



## Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders Research Symposium



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The Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders (PCMD), directed by Dr. Lou Soslowsky, held their 16<sup>th</sup> annual Scientific Symposium on November 13, 2019 in Smilow Rubenstein Auditorium at the Perelman School of Medicine. The mission of the PCMD is to promote the development of new therapies for musculoskeletal disorders by encouraging collaboration between investigators in the field and supporting cooperative research efforts. Its central focus has been “Musculoskeletal Tissue Injury and Repair,” and the annual symposium seeks to celebrate the research being done in this field and to foster connections between researchers.

The 2019 symposium began with its New Member Session, moderated by Dr. X. Sherry Liu, with presentations by Véronique Lefebvre, PhD (Dissecting Genetic Mechanisms Controlling Skeletal Cell Lineage Specification and Differentiation), Peter Noël, PhD (Advancements in CT: More Information with Less Dose), and Shuying Yang, MD, MS, PhD (Regulation of RGS Protein in Inflammatory Arthritis). This was followed by a poster session for other PCMD members to present their research. The presentations for Affiliate Members, introduced by Dr. Robert Mauck, highlighted presentations by Fadia Kamal, PharmD, Msc, PhD (Regulation of GPCR in Cartilage Development and Disease), Nancy Pleshko, PhD (Non-Destructive Applications of Optical Spectroscopy for

Assessment of Tissue Pathology and Regeneration), and David Waning, PhD (Skeletal Muscle Weakness: What’s bone got to do with it?). The final presentation session for the Pilot Grantees was opened by Dr. Maurizio Pacifici and featured talks by Carla Scanzello, MD, PhD (Time-Dependent Changes in Macrophage Profiles in a Murine Model of Osteoarthritis), Yanqing Anna Gong, PhD (Plasminogen is Critical for Bone Fracture Repair by Promoting the Functions of Periosteal Mesenchymal Progenitors), and Nathaniel Dyment, PhD (Tendon-to-Bone Repair: How do we create the zones?). The second poster viewing session followed these presentations. The symposium then continued with a panel discussion focusing on career opportunities in academics and industry.

The keynote speaker for the 2019 PCMD Symposium was Dr. Anthony Ratcliffe, President and CEO of Synthasome, Inc. who discussed Strategic Approaches for the Translation of Concept to Product in Regenerative Medicine. The symposium concluded with 1<sup>st</sup> place poster awards to Hannah Zlotnic (Biomechanics), Joseph Collins (Histology), Wei-Ju Tseng (Micro CT), and Elisia Tichy (Miscellaneous). The 2019 symposium was well attended by PCMD members and will undoubtedly continue to facilitate collaborative efforts among investigators in the field.

