



# Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders Symposium



Liane Miller, MD

Under the direction of Dr. Lou Soslowky, PhD, the Penn Center for Musculoskeletal

Disorders (PCMD) held their annual Scientific Symposium on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the Smilow Rubenstein Auditorium of the University of Pennsylvania. Designed to showcase and support the academic pursuits of PCMD members, the Symposium drew a large number of participants and visitors to celebrate the work being done by the researchers at Penn.

The morning began with a session headed by new members, moderated by Ling Qin,

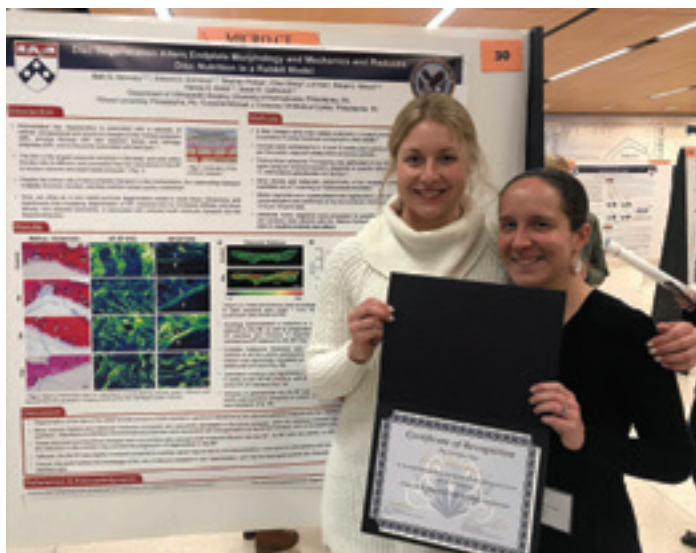
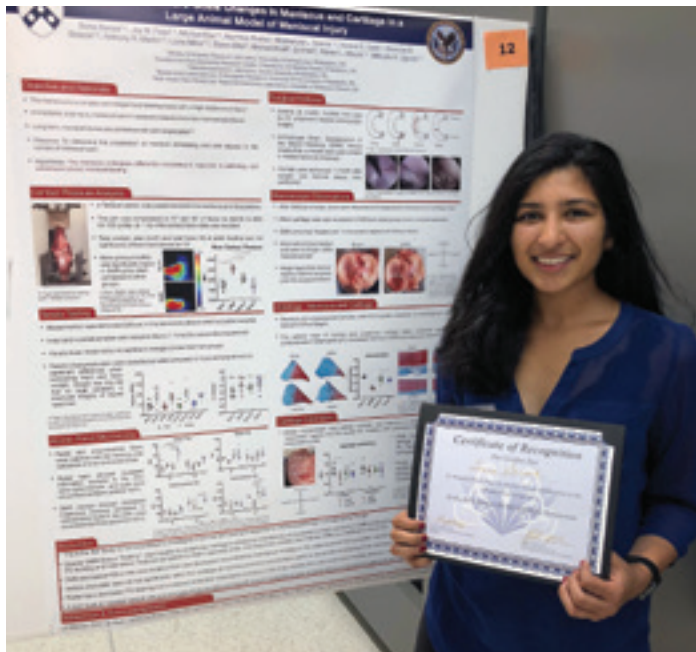
PhD. Speakers included Jordan Raney, PhD (3D Printing Bioinspired Materials with Spatially-Controlled Fiber Alignment); Zoltan Arany, MD, PhD (From Pregnancy to Titin); and Paris Margaritis, DPhil. (The Hemophilia A Rat as a Model to Study Hemophilic Arthropathy).

The morning continued with lectures by affiliate PCMD members, moderated by Lachlan Smith, PhD. Talks included “Orthopaedic Implants and Infections: Surfaces, Synovial Fluid, and the Joint Environment” by Noreen Hickok, PhD, of Thomas Jefferson University; “Peripheral Nerve Injury Adjunct Treatments for Classification” by John Elfar, MD, of Penn State Health; and “Biomimetic Proteoglycans in Extracellular Matrix Regeneration” by Michele Marcolongo, PhD, from Drexel.

The lunch session coincided with poster presentations by all PCMD members, showcasing their work over the past year, which then led directly into the afternoon lecture session, moderated by Maurizio Pacifici, PhD. This session included talks by Pilot Grantees and included Dr. Harvey Smith discussing “Novel Quantitative Assessment and Treatment Strategies for the Degenerated Intervertebral Disc.”

The afternoon session concluded with an address by the keynote speaker, Brendan Lee, PhD, and Robert and Janice McNair Endowed Chair in Molecular and Human Genetics at Baylor College of Medicine. Moderated by Kyu Sang Joeng, PhD, Dr. Lee discussed “Skeletal Dysplasias: Informing Skeletal Function and Homeostasis” where he provided a detailed look into what he and his team have accomplished at the forefront of bone research.

The symposium was then concluded with a final question and answer session with the keynote speaker followed by the announcement of poster award winners. The symposium was an enormous success, and promises to be a highly regarded function and point of pride for the Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders in years to come.



PCMD Poster Award Winners