

The 4th International Workshop on Musculoskeletal and Neuronal Interactions

Foreword

In this issue we are fortunate to have speakers from the 4th International Workshop on Musculoskeletal and Neuronal Interactions May 26th to 31st, 2004, Meliton Beach Hotel, Chalkidiki, Greece, allow us to publish the expanded summaries of their talks. This fundamental material presented with references will prove invaluable in the preparation of participants for interdisciplinary discussion as well as to point investigators in other disciplines to key references and collaborators.

For this year's Workshop, great efforts were undertaken to broaden the range of topics featured to cover a multitude of topics in the area of Musculoskeletal Research including Clinical Aspects.

The 4th Workshop covered five topics:

'Neuronal Interactions with Muscle and Bone', organized and chaired by Dr. Brendon Noble (articles by Gallagher, Chow, Mason and Chenu).

'Molecular Basis of Bone Biology (Genes to Bone Strength)'

chaired by Profs. Timothy Skerry and Scott Miller (articles by Johnson, van Hul, Kogianni, Goldspink, Loveridge and Bouzakis)

'Muscle training for better performance - From the athlete to the elderly person'

organized by Dr. Jörn Rittweger and co-chaired by Marco Narici (articles by Rittweger, Narici, Aagaard, Clarke and Stewart).

'Clinical Session on Musculoskeletal Disorders'

chaired by Profs. Felsenberg and Schönau (articles by Burr, Compston, Gasser, Rittweger, Runge, Schiessl and Eckstein)

'Tendons and Ligaments'

organized by Prof. Webster SS Jee and co-chaired by Prof. Cyril Frank (articles by Frank, Vogel, Ferretti, Reeves)

Also printed are the abstracts from the 56 posters that were submitted and displayed at the Workshop. A total of 20 out of the 56 submitted papers were chosen for oral presentation in our Poster Session based on scoring of the blinded abstracts by the Scientific Committee.

I wish to thank Prof. George Kapetanios and his team, and Mrs Vassiliki Mili from our Conference Organizer AirMaritime Erasmus Conferences Ltd. who took care of all local arrangements in Chalkidiki. I also want to thank all the Chairpersons, the Scientific Committee and our President Prof. George P. Lyritis for their tremendous contribution to making this a truly multidisciplinary and exciting Workshop. Finally, it was not an easy task to prepare all the manuscripts in time for publication in the June issue of JMNI and I could not have succeeded without the professional help from Becky Setterberg, our Managing Editor from the Salt Lake City Editorial office and Paris Lyritis from the publisher Hylonome

Of course I am aware that there is always room for improvement, and I very much rely on your feed-back and your suggestions to improve the quality of our workshop.

Jürg A. Gasser, Ph.D.

Executive Co-chairman Chalkidiki 2004
Associate Editor of JMNI