Plenary speakers

Renato V. IOZZO – *Opening Lecture*

Renato Iozzo is The Gonzalo Aponte Professor of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology, and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Thomas Jefferson University. Dr. Iozzo has received many awards and an Honorary Degree from Semmelveis University, Budapest, Hungary (2011). He was the chair of the Gordon Research Conference on Proteoglycans in 2000, and President of both the International and American Societies for Matrix Biology. He is Editor-in-Chief of *Matrix Biology*. His research focuses on the biology of proteoglycans and their roles in cancer and angiogenesis. He has published over 335 peer-reviewed articles, and his work has received over 28,000 citations reaching an *h*-index of 95.

John COUCHMAN

John Couchman is a Professor at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. He is affiliated with the Department of Biomedical Sciences and the Biotech Research & Innovation Center. He has been in Copenhagen since 2007, before which he was at Imperial College, London (2001-7) and The University of Alabama at Birmingham (1985-2001). He has maintained a long standing interest in cell adhesion and migration, focusing mainly on the cell surface proteoglycans of the syndecan family. Recent work has involved detailed studies of syndecan signaling and its relevance to the behaviour of tumour cells.

Karl KADLER

Professor of Biochemistry, University of Manchester, UK; Honorary Professor of Matrix Biology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Director, Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell-Matrix Research, University of Manchester, UK. The focus of Karl Kadler's laboratory is to understand how cells build tissues containing collagen fibrils. Using 3D electron microscopy, his group has shown that the assembly of collagen fibrils by embryonic fibroblasts occurs at specialised sites on the plasma membrane and that the process is dependent on non-myosin II and the actinomyosin contractile system. In recent work his laboratory has shown that the circadian clock regulates the secretion and degradation of extracellular matrix macromolecules.

François-Xavier MAQUART

François-Xavier Maquart, is a member of the French National Academy of Medicine, is Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Reims-Champagne-Ardenne (France). He is the Director of the Central Laboratory of Biochemistry of the Reims University Hospital and of the CNRS research unit "Extracellular Matrix and Cell Dynamics" (CNRS UMR 7369) of the University of Reims. Pr Maquart's current research concerns the control of tumor cell invasion by extracellular matrix. He is the co-author of 6 Biochemistry textbooks, 230 publications indexed in the "Web of Sciences", over 50 invited lectures and 300 communications in scientific meetings.

Alberto PASSI

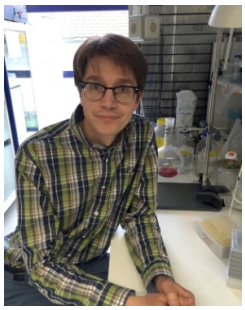
Alberto Passi is Full professor in biochemistry School of Medicine, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy, Dean of School of Biotechnicians in Medical School. His scientific interests are focused on matrix biology and in particular on proteoglycan and hyaluronan biochemistry. His lab has several international collaborations and obtained funds particularly for scientists exchange from EU programs (FP7 and Horizon 2020). Author of 103 peer reviewed papers with *h* index 27 (Scopus, 31 Google Scholar). Editor of J Biol Chem (2011-2016), academic editor of PLoSONE, associate editor of Connective Tissue Research, editor of Frontiers in Membrane Physiology and Biophysics.

Liliana SCHAEFER

Liliana Schaefer is a Professor of Pharmacology at Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main, Germany. She is Council Member and President-elect of the International Society for Matrix Biology, President of the German Society for Matrix Biology, Council Member of the Histochemical Society, Deputy Editor of *Matrix Biology* journal and Associate Editor of the *Journal of Histochemistry & Cytochemistry.* She has investigated the role of the two small leucine-rich proteoglycans (SLRPs), decorin and biglycan, in acute inflammation, innate immunity and renal fibrosis. Dr. Schaefer has made significant contributions to the field of innate immunity by discovering that both SLRPs, when in soluble form in the blood and body fluids, can act as endogenous "danger" signals and thus directly involved in modulating the activity of Toll-like receptors.

Irit SAGI

Prof. Irit Sagi received a PhD in biophysics/bioinorganics from Georgetown University. Then she returned to Israel to perform postdoctoral research in Prof. Ada Yonath's lab at the Weizmann Inst. of Science. She continued her postdoctoral studies at the Max-Planck Inst. in Berlin, returning to join Weizmann Inst. in 1998. Between 2005-2006 she was visiting professor at Harvard University and at Novartis research inst. She is the incumbent of the Maurizio Pontecorvo Professorial Chair. She has more than 100 publications in scientific journals and books. Prof. Sagi is developing and applying unique, multidisciplinary and biophysical approaches to investigate tissue and extracellular remodeling molecular processes.



Alexander NYSTRÖM – *Rupert Timpl Award Lecture*

Dr. Alexander Nyström is a group leader in the Dept of Dermatology, University of Freiburg. He received his PhD from Lund University, for work on laminins in the laboratory of the late Dr. Peter Ekblom. He then did its postdoc in Dr. Iozzo's lab, Thomas Jefferson University. There he studied perlecan in angiogenesis and helped to identify integrin $\alpha 2\beta 1$ as an endorepellin/perlecan receptor, delineating part of its down-stream signaling. He then moved to the University of Freiburg, and after a second postdoc in Dr. L. Bruckner-Tuderman's lab, he established his own group. His research focuses on dermal ECM, with attention on therapy development based on insights gained from untangling disease mechanisms in connective tissue disorders.

Martin J. HUMPHRIES

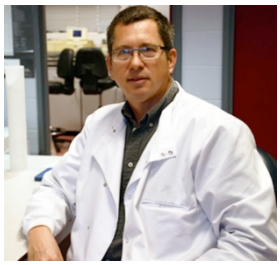
Martin Humphries is Prof. of Biochemistry and Vice-President & Dean in the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Manchester. He carried out postdoctoral research at the Howard University Cancer Center, Washington, D.C. and at the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD. In 1988, he was awarded a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellowship and returned to Manchester. In 1995, he was a co-founder of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell-Matrix Research. His laboratory started by identifying mechanisms of adhesion-dependent growth control and melanoma cell adhesion and metastasis, progressed to structure-function analyses of integrin and syndecan Receptors. His current research is focused on the links between stromal rigidity, adhesion signalling and cell proliferation in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma.

Joachim P. SPATZ

Prof. Dr. Joachim P. Spatz obtained in 1996 a Ph.D. of Physics from the Department of Organic Chemistry III– Macromolecular Chemistry/Ulm University. Then he moved to Paris, Inst Curie, for Postdoctoral research (1997-1998). He came back to Germany (2000) as Professor for Biophysical Chemistry at Heidelberg University. From 2004 he is Full Professor for Biophysical Chemistry at Heidelberg University. During 2002-2010 he acted as Adjunct Senior Faculty Member at Jackson Lab, Maine, USA. During 2004-2015 he was Director or Acting Director in Max Planck Inst for Intelligent Systems in Stuttgart. From 2016 he is Director of the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research in Heidelberg. Prof. Spatz‘s research has been awarded from the Max Planck Society, the Association of the Metal Industry Baden-Württemberg and the Weizmann Institute of Science, among others.

Reinhard FÄSSLER

Reinhard Fässler is Director and Scientific Member at the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry (since 2001). He obtained his Ph.D. from the Institute for General and Experimental Pathology, University of Innsbruck (1988). He did postdoctoral research at Whitehead Institute, Cambridge, USA (1988-1992). By returning to Europe, he acted as Research Group Leader in Austrian Academy of Sciences (1992-1993), in Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry (1993-1998), and became Professor and Chair of the Department of Experimental Pathology at Lund University (1998-2001). For his research R. Fässler has been honored with the Hermann und Lilly Schilling Professorship (1995) and with the Göran Gustafsson Prize (2001), among other awards. In 2000 he was elected member of EMBO and in 2008 he became a corresponding member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.



Jeremy Ewan TURNBULL

Jeremy Turnbull is the Johnston Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Liverpool, having previously worked at Birmingham and Manchester Universities. His research interests cover the chemical biology of cell surface and matrix HSPGs as dynamic cell regulators. The major focus is using chemical biology and glycomics tools and strategies to elucidate the structure-function relationships of HSPGs, in particular in the nervous system and neural diseases, cancer, and with growing interests in stem cell differentiation and regenerative medicine. He has developed pioneering chemical and analytical tools. His research has resulted in a number of seminal contributions to the proteoglycan and related research fields, with over 128 publications and an h factor of 45.

Key-note speakers

Paraskevi HELDIN

Paraskevi Heldin belongs to LICR being Group Leader of the Matrix Biology group. She has the title of Professor in Matrix Biology at Uppsala University and belongs to IMBIM. She is Senior Investigator and Group Head, Matrix Biology, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and Adjunct Professor, Matrix Biology Dept. Medical Biochemistry and Microbiology (IMBIM). Her research interests are: Elucidate mechanisms that regulate hyaluronan synthases; Elucidate mechanism of signaling via the hyaluronan receptor CD44 in inflammation and cancer; Elucidate the role of hyaluronan-CD44 interactions for breast cancer progression.

Ida Gjervold LUNDE

Ida Gjervold Lunde, Norwegian, is a post-doctoral fellow at the Institute for Experimental Medical Research, Oslo University Hospital and University of Oslo, Norway (2015 -->) & Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA (2013-2015), funded by the Research Council of Norway. She is fellow of the European Society of Cardiology. Education: MSc in molecular biology and physiology (2006) and PhD in medicine (2012), University of Oslo, Norway. Main research field is basic science cardiology with particular focus on molecular mechanisms underlying development of heart failure, especially proteoglycans (syndecans, glypicans and small leucine-rich proteoglycans (SLRPs)) and titin.

Mauro Sérgio Gonçalves PAVÃO

Mauro Pavão is Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Chair of the Program of Glycobiology of the Inst. of Medical Biochemistry at the Rio de Janeiro Federal University. After receiving his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology (1993), he has worked as an Associate Researcher and Adjunct Professor of Biochemistry for the Inst. of Biomedical Sciences, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. In 1996 he received a Post-Doctoral Fellowship to work in the Laboratory of Douglas Tollefsen, Washington University-Saint Louis. His research interests include: structure and pharmacological effects of unique sulfated GAGs isolated from marine invertebrates; role of cell surface HSPGs in modulating growth factor signaling in tumor progression, and the possible inhibitory effect of heparin-like glycans on this complex phenomenon.

Frank ZAUKE

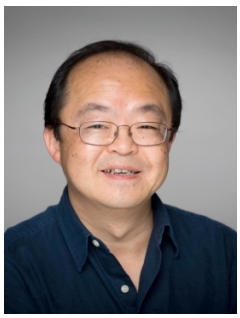
Frank Zaucke was trained in biology at the University of arlsruhe, Germany. He performed his doctoral work at the arlsruhe Institute of Technology. In 1998, he moved to the enter for Biochemistry at the University of Cologne where he ıvestigated the differentiation of chondrocytes in different ulture systems. In 2001, he became an independent group leader and since then his main research interest is the structure and assembly of the extracellular matrix in cartilage, with an increasing focus on in inherited diseases. His work is funded by the Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne, the German Research Foundation and the European Union. He is member of the Faculty 1000 Medicine (Cartilage Biology and Osteoarthritis Section) and a board member of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Paolo BONALDO

Paolo Bonaldo is full professor of cell biology at the Medical School of the University of Padova. He graduated with honors in BSc in 1986 and carried out his PhD at the CRO-IRCCS National Cancer Center. He completed his education as a visiting scientist at the Max Planck Institute of Biophysical Chemistry in Germany. In 2011, he was awarded the Conte Prize for basic research in the field of myology. He is author of 132 full-length publications in peer-reviewed journals, including Nature Genetics and Nature Medicine. The main focus of his work is the study of the ECM components in development and disease. His team developed several animal models for different ECM molecules, and demonstrated that a failure of the autophagic machinery plays a key pathogenic role in muscular dystrophies, opening the way to clinical trials.

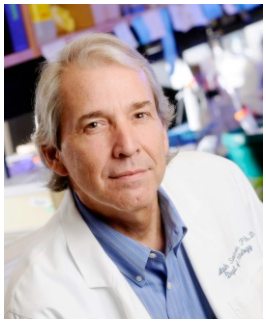
Fabio QUONDAMATTEO

Fabio Quondamatteo, M.D., is an Anatomist with a strong interest and background in Electron Microscopy. He worked in the field of Anatomy at the Universities of Göttingen and of Galway, and since January 2016 he holds a Chair in Anatomy at the University of Glasgow. His main research interests are focused on structural/ functional relations of the biological role of Basement Membranes and ECM, including their cellular interactions and signalling, in particular, in relation to the structure of the skin. Other scientific interests include the application of Gross Anatomical knowledge to the solutions of clinical problems and to the development of medical devices. He has authored/co-authored 70 papers and an h-index of 22. He collaborates as a referee for various journals, and is an Associate Editor for Gene.



Yoshifumi ITOH

After receiving his Msc in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Tokyo College of Pharmacy (1991), Dr Itoh moved to the University of Kansas Medical Center, to work with Prof Hideaki Nagase. Using his research outcomes, he received a PhD from Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences, Japan in 1996. In 1997 he became an Assistant Professor in Prof Motoharu Seiki's department at the Inst. of Medical Sciences, University of Tokyo. In 2001 he moved to the Kennedy Inst. of Rheumatology, Imperial College London to run his own lab and relocated to Oxford when the Kennedy Inst. joined the University of Oxford. His major scientific interests have been centered on mechanisms of cellular invasion and tissue destruction, especially in the aspects of arthritis and cancer as they share common mechanisms and pathways.



Ralf SANDERSON

Dr. Sanderson received his PhD degree in Cell Biology in 1986 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Merton Bernfield at Stanford University. He joined the faculty in Pathology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 1989 and rose to the rank of Professor in 2000. He joined the UAB Department of Pathology in 2006, is the UAB Endowed Professor in Cancer Pathobiology, is co-leader of the Cancer Cell Biology Program of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center and a Senior Associate Editor of *Matrix Biology*. His research focuses on the role of heparanase and syndecan-1 in driving the growth, progression and metastasis of cancer and the development of heparanase inhibitors as anti-cancer therapeutics.

David Hulmes

David Hulmes received his Ph.D. in Molecular Biophysics from the University of Oxford in 1975. He then worked at EMBL, Grenoble, France, and Harvard Medical School, Boston, before taking up appointments first at the University of Manchester and then at the University of Edinburgh. In 1996, he returned to France, as Research Director with the CNRS in Lyon, where he has since remained. For most of his research career, he has worked on biophysical and biochemical aspects of extracellular matrix proteins. He was President of the International Society of Matrix Biology from 2010 to 2012 and is now Secretary/Treasurer of ISMB since 2013.

Sylvie RICARD-BLUM

Sylvie Ricard-Blum has trained in Biochemistry at the Universities of Grenoble and Lyon. Her major research interests are interaction networks and multimolecular complexes formed in the pericellular and extracellular matrix. She has developed protein and GAG arrays to screen interactions by SPRI and has built an interaction database focused on ECM (MatrixDB, http://matrixdb.univ-lyon1.fr/). Her laboratory is currently identifying and characterizing interactions involving matricryptins, lysyl oxidase and membrane collagens in order to build and contextualize the corresponding interaction networks in health and diseases. She is a very active member of the French Society for Matrix Biology, a current member of the Council of the International Society for Matrix Biology and the Editorial Board of Matrix Biology.

Sandra WILEY

Dr. Sandra Wiley received her PhD from Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. She has a broad interest in signal transduction, with an emphasis on pathways that impinge upon the ER and mitochondria. Recently, she has been focused on new families of kinases in the secretory pathway and their impact on the extracellular matrix and cancer. She is currently a researcher at the University of California, San Diego in La Jolla, CA.

Martin GÖTTE

He is a Professor for Medical Biochemistry at the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics of the University of Münster, Germany. He obtained his Ph.D. (Biochemistry) in 1997. Since 2003, he holds a tenured position as head of the research laboratory of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics of Münster University. His main areas of research cover aspects of matrix pathobiochemistry, with a strong focus on the role of cell surface HSPGs and interstitial DSPGs, as well as GAG biosynthetic enzymes in breast cancer and inflammation. He is a member of the editorial boards of several peer-review journals, and he has served as a grant reviewer for several international organizations. Dr. Götte has authored more than 100 publications and his work has been cited more than 3800 times (H-index=30).

Francesco RAMIREZ

Dr. Ramirez is the Dr. Amy and James Elster Professor, Department of Pharmacology and System Therapeutics, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. He graduated in 1969 from the University of Palermo (doctoral degree in Biological Sciences). After postdoctoral training at Columbia University on the molecular characterization of thalassemias, in 1979 he joined the faculty of Rutgers Medical School to define the underlying defects in collagen-related disorders. In 1989, he joined the Mount Sinai School of Medicine where he worked on Marfan syndrome to identify the underlying genetic defect and to demonstrate the direct involvement of extracellular microfibrils in modulating TGFβ and BMP bioavailability. Current research effort focuses on the mechanisms responsible for musculoskeletal and cardiovascular manifestations in mouse models of Marfan syndrome.

Peter FRIEDL

Peter Friedl received his Ph.D. degree from the McGill University, Montreal in 1996. Since 2007 he is directing the Microscopical Imaging Centre of the Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, Netherlands and since 2011 holds a joint-faculty position at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston. His research interest is in the development of Imaging strategies to identify the mechanisms and plasticity of cell migration in immune regulation and cancer metastasis, with emphasis on cell-matrix adhesion, pericellular proteolysis and cell-cell communication during migration. His laboratory identified collective cancer cell invasion, pathways determining diversity and plasticity of cell migration, and the contribution of migration pathways to immune defense and cancer resistance.

Benjamin GEIGER

Prof. Benjamin Geiger focuses on the mechanisms responsible for communication between cells, both normal and cancerous. He is attempting to identify and trace the specific molecules involved in cell adhesion and communication, and to investigate the molecules and signaling processes that mediate and regulate such interactions. With his colleagues, he is investigating molecular diversity of adhesion complexes, the roles of mechanical force in adhesion development, and the role of phosphorylation in regulating cell adhesion and migration, differentiation and survival. Prof. Geiger has held a number of senior posts at the Weizmann Institute. He chaired the Life Science and Medicine Section of the Israel Science Foundation (ISF) (2003-2009), the major funding source for basic research in Israel, and since 2009, has been serving as Chair of the ISF's Academic Board.

Garry P. DUFFY

Garry Duffy is a graduate in Anatomy from the National University of Ireland, Galway (2002). On completion of his degree he carried out research for his PhD in the area of adult stem cell therapeutics for cardiovascular disease in the Regenerative Medicine Institute in NUIG. In 2006 he moved to Georgia Institute of Technology to carry out research in cardiovascular tissue engineering and stem cell biology (Fulbright Scholarship). He joined the Anatomy Department as Lecturer in July 2008. His current research focusing on stem cell and gene therapies for cardiovascular disease is funded by Enterprise Ireland, the Irish Heart Foundation and the Health Research Board. He was appointed as Principal Investigator in the Trinity Centre for Bioengineering in November 2009.

Julie FRADETTE

Julie Fradette is a Full Professor at Université Laval, department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine. She is a researcher at the Centre LOEX de l'Université Laval, at the research center of the CHU de Québec-Université Laval since 2005. Her research activities focus on adipose-derived stem/stromal cells (ASCs) and their use in regenerative medicine. Her expertise encompasses tissue engineering of various connective tissues. Her postdoctoral training at the University of Pittsburgh established that ASC and adipose tissue can be used for gene delivery using herpes-based viral vectors. Her research program is now focused on how human mesenchymal cell's potentials can be harnessed for tissue/organ reconstruction using cell based, scaffold-free strategies. She is the director of the ThéCell network for cellular and tissular therapies for the province of Québec.

John WHITELOCK

John Whitelock is a full Professor at the University of New South Wales, Graduate School of Biomedical Engineering, Sydney. He is a member of: International Society for Matrix Biology, American Society for Matrix Biology, Australian and New Zealand Society for Matrix Biology (President) and Australian Society for Medical Research. His central area of research interest focuses to the regulation of tissue repair and regeneration by proteoglycans, involving interactions between the extracellular environment that binds growth signals and guides cell and tissue behavior.

Rashmin C. SAVANI

Rashmin Savani is Professor and William Buchanan Chair in Pediatrics, Chief in the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, and Associate Director of the Center for Pulmonary and Vascular Biology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. His education started at the University of Sheffield Medical School in England, then he moved to Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina for Pediatrics, thereafter to the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio for Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine and Pulmonary Biology. Moreover, he was trained in Cell and Molecular Biology at the Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology (University of Manitoba) in Canada.

Madeleine DURBEEJ

Madeleine Durbeej is professor in Muscle Biology at Lund University, Sweden. She received her PhD from Uppsala University and did her postdoctoral studies with Kevin Campbell at Howard Hughes Medical Institute (USA). Since 2001 she has been heading a research group that studies laminin-deficient muscular dystrophies as well as other muscle diseases.

Antonella FORLINO

Antonella Forlino is Associate Professor of Biochemistry at the Dept of Molecular Medicine, Unit of Biochemistry, University of Pavia. Her research activity had been focused on the molecular, biochemical, and functional study of genetic diseases of the connective tissue, in particularly Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI), Distrophyc Dysplasia (DTD) and Prolidase Deficiency (PD). She developed and characterized the knock in murine models for OI and DTD and she identified a bone phenotype in the murine model of PD. She is now involved in a cell/gene therapy project using the OI murine models BrtlIV and *col1a2*$^{+/G610C}$. She recently started a *D.Rerio* facility to generate zebrafish models of skeletal dysplasias and to start drug screening approaches.

Ruud A. BANK

Ruud Bank received his Ph.D. in 1993 at the Vrije Universiteit (Amsterdam). In 1993 he started as a research associate at TNO Quality of Life (Leiden), where he investigated the role of the collagen network in connective tissue diseases. Since 2009 he is a full professor in the field of Matrix Biology and Tissue Repair at the University of Gröningen. He co-founded in 2000 the Dutch Society for Matrix Biology, and is a board member of the Dutch Society for Tissue Engineering and Biomaterials. He was vice-president of the Dutch Program for Tissue Engineering and is since 2009 the scientific co-director of the Netherlands Institute for Regenerative Medicine. He was the first president (2012-2014) of the federation "Matrix Biology Europe". His research is focussed on cell/matrix interactions, on collagen in connective tissues, on tissue engineering, on the foreign body reaction, and on cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in fibrosis.

Achilleas D. THEOCHARIS

Achilleas Theocharis is Associate Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at the University of Patras, Greece. He is member of the Hellenic Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Hellenic Matrix Biology Section of HSBMB. Currently he is on the editorial board of *Matrix Biology*. His research interests are focused on the area of matrix pathobiochemistry, cell signaling and molecular targeting. He is co-author in 86 publications in peer review international journals. His work is cited more than 2300 times and has a H-index of 27.

Kirsi Johanna RILLA

Kirsi Rilla received her M.Sc. degree in cell biology from the University of Jyväskylä (1998). Her Ph.D. project in the Tammi research group at the University of Eastern Finland focused on intracellular trafficking of hyaluronan synthases and regulation of their activity (2006). The thesis work led to the finding of hyaluronan-dependent plasma membrane protrusions that act as hyaluronan factories. She currently works as Academy Research Fellow in the Institute of Biomedicine in the University of Eastern Finland. Her specific interest is on confocal microscopy and her research focus is on biogenesis of extracellular vesicles and their relation to hyaluronan metabolism.

Dimitrios KLETSAS

Dimitris Kletsas, PhD, is currently Research Director in the National Centre for Scientific Research "Demokritos" in Athens, and Head of the Laboratory of Cell Proliferation & Ageing. His research interests include cellular senescence and age-related pathologies, cancer, wound healing, growth factors, signaling pathways, extracellular matrix homeostasis, bioactive molecules and natural products and cell replacement therapy, and he has more than 150 research articles on these topics.

Vincent C. HASCALL

His lab investigates the mechanisms for the aberrant intracellular synthesis of hyaluronan in hyperglycemic dividing cells and the subsequent production of an extracellular monocyte-adhesive matrix. These abnormal hyaluronan matrices recruit inflammatory cells, and their responses are central for most diabetic pathologies, including diabetic obesity and osteopenia in trabecular bone. Collaborations with his lab have also shown that these monocyte-adhesive hyaluronan matrices are involved in other pathologies: asthma, wound healing, inflammatory bowel disease, and cancer.

Anthony J. DAY

Professor Tony Day has been a member of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell-Matrix Biology in Manchester since 2005. Tony's research is mostly focused on protein-GAG interactions in the context of inflammation, innate immunity and ovulation. For example, Tony's lab is investigating the role of matrix ageing as a contributing factor to the pathogenesis of age-related macular degeneration, and is developing a biological drug based on the tissue protective and anti-inflammatory protein TSG-6 for the use in osteoarthritis and osteoporosis. Tony is a founder member and former trustee of the International Society of Hyaluronan Sciences, was elected to the council of the International Society for Matrix Biology in 2016 and will act as Chair of the Gordon Research Conference on Proteoglycans in 2018. For further details see: http://www.wellcome-matrix.org/research_groups/tony-day.html