



December 2023



New Mentor Matching Program

Are you hoping to increase your visibility and improve connections with colleagues outside your home institution? Are you in search of guidance in various aspects of your career? **To help support and grow our community at all levels, the [ORS Tendon Section](#) is launching a new mentor matching program.**

This program is designed to provide mentorship opportunities for our members, offering both peer (at a similar stage) and aspirant (at a relatively senior stage) mentor/mentee matching. Our goal is to pair mentors and mentees based on the specific needs of the mentee, including but not limited to professional development, personnel management, departmental/institutional politics, parenting, self-care, grant writing, scientific communication, and more! Whether you choose to be a mentor or a mentee, we ask for a commitment of at least one year of paired or small group mentoring, tailored to your needs, with dedicated time set aside at various conferences throughout the year.

We will kick off this mentoring program at or before the ORS Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California, this February. If you're interested in finding out more or joining as either a mentor or a mentee, please fill out a brief survey by clicking the link below.

[Mentor Matching Program Survey](#)

Save the Date!

Join us for the **2024 Tendon Section Social Event** on Sunday, February 4th, from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the [Blind Donkey](#) in Long Beach, CA. This gathering offers a perfect opportunity for quality time and networking among fellow tendon researchers before the ORS Annual Meeting 70th Anniversary Celebration. The event is open to all Tendon Section members.



Building the New Tendon Alumni Network

The Tendon Section Membership Committee is working hard to create new opportunities for connection within and beyond our community. **We are now starting to build an alumni network!** Specifically, we are looking to connect current tendon section members with alumni of the tendon section and tendon-focused research labs for the purposes of hosting career development seminars, facilitating job searches, and building community.

If you're a PI and would like to add your alumni, please add a list of former trainees (graduate students, postdocs, technicians, residents, etc.) to the link below. If comfortable, please share information on known current employment and contact information. [CLICK HERE](#) to access a template.

Add Your Alumni

If you're an individual and would like to submit your own information, please access the Google sheet below. Adding your contact information implies that you are open to being contacted by the Section.

Submit Your Information

Postdoctoral Position in Tendon Biology

Chad C. Carroll, Ph.D., at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN., is seeking to hire a post-doctoral fellow interested in tendon biology. The long-term goal of Dr. Carroll's research is to determine the mechanisms contributing to poor tendon health and discover approaches for normalizing tendon function. Dr. Carroll's multi-faceted research program has projects focused on endogenous circulating mediators of tendon pathology. These mediators include advanced glycation end-products (AGEs) and hormones such as estrogen.

The successful applicant will gain experience with human subjects' research, genetic mouse models, magnetic resonance imaging studies, and ultrasound to assess tendon properties. Learn more about the position and how you can apply by clicking the link below.

[Learn More](#)

Are you in search of exceptional talent to join your lab or company? Amplify your reach by advertising open positions to the ORS Tendon Section community through this newsletter. Please include in your submission the position description, attributes of a successful applicant, how to apply, and the duration of your posting. Submit your advertisement by clicking on the link below or emailing it to the Tendon Section Membership Committee at connizzo@bu.edu.



[Submit Your Job Posting](#)

Research Section Member Spotlights



Ben Freedman, PhD

Current Title, Department, Employer:

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Member of the Faculty, Harvard Medical School

"My research focuses on the design and synthesis of biomaterials to improve the repair of biological tissues, with a special focus in orthopaedics. The goal of these multifunctional biomaterials is to provide an adhesive interface to anchor scaffolds directly to tissue surfaces, create niche environments to maintain tendon derived cell homeostasis, and serve as drug delivery systems for therapeutics to improve tissue healing."

Stay Connected with Dr. Ben Freedman

[Twitter](#) | [Website](#)

[Read Full Interview](#)



Thomas Schilling, PhD, MS, BS

Current Title, Department, Employer:

Professor, Department of Developmental and Cell Biology, University of California, Irvine

"I am keen on outreach efforts to promote science to underrepresented minorities in our local Hispanic communities in southern California. To this end, our UCI Zebrafish group has joined an outreach program called BioEyes that brings simple experiments with zebrafish to local schools and is the first to do so to largely Spanish speaking students."

Stay Connected with Dr. Thomas Schilling

[Lab Website](#)

[Read Full Interview](#)

Trainees Around the Globe:



Alina Kurjan, MSc

Current Title, Department, Employer:

PhD Candidate, Nuffield Department of Orthopedics, Rheumatology, and Musculoskeletal Sciences (NDORMS), University of Oxford

"After completing a biomaterials-focused project around pericyte differentiation into cartilage-like tissues, I was fascinated by the potential clinical applications and wanted to contribute specifically to the field of musculoskeletal research."

Stay Connected with Alina Kurjan

[Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

[Read Full Interview](#)

Recent Publications from the Tendon Section



As a section member, you have the privilege of accessing a compiled list of published articles and preprints relevant to the orthopaedic field. Check out this key benefit to stay well-informed and engaged with current research and developments.

The Membership Committee has chosen a few favorites to highlight in this quarterly newsletter. In addition, please stay tuned for our upcoming virtual seminar series featuring new *Hot-Off-The-Press* preprints from members of our tendon community!

Register for the 2024 Annual Meeting



Be a part of history when ORS celebrates *70 Years of Advancing Research to Keep the World Moving* at the 2024 ORS Annual Meeting, February 2-6 in Long Beach, CA. The meeting brings the orthopaedic community together for five days of workshops, learning sessions, networking, and advocacy. Attendees from many disciplines and career levels will network and learn about the latest innovations in orthopaedics. **Registration for the 2024 Annual Meeting is open.** We hope to see all Tendon Section Members there.

[Register Now](#)

New Investigator Toolkit from LearnORS



LearnORS has just launched the *New Investigator Toolkit*. The toolkit addresses common gaps in training that surface during the launch of an independent laboratory. These online sessions bring together early and mid-career investigators for panel discussions on the development of critical "soft-skills" such as cultivating mentoring skills, building your lab brand, and strategic planning through different career stages. In addition, sessions of budgeting and peer-review provide tangible tips for

these important aspects of managing your lab and building your career. This course is available now, online, on demand, on your own schedule.

[Learn More](#)

What Does Tendon Section Membership Mean to You?



Members of ORS Tendon Section Leadership are working hard to bring you exciting scientific content and networking opportunities, as well as to increase the visibility of our members and their work. We educate fellow researchers and granting agencies about tendon research through scientific content at the [ORS Annual Meeting](#), and through the [2024 ORS Tendon Conference](#).

Our goals are to improve knowledge exchange, define best practices for tendon research, foster discussion on new approaches, and facilitate interactions between clinicians, engineers, and researchers. In addition, we plan career development seminars and social events to bring together the community and provide networking opportunities all year long, facilitating collaborations and friendships.

Finally, the Section website and newsletter, The Tendon Times, updates the community on the latest and greatest in tendon research as well as upcoming events. We strive to make this community diverse, inclusive, friendly, and fun! **Please help us to grow by spreading the word on how fantastic Section Membership is.**

Here is what Tendon Section membership means to Dr. Vincent Wang, an Associate Professor at Virginia Tech and a longstanding member of the Tendon Section:



"Suffice it to say that I have been a long-time tendon enthusiast, with initial experience in ligament/tendon biomechanics research during graduate school, a specific focus on tendon injury and healing during my post-doc, and pursuit of a variety of tendon studies (ranging from surgical repair to clinical imaging/radiomics) as a faculty member. Throughout my numerous years of tendon research, the ORS has easily been my favorite conference for learning of the latest, impressive advances in the field and sharing my lab's work. The founding of the Tendon Section has created an additional 'home' within the ORS and continues to be a fantastic resource for researchers around the world. In addition to its scientific forums, I particularly appreciate that the Tendon Section emphasizes mentoring and collaboration."



Orthopaedic Research Society

9400 W. Higgins Road, Ste. 225
Rosemont, Illinois 60018
(847) 823-5770
ors@ors.org

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