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October—December 2011

interLink

Linking the international community of TERMIS

Letter from the Editor

Dear TERMIS Members,

I hope you had a relaxing and regenerating period over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

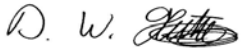
I also took a couple of days off and was watching on a Sunday afternoon a documentary tiled "Fiberglass and Megapixels; A Story about Surf Photographers in Hawaii." The documentary showed the heroic acts of the photographers staying put for many minutes and hours in the impact zone to get highlights of the best shots of the surfers. The definition of the impact zone is: „ The spot where a surfer receives the worst beating after wiping out or paddling out. This is where the waves break most consistently and ferociously. The impact zone is where the falling lip of each set wave usually meets the water!

As I was watching the documentary, I could not stop thinking about the analogy of doing translational research in our field; namely moving tissue-engineering concepts from the bench to the bedside. Finding the funding and organizing clinical trials for tissue engineered products in the current regulatory and economical environment feels sometimes like being in the impact zone of biomedical research. However, as TERMIS members we know that the future of our field relies upon the investment in continuing to make it the pinnacle of the biomedical research! Hence, we have to continue to expose ourselves without hesitation to the impact zone to the benefit of the patients and society at-large.

On that note, I am confident that year 2012 will have a major impact on our Society, as we will organize the TERMIS World Congress in Vienna. The conference will bring together the leaders in the field of basic and translational research in the TE&RM field. I look forward to witnessing the major breakthroughs in the grand lecture halls of the former Imperial Palace.

In closing, I would like to ask you in joining me in congratulating the newly elected TERMIS officers and council members.

Yours sincerely,

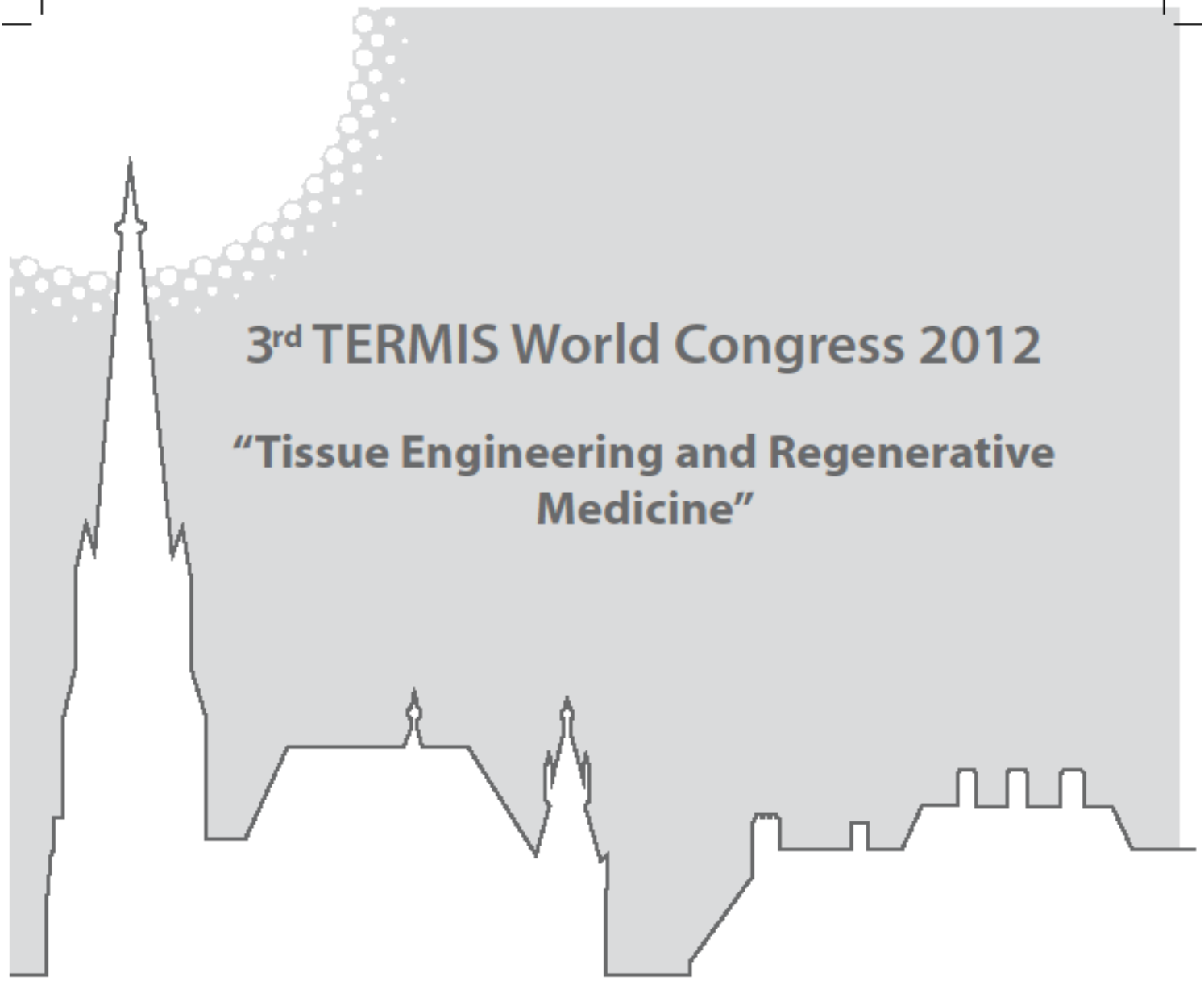


Professor Dietmar W. Hutmacher PhD (NUS), MBA (Henley)

Highlights

- 2011 TERMIS Election Results
- 2012 TERMIS World Congress
  - Call for Abstracts Deadline

Inside this issue:



3rd TERMIS World Congress 2012

"Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine"

September 5 - 8, 2012 Vienna, Austria

www.termis.org/wc2012

LBI Trauma

termis.

Society of the Advancement of Research in Shock and Tissue Engineering

EXPERTISSUES

ADVA

2012 TERMIS World Congress—Vienna, Austria

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The deadline to submit your abstract is **January 31st, 2012**. All abstracts should be submitted online via the World Congress website.

Connect with the world's top tissue engineering and regenerative medicine community as they convene in Vienna for this unparalleled opportunity. Join us to discuss advances and trends in the field; as well as to network with peers and friends from around the world.

Key speakers and chairpersons include world leaders in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. (TERMIS World Congress Board)

Plenary topics include (current status):

Future of Publishing: **Hutmacher Dietmar and Williams David**

"Essentia et Accedentia": The evolution of understanding aetiology and therapy of diseases: **Noe Christian**

Human Disease Models through Tissue Engineering: **Kaplan David**

Paradigm Shift in Tissue Engineering: **van Blitterswijk Clemens**

Paradigm Shift - Evolution of Tissue Engineering Strategies: **Martin Ivan**

We already have many exciting topics which will be covered (Symposia List).

Join us, get inspired, and advance your career. Read more about the meeting and submit your abstract today!

www.termis.org/wc2012

2011 TERMIS Election

Thank you to all of the nominees and to the members of the Society, who participated in the election!

We would also like to thank the Board Members and Council Members, whose terms currently ended, for their service.

Congratulations to the newly elected Board and Council Members!

Member-At-Large: Emerging Countries

Martha Fontanilla

Member-At-Large: North America

Robert Tranquillo

TERMIS-AP Continental Chair-Elect

Gilson Khang

TERMIS-NA Continental Chair-Elect

William Wagner

Asian-Pacific Council

Laura Poole-Warren

European Council

John Jansen

Cornelia Kasper

Jan Schrooten

North American Council

Peter Ma

Kacey Marra

Shelly Sakiyama-Elbert

Alison McGuigan

Jeremy Mao

TERMIS-NA Awards Committee

Alison McGuigan

TERMIS-NA Membership Committee

Milica Radisic

Eric Brey

Kurt Kasper

Maureen Dreher

Continental Chairs

AP: Teruo Okano

NA: Antonios Mikos

MembersAt-Large:

NA: David Kaplan

Council Members:

AP: Dietmar Hutmacher, Jin Ho Lee, F. H. Lin, Hsing-Wen Sung and Xingdong Zhang

EU: Antonio Campos, Erhan Pişkin, and Heinz Redl

NA: Brenda Mann, Buddy Ratner, Bill Tawil, and William Wagner

2011 TERMIS-EU Granada Conference Overview

"Cells and Tissues as Therapeutic Tools'

V EUROPEAN CHAPTER OF THE TISSUE ENGINEERING AND REGENERATIVE MEDICINE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY (TERMIS)

IN CONJUNCTION WITH XVI MEETINGOF THE SPANISH SOCIETY OF HISTOLOGY AND TISSUE ENGINEERING

The last Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society (TERMIS) EU meeting was held in June in Granada, Spain. With a record number of 1,017 attendants, the congress was a successful event in which researchers, clinicians, administrators and industry partners met each other and discussed on the most novel and relevant topics in the fields of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. The scientific level of the meeting was linked to the high participation of all attendants, with more than 1,000 submitted abstracts, including 554 accepted oral presentations and 464 posters. The number of symposia was 49, which were focused on topics ranging from the most basic research and methods to clinical translation, ethics and regulation.

During the meeting, delegates had the opportunity to discuss and share their knowledge on the most recent advances on tissue engineering and regenerative medicine related to the human bone, cartilage, teeth, eye, nerve system, placenta, skin, tendon, urinary apparatus, heart and blood vessels and children tissues, with different symposia dedicated to each one of these tissues and organs. Along with this, the meeting included several symposia focused on very relevant topics such as cell therapy, stem cells, cell viability and quality controls, gene therapy, extracellular matrix, biomaterials, biofabrication, biomechanics, nanotechnology, computational models, preclinical and clinical models.

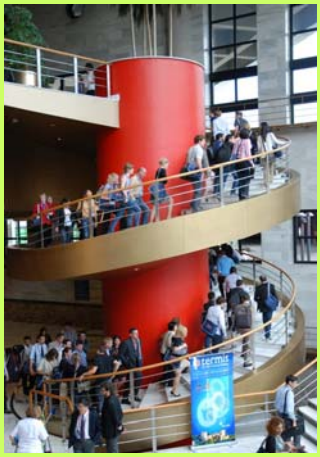
In addition, it was the second time that an "Industry Day" was organized during a TERMIS-EU chapter meeting. As a continuation of the very successful industry day hosted at the previous meeting held in Galway, the Granada meeting considered this session as an opportunity to discuss about regulation, commercialisation and marketing in advanced therapies. Relevant topics and case studies were presented by the most relevant specialists in the fields of cell therapy, tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. The industry day was one of the most popular sessions of the meeting, with a high number of attendants and a very active participation and interaction between the speakers and the delegates. Together with this, two interesting workshops were held during the meeting. The first of them focused on the fabrication of alginate gels, whereas the second workshop offered a good introduction to good manufacturing practice in tissue engineering. Both workshops were successful, as revealed by the high number of attendants and the interaction among them.

Strikingly, the very high number of participants in the meeting came from more than 40 countries all around the World. As expected, the highest percentage of participants corresponded to European delegates coming from Spain, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom and most of the countries in Europe. However, it is important to point out that nearly 10% of the delegates arrived from Asian countries, especially from Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan and Singapore, but also from Iran, Saudi Arabia and other countries. The celebration of two Korean-European symposia could have contributed to stimulate the participation of researchers and clinicians from Asia and Europe. Furthermore, 7.5% of the delegates came from the American continent, particularly from the U.S.A. and Canada, and almost 1% of the participants were Australian scientists. The conjunction of the best researchers from many parts of the World during the TERMIS-EU meeting reveals the increasing interest of the international community not only in all fields of research related to tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, but also in participating in our society as a platform for sharing knowledge and expertise.

One of the sessions of the meeting was organized by the Spanish Society of Histology and Tissue Engineering (SEHIT). This way, the TERMIS-EU meeting took place in conjunction with the biannual congress of the SEHIT society, thus supporting the very high participation of delegates from Spain and Latin America (Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Uruguay, Venezuela, Brazil and other countries).

Plenary and invited speakers included Prof. Anthony Atala, W.H. Boyce Professor and Director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and Chair of the Department of Urology at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine in North Carolina; Prof. Rui L. Reis, Associate Professor with Habilitation of the Dept. of Polymer Engineering, Director of the Materials Engineering Degree, Director of the Masters on Materials Engineering, Director of the PhD

Granada Conference Overview Continued…



program on Materials Engineering and Director of the 3B's Research Group; Prof. James Kirkpatrick, Professor of Pathology and Chairman, Institute of Pathology, The Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz; Prof. Paul Sharpe, Dickinson Professor of Craniofacial Biology, Dental Institute, Kings College London; Prof. José López Barneo, Professor of Physiology, University of Seville, and Director of the Institute of Biomedicine; Prof. Jeffrey Alan Hubbell, Laboratory for Regenerative Medicine & Pharmacobiology - Merck Serono Chair in Drug Delivery, Director of the Institute of Bioengineering, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. The high quality of the presentations was demonstrated by the record number of attendants to each session. It is important to note that each symposium counted with the participation of very relevant keynote speakers and presenters.

This meeting was organized and hosted by the Tissue Engineering Group of the University of Granada, headed by Prof. Antonio Campos. This group is one of the most active research groups in the University of Granada, and is formed by nearly 30 basic and clinical researchers in several fields of cell therapy and tissue engineering. The Tissue Engineering Group has developed different bioengineered tissue models - cornea, skin, oral mucosa, cartilage, etc. -, some of which are currently in the process of clinical translation in several clinical trials promoted by the regional Ministry of Health (Andalusian Initiative for Advanced Therapies).

The last TERMIS-EU meeting was held from June 7th to June 10th, 2011. The weather was nice and shiny most of the days, and people had the opportunity to visit the multiple monuments, landscapes and touristic places that Granada offers to all visitors. Along with the scientific sessions and symposia, the meeting offered a welcome reception with an entertaining flamenco show, a guided visit to the city and a gala dinner in a 5-century-old renaissance palace in the skirts of the ancient Unesco Heritage Albaicín quarter. As one of the most renowned touristic cities in Europe, Granada offered the opportunity to enjoy a nice tourist experience and a productive scientific interaction. In addition, Granada is also well-known within Spain for the prestigious University of Granada which has about 60,000 students spread over five different campuses in the city.

In summary, the TERMIS-EU 2011 organising committee were honored to have the opportunity to host all the delegates in the city of Granada. For that reason, the organizing committee wants to express our deep gratitude to TERMIS for giving us this wonderful opportunity and to all the conference delegates and speakers for making this successful and exciting meeting. Many thanks also to all our collaborators who helped us to organise this congress. Do not forget that you will always be welcome back in Granada.

TERMIS-EU 2011 Organizing Committee

Solicitation of Proposals—2015 TERMIS World Congress in North America

The TERMIS-NA Chapter Council would like to announce the solicitation of proposals for hosting the 2015 TERMIS World Congress that rotates to North America. If you are interested in hosting the 2015 TERMIS World Congress, please submit your request to the administrator, Sarah Wilburn at swilburn@termis.org. You will be provided with a meeting host form that asks detailed questions about the meeting organizers, location/venue, program, and meeting financials. When proposals are submitted, they will be reviewed by the TERMIS-NA Meetings Committee & TERMIS-NA Council and an official vote is conducted.
The deadline to submit proposals is Friday, June 29, 2012.

Laboratory Feature: Prof. Anthony Weiss, University of Sydney, Australia

Tony Weiss is the Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biotechnology at the University of Sydney, Australia. He was Chair SMB Proteomics and Biotechnology at the University of Sydney, and Foundation Chair of Molecular Biotechnology. His awards include Fulbright Scholar, Roslyn Flora Goulston Prize, NIH Fogarty International Fellow, Thomas and Ethel Mary Ewing Scholar, David Syme Research Medalist, Amersham Pharmacia Biotechnology Medalist, NSW Commercialization Expo Prize recipient, Australian Innovation Challenge Prize (2011), Sir Zelman Cowen Exchange Fellow (2011), Fondation des Treilles Scholar (2011) and Pauling Prize Medalist (2011). He was recent national chair of the Australian Research Council College of Experts and is on the Editorial Boards of Biomaterials, BioNanoScience and Biomacromolecules.

He is internationally known for his leading work on the function, use and properties of human tropoelastin. Tropoelastin is the natural protein precursor that assembles to give elastin in diverse elastic tissues, such as skin, vasculature, lung and bladder. Elastin provides these elastic tissues with the ability to stretch and recoil and plays a critical role in cell support. His lab, combined with regional and international collaborative activities, is yielding multiple tissue engineered constructs that are the subject of 20 awarded international patents in multiple jurisdictions and further patents pending. Professor Weiss is the scientific founder of Elastagen Pty Ltd, a clinical stage company which has pioneered the large scale production of clinical grade tropoelastin. Elastagen is currently conducting clinical trials on its Elastatherapy™ treatments for the repair and augmentation of human skin in both aesthetic and medical applications.

The Weiss lab philosophy is that it is best to use human protein to repair human tissues, i.e. human in human. As an important part of this approach, it is best to use a full-length faithful replica of the naturally secreted protein tropoelastin because of the unique combination of structural, physical, cell interactive, and molecular binding features that have evolutionarily developed to generate a refined and sophisticated molecule. It is this molecule that bestows persistent tissue-based elasticity on elastin, the longest lasting protein in human tissue. Elastin helps to give our skin elasticity through fibers that selectively permeate the dermis, and whose loss is associated with wrinkles as we age. Elastin is needed wherever our tissues require protein-based elasticity such as in the walls of elastic blood vessels that smooth out the peaks and troughs of systole and diastole with every heartbeat in a lifetime. Elastin destruction is a pathological marker in lung damage such as emphysema.

The Weiss lab has generated a series of publications that span from recombinant methods to produce large quantities of human tropoelastin, to tropoelastin assembly, to nano- and macro-structure studies, stability, molecular and cellular interactions, elastagenesis, sophisticated scaffold construction and the presentation of biological interfaces that display unique combinations of low thrombogenicity and selective cell attachment behavior through non-canonical, C-terminal mapped integrin binding. For example, two collaborative 2011 publications in PNAS present the solution nanostructure of tropoelastin and a physical model for the one-step immobilization of tropoelastin on polymer surfaces.

Application areas:

1. Elastic & soft tissue augmentation. In the skin, most elastin is located in the dermis, which is the springy middle layer. This elastic tissue is assembled as a continuous network of fibers that encompasses, with decreasing elastin content, the mature elastic fibers, wispy immature elaunin fibers and oxytalan fibers. The dense mass of elastic fibers in the reticular dermis dominates the region and is particularly important to the overall elasticity of the skin. Generally, the most mature, thicker elastin fibers are found deep in the dermis, where they function as an inter-penetrating elastin network. The Weiss lab has developed technologies to deliver tropoelastin intradermally and augment skin elasticity. Injectable formulations based on these concepts are currently being tested clinically in humans for skin augmentation and repair.

2. Skin repair. The Weiss lab is in the strong position of being able to offer a surgical replacement for the damaged elastic dermis, intended to relieve the effects of substantial trauma such as second and third degree burns or following surgical removal. This rapid replacement approach provides the opportunity to accelerate wound repair through a combination of 'instant elasticity' by surgical delivery of these manufactured constructs, combined with the chemotactic promotion of fibroblast cell infiltration, while minimizing inflammatory responses. Supercritical gas permeation (by collaboration with Fariba Dehghani) and electrospinning help to give scaffolds productive architectures, while generating biomaterials that robustly accomodate sutures and staples. In vivo testing collaborators include Zhe Li, Yiwei Wang, Cara Young, Peter Maitz, Xue-Qing Wang and Roy Kimble. Further new, composite constructs are very promising, while self assembled and open fiber synthetic human elastin constructs display pervasive porosity and cell infiltration in vitro and in vivo.

3. Vascular conduits and stent modification. Working in association with Marcela Bilek, David McKenzie, Steven Wise, Anna Waterhouse, Mike Byrom, Paul Bannon, Martin Ng and Bob Bao, the Weiss lab has constructed and tested a series of elastin-based vascular conduits and tropoelastin-modified metal stents in vitro and in vivo. Vascular conduits are showing considerable promise: elastic constructs respond with characteristic artery-like elasticity and selected constructs promote relevant cell attachment while minimizing restenosis. Modified metal stents adapt novel technologies that can be used to attach multiple molecules, stably avoid delamination and reveal markedly reduced thrombogenicity. Collaborations that include Christian Schmelzer and Andrea Heinz have helped to identify proteolytic signatures and bioactive products. The Weiss lab has tested the immobilization of tropoelastin and derivatives, including tailored, serum protease-resistant tropoelastin-based molecules that retain cell binding and reduced thrombogenicity functionality.

4. Composite materials. Tropoelastin's unusual protein-based combination of elasticity, cell attachment, selective promotion of cell spreading and proliferation, and capacity for derivatization, collectively mean that tropoelastin is highly amenable to the formation of composites without compromising functionality and lead to multiple collaborations. For example, the Weiss lab collaborates with David Kaplan's lab (Tufts) to generate silk-elastin biomaterials that modulate the influence of elasticity and surface roughness on myogenic and osteogenic differentiation of cells. Studies with Jeff Holst and John Rasko and colleagues present a role for mechanical signals through substrate elasticity that help to expand hemopoietic stem and progenitor cells. An NIH-funded project that includes Lisa Freed and Bob Langer (MIT) utilizes tropoelastin-based materials to generate scalable units for building vascularized cardiac grafts.

Selected recent references

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Rnjak-Kovacina, J. and Weiss, A.S. (2011) Increasing the pore size of electrospun scaffolds. *Tissue Eng.* **17,** 365-372.

Rnjak-Kovacina, J., Wise, S.G., Li, Z., Maitz, P.K.M., Young, C.J., Wang, Y. and Weiss, A.S. (2011) Tailoring the porosity and pore size of electrospun synthetic human elastin scaffolds for dermal tissue engineering. *Biomaterials* **32,** 6729-6736.

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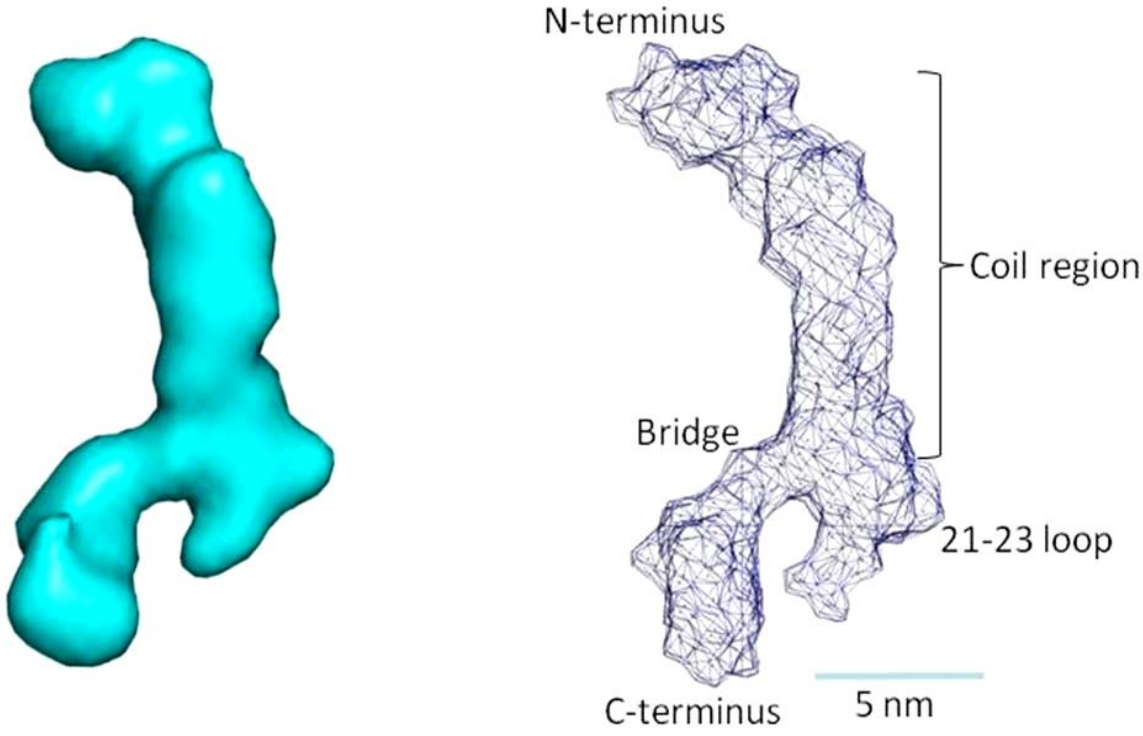
Holst, J., Watson, S., Lord, M., Eamegdool, S.S., Bax, D.V., Nivison-Smith, L.B., Kondyurin, A., Ma, L., Oberhauser, A.F., Weiss, A.S. and Rasko, J.E.J. (2010) Substrate elasticity provides mechanical signals for the expansion of hemopoietic stem and progenitor cells. *Nature Biotech.* **28,** 1123–1128.

Figure 1. Tropoelastin is a molecular nanospring (adapted from Baldock et al. (2011) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* **108,** 4322-4327).



Laboratory Feature Continued...

Figure 2. Synthetic elastin scaffolds are effective in mice. Full thickness excision and replacement repair is supported by fibroblast infiltration and collagen deposition. Scale bar is 100 microns. Dashes delineate boundary inserts (adapted from Rnjak et al. (2009) *Biomaterials* **30,** 6469-6477 and Rnjak et al. (2011) *Tissue Eng* **17,** 81-91).

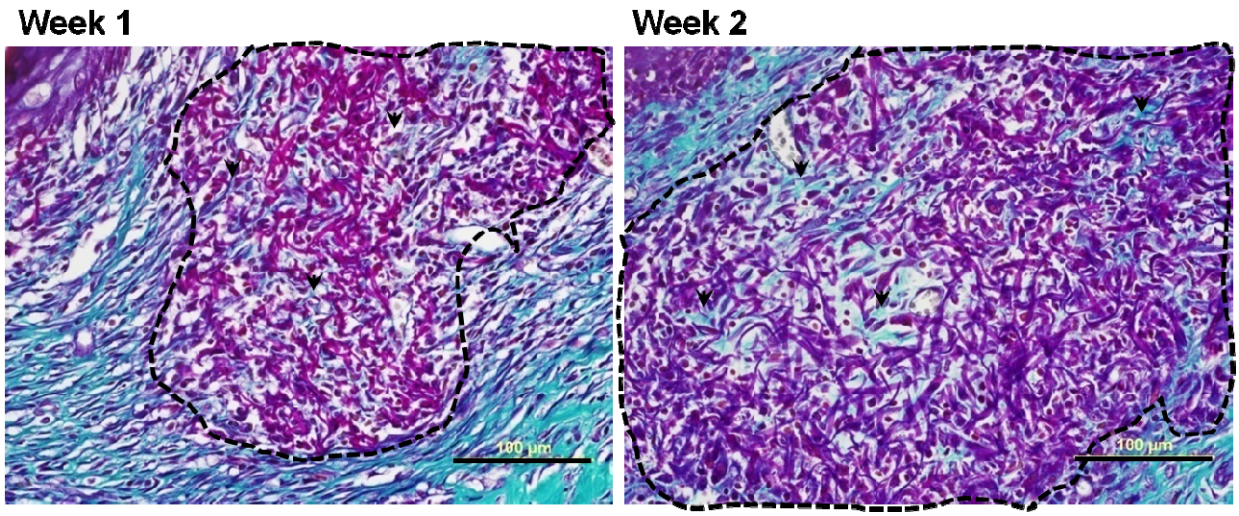


Figure 3. Tropoelastin delivers a range of diverse biomaterials that include sheets, elastic hydrogels, fibers and tubes.

All conferences listed have been reviewed and approved for endorsement by the TERMIS Endorsement Committee

Upcoming Conferences

January 2012

BME4 - 4th International Conference on The Development of Biomedical Engineering Conference Theme: Regenerative Medicine Conference, "Building A Face" Using A Regenerative Medicine Approach Conference Location: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Conference Dates: January 8-10, 2012 Conference Organizers: Vo Van Toi, PhD: International University of Vietnam National Universities in HCM City, Vietnam Stephen E. Feinberg, DDS, PhD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA Anh Le, DDS, PhD: University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA

April 2012

7th Symposium on Biologic Scaffolds for Regenerative Medicine Symposium Dates: April 26-28, 2012 Symposium Location: The Silverado Resort, Napa Valley, CA Symposium Organizer: Stephen F. Badylak, DVM, PhD, MD Keynote Speaker: Mina J. Bissell For more information, please contact: Jocelyn L. Runyon Phone: +1 (412) 624-5253

May 2012

ICRS 2012 - 10th World Congress of the International Cartilage Repair Society World Congress Dates: May 12-15, 2012 World Congress Location: Montreal, Quebec, Canada

August 2012

Rice University's Advances in Tissue Engineering Short Course Short Course Dates: August 8-11, 2012 Short Course Location: Rice University BioScience Research Collaborative Short Course Director: Dr. Antonios G. Mikos

2012 ISOMRM 2nd International Symposium of Materials on Regenerative Medicine Symposium Dates: August 29-31, 2012 Taipei, Taiwan, ROC 10% registration discount will be available for TERMIS members

September 2012

2012 3rd TERMIS World Congress: Vienna, Austria Conference Dates: September 5-8, 2012 Conference Location: Hofburg Congress Center in Vienna, Austria Conference Chair: Heinz Redl, PhD To request further information, please contact: Dr. Heinz Redl

June 2013

2013 TERMIS-EU: Istanbul, Turkey Conference Dates: June 12-15, 2013 Conference Location: Istanbul, Turkey Conference Chair: Erhan Pişkin, PhD

October 2013

2013 TERMIS-AP: P. R. China Conference Dates: October 2013 Conference Chair: Yilin Cao, MD, PhD

December 2013

2013 TERMIS-NA: Atlanta, GA Conference Location: Atlanta, Georgia Conference Chair: Robert E. Guldberg, PhD Conference Program Chair: Todd C. McDevitt, PhD More details to follow.

June 2014

2014 TERMIS-EU: Genoa, Italy Conference Dates: 10-13 June 2014 Conference Co-Chairs: Ranieri Cancedda and Claudio Migliaresi More details to follow.

Current Employment Opportunities

TERMIS members still have the benefit of posting current job openings on the TERMIS website free for 30 days.

RegenerativeMedicineJobs.com is a specialized online job board focused on recruiting for positions in the rapidly growing field of regenerative medicine. The site is simple to use and focused in scope but this is more than just another website. RMJ has developed a sophisticated system designed to leverage our extensive network in RM to ensure every post gets maximum attention and attracts the best candidates.

Traffic is pulled to the site and job postings are pushed to a targeted audience by focused social media and marketing campaigns. This is the latest way to recruit for any position in a regenerative medicine department, division, or company. This is regenerative medicine recruiting with a focus.

All TERMIS members are entitled to a 25% discount for posting positions on RegenerativeMedicineJobs.com

Linking the international community of TERMIS

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Interested in contributing to the TERMIS Newsletter?

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