



Penn Center for
Musculoskeletal Disorders
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Looking Forward to the 2024 PCMD Annual Scientific Symposium - November 20, 2024



Preparations are well underway for the 20th Annual Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders Scientific Symposium in the Smilow Rubinstein Auditorium and Commons to be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. The year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Marie B. Demay, Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Physician Investigator, Mass General Research Institute and Physician of Medicine-Endocrinology at Massachusetts General Hospital.

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.

2024 PCMD Pilot Grant Recipients Announced

PCMD Pilot Grant Program

The Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders Pilot and Feasibility Grant Program has awarded four investigators with one year of funding for their pilot grant projects with a start date of July 1, 2024.

Damaris Lorenzo, Ph.D. will receive funding for his grant titled "Contribution of cytoskeleton components and adaptors to structural and energetic adaptations of skeletal muscle during exercise"

X. Sherry Liu, Ph.D. will receive funding for her grant titled "Interactions between bone and marrow adipose tissue during lactation and post weaning"

Jennifer Kalish, Ph.D. will receive funding for her grant titled "Mechanisms of tongue skeletal muscle overgrowth in Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome"

Lachlan Smith, Ph.D. will receive funding for his grant titled "Extended Release of Therapeutic mRNA to Treat Joint Disease in the Mucopolysaccharidoses"

PCMD Core News

Biomechanics Core New Director:

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Joel Boerckel has been appointed the Director of the Biomechanics Core of the Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders (PCMD). Joel has extensive experience in biomechanical research, dating back to his days as a graduate student! For any requests and questions regarding the use of the PCMD Biomechanics Core,

please direct your inquiries to Joel at boerckel@pennmedicine.upenn.edu.

We would like to take this time to thank Dr. Michael Hast for his years of service and expertise to the Biomechanics Core. Dr. Hast has taken a new position at the University of Delaware and we wish him all the best!

Spotlight News/Publications From Our Members



Congratulations to Nat Dyment, Ph.D. !

Congratulation to Nat Dyment on his election as Vice Chair of the Musculoskeletal Biology and Bioengineering 2026 Gordon Research Conference. Together with Dr. Ralph Marcucio he will serve as Co-Chair on the meeting in 2028.

Congratulations to Spencer Szczesny, Ph.D.

Congratulation to Spencer Szczesny on his election as an American Society of Mechanical Engineers Fellow.



NEWLY APPOINTED NIH GRANTS

Congratulations to the following PCMD Members on their newly appointed NIH grants!

Sarah Gullbrand, Ph.D. awarded a R01 titled "Disc-Facet Crosstalk During Spinal Degeneration and Repair"

Nat Dyment, Ph.D. and Andrew Kuntz, M.D. awarded a R01 titled "Localized small molecule delivery to improve tendon-to-bone integration following anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction"

Joel Boerckel, Ph.D. and Nat Dyment, Ph.D. awarded a R01 titled "Effects of maternal exercise on fetal akinesia-impaired bone and joint development"

Robert Mauck, Ph.D., Nat Dyment, Ph.D., Lin Han, Ph.D., Eiki Koyama, Ph.D. awarded aR01 titled "Mechanical Regulation of Cell Fate and Multi-Scale Function in the Developing Meniscus"

PENN CENTER FOR MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS FUNDS AVAILABLE:

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@pennmedicine.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 2024-2025

October

22

Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 1:30 pm-2:30 pm / CRB Austrian Auditorium

Joint with IRM

Interrogating Osteoclast Biology by Live Cell Imaging Reveals Novel Insight into their Cellular and Resorption Dynamics

Sarah L. Dallas, PhD

University of Missouri Curator’s Distinguished Professor

Lee M. and William Lefkowitz Endowed Professor

University of Missouri-Kansas City

November

20

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 8:00 am-6:00 pm / Smilow Rubinstein Auditorium & Commons

Annual Scientific Symposium

Regulation of Post-Natal Growth Plate Maturation

Keynote Speaker:

Marie DeMay, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

December

10

Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 1:30 pm-2:30 pm / CRB Austrian Auditorium

Intraarticular Microbial Products: a Potential Driver of Osteoarthritis Pathogenesis

Matlock Jefferies, MD

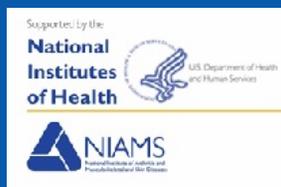
Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine

University of Oklahoma Health Services

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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@penncmedicine.upenn.edu

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