting 2021 will be in print soon in the International Journal of Experimental Pathology.

BSMB Committee news

Welcome to our next BSMB Chair



We're delighted to announce the appointment of **Prof. Andrew Pitsillides** to

the position of BSMB Chair. Andy needs little introduction to most BSMB members, having been a staunch supporter of meetings over time (decades?!), and a key member of the committee, including as Honorary Secretary for many years. Andy will take up the post at the AGM in September this year and we look forward to welcoming him back to the committee in this new role.

Seeking new BSMB committee posts

BSMB Treasurer

The current BSMB Treasurer, Tom van Agtmael completes his term of office in 2022. Therefore, we are beginning the search for a successor.

The Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the BSMB finances, and together with the Committee, formulates policy, represents the Society as appropriate in interactions with other bodies, and promotes the mission and objectives of the BSMB.

The Treasurer shall not normally hold that office for a term of more than three years. In any case, the Treasurer shall not hold that office for more than six consecutive years, but they shall be eligible for election to any other office in the Society. The term of office will begin at the Spring 2022 BSMB meeting. It is an expectation that the Treasurer will be available to attend all BSMB Committee meetings and conferences through his/her term of office. Candidates should be current members of the BSMB, and have previous experience of BSMB committee service.

BSMB committee member

Any current BSMB member in good standing is eligible for this post. Committee members formulate policy and have a major responsibility for organising BSMB meetings. It is expected that each Committee member

will take a major part in planning and organising one BSMB meeting during their tenure, be available to attend most Committee meetings, but also to attend occasional further meetings. Appointees become BSMB Trustees. It is recommended that those interested read BSMB Constitution and trustee status (www.bsmb.ac.uk).

Nomination process

Nominations for Treasurer and committee member of the BSMB can be made by any 2 members of the BSMB, or members of the current BSMB Committee.

Any nominations, together with the written consent of the proposed nominee should be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary, Professor Kim Midwood, by midnight **Friday July 30th 2021**. These can be sent by e-mail to kim.midwood@kennedy.ox.ac.uk.

In the event of more than one nomination, a ballot of the membership by e-mail will be held. To this end, it would be helpful if nominees can send a brief (one page) CV together with a short statement outlining their aspirations for the Society should they be elected. In the event of no nominations, the Committee may elect to nominate and appoint a person to the posts of Treasurer and BSMB committee member.

Are you our next student rep?

By Laura Collins, BSMB student rep 2017-2021



Joining the BSMB committee as student representative was an exciting opportunity to see behind the scenes of how the society operates, and to meet matrix biologists at all

stages of their career. My role involved managing the society's social media accounts, reporting any concerns from the student members to the committee, and being on hand at conferences to welcome delegates and organize social events such as pub trips. This highly rewarding role took little time out from my busy PhD schedule, and I would highly recommend it to any student working in matrix biology who is energetic, sociable, and keen to get involved in the society.

We are seeking one Student representative to join the BSMB committee. Any current graduate student member in good standing is eligible. This post represents the student and community within the BSMB, and ensures that the views and interests of the younger members of the society are heard. Reps are responsible for maintaining the activity of the BSMB on social media, including facebook and twitter. It is expected that the rep will take office at the Newcastle meeting in September 2021, and that reps should be able to attend most committee meetings during their term. Posts will be for 2 years in the first instance. The first qualified applicant to apply for either post will be awarded the position.

To apply: email your CV and a brief letter of support from your supervisor to Kim Midwood: kim.midwood@kennedy.ox.ac.uk

BSMB AUTUMN 2021 MEETING

Extracellular matrix in rare disease

**University of Newcastle
September 6-7 2021**

Organized by: Dr Kasia Pirog

It is our great pleasure to invite you to attend the BSMB Autumn meeting in Newcastle upon Tyne. The meeting will be

hosted at Newcastle University. The Autumn meeting will also mark 40 years of the British Society for Matrix Biology, an organisation that helped bring British matrix research to the forefront of the world scene by creating a safe networking environment and promoting young career researchers. With that in mind, we will be hosting an Early Career Researcher Award during our meeting.

The conference will include 5 plenary sessions covering rare diseases of connective tissues, disease mechanisms, drug repurposing and the patient perspective, as well as hot topics from the BSMB members' research. The speakers we have invited to present their work at the meeting are at the forefront of rare disease research and are: Matthew Warman (Harvard, USA), Rachel Lennon (Manchester, UK), Brendan Lee (Baylor College of Medicine, USA), Alison Gartland (Sheffield, UK), James Gallagher (Liverpool, UK), Laurence Legeai-Mallet (INSERM, France), Francesco Ramirez (Mount Sinai, USA), Su Lwin (London, UK) and Ines Alves (ANDO, Portugal).

The conference dinner will take place at the St James's Park Newcastle United football stadium and accommodation has been reserved in the nearby Sandman hotel. Newcastle is easily accessible with convenient transport links and the conference venues are all within walking distance from Newcastle Central Station.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid19 uncertainty, we are unable to open registration or confirm the final program until we know for sure that the meeting can go ahead in person.

Final details will be circulated via email in July, which is when the registration for the meeting will open.

BSMB Bursaries

Bursary applications open now PLUS new travel awards available....

1) Applications are invited for a bursary to attend the BSMB Autumn meeting to be held in Newcastle, 2021. Up to £250 can be claimed. For more details, please follow the [link](#) here.

2) For bursaries to attend the "Other meetings" category: These bursaries remain open. Please follow the [link](#) here.

3) In addition to the standard bursaries above, BSMB is pleased to announce the new **Couchman Travel Award**, kindly sponsored by Professor John Couchman.

Each Travel Award will cover up to £150 for a **BSMB meeting**, or up to £300 for a **European matrix-related meeting** (including the biannual MBE meetings). Eligibility criteria and application process are in line with the standard [BSMB bursaries](#). In brief, all applicants must be BSMB members in good standing and must be affiliated to a recognised academic institution. To qualify for the European meetings awards, the applicant has to have attended one or more BSMB meetings in person. Student and full members at early career stages will be prioritised. These Travel Awards will be provided to successful applicants after the meeting has concluded. Proof of attendance at the meeting is required, along with relevant receipts. The BSMB logo should be included with an acknowledgment on the poster or as a component of the oral presentation.

Applications should be sent to [Qing-Jun Meng](#), Chair of the BSMB bursary committee.

Early Career Researcher Award and John Scott Lecture 2021

The "Early Career Researcher Award" is a prestigious award presented annually to an early career researcher who has made a significant contribution to matrix biology and has excelled in the early stages of their research career. Following the generous bequest from the estate of Professor John Scott (1931-2012), the winner of the Early Career Researcher Award will be presented with a cheque for £1000, and will deliver the 'John Scott Lecture' at one of the Autumn meeting to be held in Newcastle. In addition the winner will also write a review on their work for IJEP.

To be eligible applicants must have accepted in press at least one research manuscript and no more than three on which they are the corresponding author.

Applications should be sent to j.whiteford@qmul.ac.uk and the deadline for the 2021 award is the 1st of August 2021.

Competition Rules are available at:
<https://bsmb.ac.uk/media/uploads/2021/04/27/early-career-researcher-rules.pdf>

Meeting Reports

British Society for Matrix Biology Spring 2021 Meeting Report

'Inflammation, Fibrosis, Resolution & the Matrix'

Bursary Awardee report – Alejandro Gomez & Emily Shorter

The 2021 BSMB Spring meeting "Inflammation, Fibrosis, Resolution & the Matrix", organized by Professor Stephanie Dakin (University of Oxford), celebrated the BSMB's 40th anniversary over two days. Held on the virtual event platform 'UpStage', the British Society for Matrix Biology (BSMB) hosted the meeting and sponsored by both the Company of Biologists (meeting sponsor) and The International Journal of Experimental Pathology (sponsor of prizes). With over 150 attendees from across the globe and 25 posters, the diverse range of presentations spanned five sessions.

Session 1: Inflammation and the Matrix
Chair: Prof Stephanie Dakin

Prof Christopher Buckley (Oxford & Birmingham) opened the conference's lecture series with a brilliant talk about fibroblast subpopulations. Prof. Buckley used the example of synovial fibroblast subtypes to illustrate how different fibroblast populations occupy distinct geographical niches in tissue, can be distinguished based on specific expression markers, and how differential expression can influence their role as effectors of either inflammation or tissue damage. Finally, Prof. Buckley discussed results from different research groups that suggest there are tissue-specific and universally shared fibroblast subtypes.

Alexandra Damerou (Charite, Berlin) compared mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) to fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLS). Her research determined that the established minimum criteria used for defining MSCs are insufficient to discriminate between the two types of cells. Alexandra also presented data showing that FLS in osteoarthritis (OA) demonstrate a significantly higher proliferation rate and increased expression of pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase 3 - which she suggests can be a potential therapeutic target in the treatment of OA.

Rafaella Konstantinou (Manchester University) discussed how the interplay of tensin 3 with mechanosensors talin & vinculin regulates fibronectin remodelling. Rafaella explained how fibronectin remodelling, which involves the maturation of focal adhesions to fibrillar adhesions, requires a delicate interplay between tensin3, $\alpha 5 \beta 1$ -integrin, the talin-vinculin complex, and intercellular mechanical forces.

Prof Kim Midwood (Oxford University) concluded the first session, highlighting the complexity of the 'matrisome' and the effect of alternative splicing patterns on secreted matrix proteins. Using tenascin-C as an exemplar matrix protein, Prof Midwood demonstrated that ECM molecules are multi-modular and highly susceptible to modifications that can activate or modulate inflammatory processes.

Session 2: Fibrosis and the Matrix
Chair: Dr Blandine Poulet

Dr Alexandra Naba (Illinois University) opened session two of the conference with a compelling argument favouring the analysis of 'big data' to understand the role

of extracellular matrix in health and disease. Dr Naba discussed the functional consequences of changes to the ECM in the tumour microenvironment and cancer progression. Dr Naba also laid out an enhanced workflow to illuminate the 'dark' or unexplored matrisome, including solubilisation, digestion, and big data mass spectrometry strategies to cover the large dynamic range of ECM proteins.

Alexander Eckersley (Manchester University) presented data on how their Manchester Peptide Location Fingerprinting (MPLF) web tool enables identifying age-related modifications in extracellular matrix proteins of human connective tissue. The presentation focused on data analysis of photodamaged skin and ageing tendon. The MPLF webtool can be applied bottom-up to any existing liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry data set.

Fiona Nuala Kenny (King's College London) presented her findings on how a supracellular actin network coordinates extracellular matrix anisotropy in fibrotic fibroblasts. Fiona used comparisons between normal and keloid dermal fibroblasts to illustrate differences in actin and fibronectin alignment. Fiona also explained the concept of cell-derived matrix remodelling by presenting data in which keloid dermal fibroblasts reorganised a disordered matrix derived from normal dermal fibroblasts.

Prof Fiona Watt (King's College) concluded the second session with her presentation of dermal single-cell RNAseq data, which confirms the existence of multiple fibroblast subpopulations in the skin. The research identified new distinguishing markers, including differentially expressed WNT, ECM proteins, and inflammatory pathways for these fibroblast populations. Prof Watt presented findings comparing

cultured fibroblasts with fibroblasts in the skin. Together these findings expand the Human Cell Atlas and provide new insights into skin physiology and disease mechanisms.

Fell-Muir Lecture Award
Chair: Prof John Couchman

The first day of the BSMB conference concluded on a high note, as Prof. Andy Pitsillides (Royal Veterinary College) was awarded the prestigious Fell-Muir award for his outstanding contributions to the field of matrix biology. In his acceptance speech, Prof. Pitsillides honoured the award recipients from previous years. Prof Pitsillides then presented his lecture on bone and joint mechanosensitivity and how these mechanisms regulate limb development and musculoskeletal disease pathways.

Session 3: Resolution of Inflammation and Fibrosis in the Matrix
Chair: Professor Stephanie Dakin

Dr Lucy Norling (Queen Mary University) kicked off day two of the spring meeting with her excellent talk on Annexin-A1 and its attenuation of myocardial inflammation and fibrosis in mice with inflammatory arthritis. She outlined her research that led to the characterisation of a murine model of rheumatoid arthritis with cardiomyopathy. Data from this model suggest that Annexin-A1 agonists may offer a novel treatment approach.

Erin Boland (Glasgow University) then discussed the basement membrane (BM) in cardiac function and disease. Her research, using a mouse model of COL4A1 disease, proposes expansion of the clinical phenotypes to include cardiac fibrosis and contractile dysfunction. She suggests a

novel anti-fibrotic role of the BM and stressed its critical role in cardiac function.

Mary-Kate Hayward (University of California) presented her findings that women with high mammographic density – a risk factor for breast cancer – have a stiffer and more inflamed stroma. She concluded that this tissue tension may promote inflammation and thus malignant transformation.

Finally, Professor Derek Gilroy provided contrary evidence to the idea that inflamed tissue reverts to its original cellular state prior to infection/injury and instead a post-resolution state occurs. His research found that prostanoid-synthesising myeloid cells infiltrate murine peritoneum and lungs for weeks following resolution of acute inflammation. This process might produce an immunosuppressive effect, increasing host susceptibility to secondary infection.

Session 4: Hot Topics

Chair: Dr Katarzyna Pirog

Amro Hussien (ETH Zurich) discussed molecular mechanisms underlying tendon involvement in systemic sclerosis (Ssc). He found dysregulated mechanical homeostasis and ECM stiffening in mouse SSc tendons, suggesting that this reflects matrix cross-linking rather than excessive collagen production.

Vicky Batchelor (University of Oxford) provided evidence that intra-articular application of a biocompatible phospholipid lubricant may modify inflammatory gene expression associated with shear stress in the joint.

Priscilla Lagoutte (Lyon University) followed with her presentation on the ECM protein 'PCPE-1' and its potential as a

biomarker and therapeutic target for cardiac fibrosis.

Finally, Laura Muraine (Sorbonne University) shared her data on the gene and protein expression profiles of dystrophic vs non-dystrophic muscle. She found that cells from dystrophic muscle show exacerbated proliferation and ECM secretion and, when activated, negatively impact muscle regeneration.

Session 5: Inflammation and Fibrosis in the Matrix: Translational Solutions

Chair: Dr Anna Piccinini

Kicking off the final session of the spring meeting, Professor Andreas Traweger (Paracelsus Medical University Salzburg) discussed the role of the matricellular protein 'SPARC' in tendon maturation and homeostasis. He showed that SPARC knockout mice have higher incidences of spontaneous tendon rupture after treadmill training and that the SPARC mutation 'p. Cys130Gln' is associated with tendon injury in patients.

Yoshifumi Itoh (Oxford University) presented his data on the MMP14 SNP risk variant 'rs1042704' and its association with reduced collagen catabolism in tissue. He suggests that this contributes to the fibrotic phenotype of Dupuytren's Disease.

Alice Laphorn (Anglia Ruskin University) next presented her work on phenotypic screening to identify novel treatments for fibrotic disorders. Using models of penile fibrosis, she showed that PDE5i, SERMs and their combination could exert anti-fibrotic effects.

In the final presentation of the meeting, Professor Derek Mann (University of Newcastle) described the mechanistic basis for the fibrotic actions of c-Rel. He showed

evidence that the control of glycolysis by c-Rel is enabled by its transcriptional regulation of Pfkfb3. Moreover, small-molecule inhibition of c-Rel inhibits TGFb1-induced fibrosis in liver and kidney tissues.

Presentation of Prizes & Close of Meeting
The meeting ended with Professor Stephanie Dakin awarding the presentation prizes. The presentation quality across the board was extremely high, but the IJEP sponsored awards were ultimately awarded to the very deserving Samantha Arokiasamy & Amro Hussein (poster prizes) and Rafaella Konstantinou (best talk).

The meeting was an all-around success and certainly got us excited to - hopefully - meet in person for the upcoming Autumn meeting!

News from the International Society for Matrix Biology

ISMB are in process of revamping their Website from Wordpress to a new platform Wix. This has meant that the membership portal is experiencing technical difficulties and the ISMB Executive would ask our BSMB members to be patient until the new website is re-launched very soon.

In good news for early career ISMB members or the organisers of future matrix biology themed conferences: ISMB will re-launch its calls for international travel bursaries or conference support awards from July 2021. If anyone has difficulty accessing the information on the website, they should contact the ISMB Secretary, John Whitelock, at j.whitelock@unsw.edu.au

Finally, congratulations to Kim Midwood on her election to ISMB Council. After this ISMB news item, I am handing over the “BSMB-ISMB contact person” role to Kim and wish the two Societies continuing productive relations – along with a return to in-person meetings before too long.

Jo Adams

Other news



Have you considered becoming a Member of the International Society for Hyaluronan Sciences and belonging to one of our 3 Divisions focused on Applied, Basic and Clinical Sciences of this important matrix component?

For further details on ISHAS please see: <https://ishas.org/>

ISHAS is expanding and we welcome applications for Membership from academics, clinicians or industry affiliates working on any aspect of hyaluronan chemistry, biology or medical translation.

If you are in the early stages of your career (e.g., a graduate student or postdoctoral researcher) and have an interest in hyaluronan, then please apply for Trainee Membership.

Membership and **Trainee Membership** cost just \$75 and \$15 per year, respectively, and include **free registration** at the virtual HA 2021 meeting (14-15 June). For meeting schedule see: ishas.org/ha-2021-conference/schedule

ISHAS have developed a new online system to make application for membership quick and easy: <https://ishas.org/membership-application-form>

Please note you will be required to upload your CV (as a pdf) as well as nominations by 2 existing ISHAS Members. Please download the Nomination Form from the application site and email to your Nominators; once filled out these should be converted to pdf before uploading.

Apply to join ISHAS today!

Anthony J Day
President, ISHAS

Current BSMB Committee

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

Honorary Secretary, Prof. Kim Midwood
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kim.midwood@kennedy.ox.ac.uk

Honorary Treasurer, Dr. Tom Van Agtmael
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Elected Members:

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Dr. Kasia Pirog
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Dr. Blandine Poulet
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Dr. Anna Maria Piccinini
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SEE YOU IN NEWCASTLE IN SEPTEMBER?!



BSMB Autumn Meeting
6-7th September 2021 Newcastle upon Tyne

BSMB
BRITISH SOCIETY
FOR MATRIX BIOLOGY

Newcastle University

Extracellular matrix in rare disease

Invited speakers: Matthew Warman (Harvard, USA), Rachel Lennon (Manchester, UK), Brendan Lee (Baylor College of Medicine, USA), Alison Gartland (Sheffield, UK), James Gallagher (Liverpool, UK), Laurence Legeai-Mallet (INSERM, France), Francesco Ramirez (Mount Sinai, USA), Su Lwin (London, UK), Ines Alves (ANDO, Portugal)

Registration opens July 2021

For more information please visit bsmb.ac.uk

**REGISTRATION and ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
OPENING END OF JULY...**