Notes From the Director

Happy New Year and welcome to the January, 2013 issue of our CMBD quarterly newsletter. I hope that you had a very happy holiday season, and we are very excited about what this year will bring to our Center! I would like to take just a moment to share with you a few updates and announcements to ring in the New Year.

The CMBD would first like to congratulate Dezhi Wang, MD, Research Associate in the Histomorphometry and Molecular Analysis Core, for receiving the Specialist Qualification in Immunohistochemistry award from the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

The "Diabetes, Obesity, and the Skeleton" collaborative focus group will continue their bi-monthly working luncheon with a meeting on January 14th at noon in SHEL 817. The focus of the group is to explore the possibility of establishing a group project that would utilize the expansive resources available at UAB and culminate in a joint grant submission, possibly to a Program Project opportunity. The working luncheons include research project presentations by laboratories of the participating group faculty. Please contact Ginny Duke at ginnyd@uab.edu if you would like to take part in this initiative.

The speaker list for the upcoming CMBD symposium has been finalized. The symposium, which will focus on the science and biology/genetics of bone disease and its clinical management, is entitled "Osteoporosis: Biology & Targeting" and will be held May 9th-10th, 2013, at the Edge of Chaos on campus. The included speakers are:

External:
Elizabeth Shane, MD, Professor of Medicine; Vice-Chair for Clinical and Epidemiological Research, Columbia Univ., College of Physicians & Surgeons
Maurizio Pacifici, PhD, Professor and Director, Department of Orthopaedic Research, Thomas Jefferson Univ.
Nelson Watts, MD, Professor of Medicine, Director, UC Bone Health and Osteoporosis Center, Univ. of Cincinnati
Florent Elefteriou, PhD, Associate Professor, Departments of Medicine, Pharmacology and Cancer
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Biology, Director, Vanderbilt Center for Bone Biology, Vanderbilt Univ. Medical Center

Internal:
Rosa Serra, PhD, Professor, Department of Cell, Developmental & Integrative Biology
Greg Clines, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine
Amy Warriner, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine

Finally, in order to engage the Birmingham community with the CMBD, we will hold a competition this spring that will be open to high school students throughout the Greater Birmingham Area. The competition will provide a three tiered monetary award to teams producing the best video to raise awareness of osteoporosis and fractures. Students will be encouraged to be creative and imaginative in their video content, and videos may consist of ideas including but not limited to documentaries, music/dance videos, flash mobs, interpretive dance or theatrical presentations. The winners will receive their awards and their videos will be shown at the upcoming symposium in May. Contest details are still being worked out but if you have any questions please contact Ginny Duke at ginnyd@uab.edu.

Best Regards,
Majd Zayzafoon, MD, PhD

CMBD Article Spotlight:
A Randomized Trial of a Mailed Intervention and Self-Scheduling to Improve Osteoporosis Screening in Postmenopausal Women

The multidisciplinary research team of Amy Warriner, MD, Ryan Outman, MS, Elizabeth Kitchin, MS, RD, Lang Chen, MD, PhD, Sarah Morgan, MD, RD, CCD, Kenneth Saag, MD, MSc, and Jeffrey Curtis, MD, MPH, recently published an article in JBMR which explores the possibility of achieving greater rates of osteoporosis screening among eligible women by identifying a systematic, effective, and generalizable way for healthcare providers and patients to schedule DXA results directly. The study found that DXA scan completion was significantly improved through the use of a mailed osteoporosis brochure and the availability for patients to self-schedule, and it is presented that this method may improve the percentage of necessary scans that get done by removing impediments such as waiting for physician orders.
Upcoming CMBD Special Seminar
Guest Dr. Roberto Civitelli

On January 18th, 2013, the CMBD will host a special seminar featuring Roberto Civitelli, MD, Professor, Departments of Medicine, Orthopaedic Surgery, and Cell Biology and Physiology; Chief, Division of Bone and Mineral Diseases, Washington University. The title of Dr. Civitelli's talk will be "Mechanisms of Cortical Bone Modeling by Connexin43."

A graduate of the University of Siena in Tuscany, Italy, Dr. Civitelli is the Sydney M. and Stella Schoenberg Professor of Medicine at Washington University. He is also a professor of orthopedic surgery and professor of cell biology and physiology. His specialty is bone and mineral health with a special interest in osteoporosis. The current research in Dr. Civitelli's laboratory includes osteoporosis, bone disorders and calcium disorders, from clinical presentations to basic physiology mechanisms, to cells and molecules.

2012-13 Journal Club and Seminar Series Schedule

Journal Club and Seminar meetings are now the 1st/3rd Friday of every month at noon. The CMBD recently joined up with the Rheumatology Journal Club to hold four shared meetings this academic year. These four meetings will be held in SHEL 105 and the dates and presenters can be found in the 2012-13 schedule.

If you are interested in presenting an article or giving a talk about your research please contact Ginny Duke at ginnyd@uab.edu or 205-934-6666.

Please contact Ginny Duke at ginnyd@uab.edu or 205-934-6666 with any news or topic suggestions you would like to see in future CMBD Newsletter editions.