March 2024

A Message From The Section Chair

To the Meniscus Section and Beyond,

I am pleased and honored to serve you as the next Chair of the ORS Meniscus Section. Over the past year, I have worked closely with Dr. Chathuraka Jayasuriya, the outgoing Chair, and I want to start by thanking him for his guidance and friendship. Under his leadership, the Meniscus Section had a very successful year, with a phenomenal section meeting and networking event in Long Beach.

The ORS 2024 Meniscus Section meeting was wildly successful, with a focus on translating personalized therapies towards the clinic. We were fortunate to have Dr. Charles Gatt (device fabrication and testing), Dr. Adetola Adesida (cellular considerations), Dr. Jennifer Puetzer (construct maturation), and Mr. Aric Kaiser (FDA; regulatory pathway) speak about their experiences and perspectives, on what was perhaps the most-attended section meeting to date. Also, of note was awarding the inaugural Meniscus Section Impact Award to Dr. Suzanne Maher, a well-deserved recognition for her contributions to meniscus research and service.

The meniscus community is truly wonderful in its breadth of research, transparency, mentoring, and collaboration. I am always counting the days to our various events during the year and especially to the annual section meeting; I look forward to leading the charge in planning these activities for the next year. Based on feedback from our last meeting, these include programming geared towards preclinical models of meniscus injury, guiding regeneration via developmental cues, and networking to foster new and exciting collaborations. Stay up to date by keeping an eye out for Meniscus Section-related e-mails and following following us on Twitter (X).

On behalf of the Meniscus Section leadership, we look forward to catching up with you again soon!

Best,
ORS Annual Meeting Recap

After the success of the ORS 2023 Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas which was followed by various virtual events throughout the year, the ORS 2024 Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California was a great experience. The meeting not only included outstanding scientific sessions but also involved career development programs, workshops, and networking events and was a huge success altogether.

The ORS Meniscus Section Meeting featured brainstorming sessions followed by presentations from four key speakers on the intricacies and practical considerations in the development and translation of novel personalized strategies to treat meniscus injury. The meeting covered considerations from the perspective of developing and translating devices (non-biologics), cellular biologics, and combined tissue engineering strategies. It kicked off on Saturday, Feb 3 with a welcome note from Section Chair Chathuraka Jayasuriya, PhD. The introductory session was followed by excellent scientific talks delivered by a team of prolific speakers. Finally, Aric Kaiser, MS from the US FDA delivered an excellent talk on “Regulatory Considerations from Early Development to Translation” and discussed important regulatory aspects to keep in mind throughout the development cycle of these technologies that will help to smooth the path to translation.

The Meniscus Section community also organized a workshop at the annual meeting titled Combining Surgical Breakthroughs with Cutting-Edge Research for the Good of the Meniscus that was organized by Andreas Seitz, PhD, and Romain Seil, MD. The workshop featured six prolific speakers: Caroline Mouton, PhD, Hideyuki Koga, MD, PhD, Graciosa Teixeira, PhD, Henning Madry, MD, Chang Lee, PhD, and Aaron Krych, MD.

Finally, the Meniscus Section members enjoyed an exciting and fun-filled social hour event at nearby Solita Tacos and Margarita restaurant. Thanks to all who attended!
2024 Award Winners

Meniscus Podium Award Recipient

Alexandra Dumas  
University of Pennsylvania  
Decellularized Meniscus Scaffolds and Cartilage Progenitor Cells For Total Meniscal Repair

Meniscus Poster Award Recipients

Serafina Lopez  
Cornell University  
Aggrecan siRNA Treatment Improves Collagen Fiber Diameter In Tissue Engineered Meniscus

Jonas Schwer  
Ulm University (Germany)  
The Biomechanical Properties Of Human Menisci As A Basis For Future Replacement Designs: A Systematic Review

Hilda Ma  
University of Alberta (Canada)  
Temporal And Sex-dependent Effect Of Short-term Simulated Microgravity On Human Meniscus Tissue Model

Research Section Member Spotlights

Alexandra Dumas  
Undergraduate Research Assistant in Gottardi Bioengineering and Biomaterials Lab  
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and University of Pennsylvania

"My introduction to the meniscus was developing decellularized meniscus scaffolds (MEND) for cartilage tissue engineering in the upper airway. In this work, I saw the potential of our material to
produce robust cartilage, and as such Dr. Gottardi and I began to wonder whether our scaffolds -produced from red zone meniscus- could be used for partial meniscal repair of both major meniscal regions.

Jonas Schwer, MSc
Doctoral Candidate
Institute of Orthopaedic Research and Biomechanics, University of Ulm

"At first glance, my path into meniscus research was not really predetermined. I am a computational engineer by background, and my undergraduate studies focused on general mathematical and engineering problems. However, during my master’s program, my interest turned to the medical field. Under the supervision of Dr.-Ing. Ulrich Simon, I gained valuable experience in bone remodeling simulations and musculoskeletal modeling of the human forearm."

Recent Meniscus Publications

The Section Communications & Networking Committee is excited to share the latest publications by ORS Meniscus Section members. Check out this key benefit of section membership to stay well-informed and engaged with current research and developments.

Funding Opportunities

AOSSM Return to Play Clinical Research
Grant Amount: $200,000
**Deadline: Sunday, March 31, 2024**

OREF Osteoarthritis Research Grant
Grant Amount: $50,000
Deadline: April 11, 2024

AOSSM Steven P. Arnoczky Young Investigator Grant
Grant Amount: $40,000
Deadline: Pre-proposals May 15, 2024

AOSSM Sandy Kirkley Clinical Outcomes Research Grant
Grant Amount: $20,000
Find or Post Events on the Orthopaedic Events Calendar

An orthopaedic events calendar has been added to the ORS website. The events listed are of potential interest to those in the orthopaedic community. **ORS Members are welcome to submit applicable events at no charge** through the Submit Event button at the top of the calendar on the site. This is an excellent opportunity to spread the word about your orthopaedic-related events, ensuring they reach a wider and engaged audience.

Share Your Work with the Meniscus Community!

Keep up with the ORS Meniscus Section by connecting with us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com). Please follow us, share our posts with your connections, invite others, and tag us when you have good information to share. Be sure to use #MeniscusMonday when sharing your latest work! In addition, reach out with any
questions and/or suggestions. Interested in being featured as a Spotlight Member? Please contact our Networking Committee.

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