

Looking Forward to the 2023 PCMD Annual Scientific Symposium - November 15, 2023



Preparations are underway for the 19th Annual Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders Scientific Symposium in the Smilow Rubinstein Auditorium and Commons to be held on November 15, 2023. The keynote speaker will be Charles Washabaugh, Ph.D., Program Director, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, National Institute of Health.

The day will begin at 8am with registration and poster set-up followed by scientific presentations from new Center Full and Affiliate members and PCMD Pilot Grant recipients. The symposium will also include lunch and a judged poster session with prizes awarded in four categories. The day will conclude with a reception in the commons area of Smilow. Registration is free but is required.

PCMD Pilot and Feasibility Grant Program Opportunity - AWARDS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

Pilot Grant Information

The Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders has received eleven submission for this round of funding. Pilot grants were due on Thursday, February 23, 2023 and with a planned start date of July 1, 2023.

We are currently in the process of reviewing all submissions and awards will be announced in the next issue of Musculoskeletal Messenger.



Spotlight Publications/News From Our Members

Congratulations to the new Penn Medicine Achilles Tendon Research Center. See article at [Penn Medicine News](#)



Affiliate Member Spence Szczesny, Ph.D. received a NSF career award investigating tendon cell mechanobiology and its impact on fatigue-induced tendon degeneration. The award is titled "Studying Tendon Cell Mechanobiology in the Native Tissue Environment".

https://nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2142627&HistoricalAwards=false

Dr. Szczesny is an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation from Penn State University and obtained his degree from Bioengineering at Penn.

The Orthopaedic Research Society's (ORS) Annual Conference was held in February 2023 in Dallas. We would like to congratulate the following students/trainees on their winning presentations and posters.

PODIUM WINNER

Tim Kamalitinov - "Biphasic Role of Hedgehog Signaling In Tunnel Integration Following ACL Reconstruction". Dymant Lab

POSTER WINNERS

Kevin Burt, Ph.D. Postdoc - "HMGB1 Mediates Macrophage and Regional Intervertebral Disc Properties Following Injury". Mauck Lab

Michael DiStefano, PhD Student - "Collagen XII Is A Critical Regulator Of Supraspinatus Tendon Mechanics And Collagen Fiber Realignment Across Sex". Soslowsky Lab

Natalie Fogarty, VMD, Resident - "Post-natal Joint Loading is Not a Primary Regulator of Murine Meniscus Maturation". Mauck Lab

Ashley Fung, PhD Student - "Collagen XII Regulates Cell And Matrix Organization And Structure During Postnatal Tendon Development". Soslowsky Lab

Thomas Leahy, PhD Student - "The Mechanosensor Focal Adhesion Kinase Regulates Cell Shape And Tendon Development". Soslowsky Lab

Elizabeth Lemmon, PhD Student - "Anakinra Reduces Inflammatory Pathways Activated in Canine Synovium After Cranial Cruciate Ligament Injury". Mauck Lab

Zizhao Li, PhD Student - "Tunable Extracellular Matrix-Based Mutliphasic Scaffold Systems for Rotator Cuff Repair". Heo Lab

Karthikeyan Rajaopal, PhD Postdoc - "Physiological Measurement of Nucleus Puplosus Oxygen, Glucose, and Lactate in a Large Animal Model of Disc Degeneration: Preliminary Findings". Smith Lab

PCMD FUNDS AVAILABLE:

Summary Statement Driven Funding Request

If you have a recent summary statement from an NIH grant (eligible NIH mechanisms include all “R” grants such as R03, R21 and R01 and “K” grants such as K01, K08 on their first submission—please inquire regarding eligibility of other proposal mechanisms) which requires you to run additional experiments, gather additional data, provide feasibility for an approach, or similar, we can provide small funds (\$1,000-\$15,000) with a very short turn-around time in order to allow you to complete these experiments and resubmit your proposal with the best chance of success. Requests for funding will be evaluated on a rolling basis and priority will be given to Assistant Professors with encouraging initial review priority scores better than ~30-35%. The format of the “Summary Statement Driven Funding Request”, which is limited to **one page**, is as follows:

- “ Name of PI (must be a PCMD full member)
- “ Title of Project Request
- “ Specific Purpose of Request with Stated Outcome/Goal Referring Explicitly to the Summary Statement for Justification
- “ Research Design and Methods
- “ Budget with Brief Justification

Funding through this mechanism is available by submitting the one page proposal to pcmd@penndmedicine.upenn.edu

Affiliate Member Core Funding - Now Available

PCMD Funds Available for Affiliate members:

Affiliate members are now eligible for financial and intellectual support for PCMD core use. Center facilities and intellectual guidance are available to learners at all levels (e.g., faculty, trainees, staff) at other institutions. To a large extent, this effort is to provide increased opportunities to engage investigators at affiliate institutions (defined broadly) that do not have extensive resources supporting musculoskeletal research.

All potential requests for support should start with an email to either a Core Director/s or to Lou Soslowsky at soslowsk@upenn.edu to discuss your needs. For more information on this please visit the Affiliate Member Core Funding page at <https://www.med.upenn.edu/pcmd/affiliate-member-core-funding.html>

Upcoming Seminars

April
25

Tuesday, 1:30pm-2:30pm/CRB Austrian Auditorium
Title: Biomechanical & Energetic Factors Associated with Physical Activity Limitations in Osteoarthritis
Kharma C. Foucher, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition
Director, Biomechanics and Clinical Outcomes Laboratory
University of Illinois at Chicago

April
26

Orthopaedic Research Club Seminar
Wednesday, 12:00pm-1:00pm/CRB Austrian Auditorium
Title: Ectopic Ossification of the Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) in a Murine Model of Osteogenesis Imperfecta
Jason (Joohyun) Lim, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences
University of Delaware

May
23

Tuesday, 1:30pm-2:30pm/CRB Austrian Auditorium Joint with IRM
Title: TBD
Michael Zuscik, PhD, Mack Clayton Professor and Vice Chair of Research
Department of Orthopedics, University of Colorado

June
13

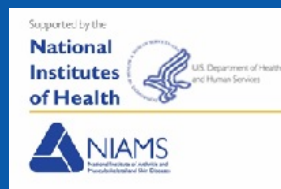
Tuesday, 1:30pm-2:30pm/CRB Austrian Auditorium
Title: Immunoengineering in the Musculoskeletal System
Jennifer Elisseeff, Ph.D., Morton Goldberg Professor, Wilmer Eye Institute
Biomedical Engineering, Translational Tissue Engineering Center
Board of Maryland's Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO)
Johns Hopkins University

[View All Activities...](#)

[Orthopaedic
Research Club
\(ORC\) Seminars](#)

[Membership
Page](#)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Remember to include reference to support from the Center in your abstracts and publications. Cite Grant NIH/NIAMS P30AR069619 from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases of the NIH.
Support has also been provided by the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.



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If you have any news or information that you would like included in the next issue of the Musculoskeletal Messenger newsletter, please email the information to: pcmd@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

University of Pennsylvania | 3450 Hamilton Walk, 371 Stemmler Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19104

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