

Introduction

In this issue we were fortunate to include seven articles from invited speakers to the Second International Conference on Osteoporosis and Bone Research (ICOBR) held on October 19-23, 2005, in Chengdu, China, organized by the Chinese Society of Osteoporosis and Bone and Mineral Research (CSOBMR) section of the Chinese Medical Association and the International Chinese Hard Tissue Society (ICHTS). Several of the members of the International Society of Musculoskeletal and Neuronal Interactions and its Editorial Board, among them Hua Zhu Ke, Hong-Wen Deng and myself, were actively involved in organizing this conference. The plenary talks covered skeletal response to spaceflight, genetics, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis, mechanical loading, and skeletal fragility and bone quality senior authored by Francis, Hangartner, Morey-Holton, Kung, LeBlanc, Martin, and Recker. The Third ICOBR conference will be held in Shanghai, China, October 18-21, 2007.

Also, in this issue, we were fortunate to include five select articles senior authored by Degens, Dionyssiotis, Tsangari, Firth, and Semler, and abstracts by deBono, and Laskey, from the Third Black Forest Forum for Musculoskeletal Interactions held May 4-7, 2006, in Castle Bad Liebenzell, Germany, organized by the German Section of the International Society for Musculoskeletal and Neuronal Interactions (ISMNI), Hans Schießl and Johannes Willnecker. The aim of this Forum is to develop clinically relevant multidisciplinary models for muscle-neuronal interactions to come to a better understanding of physiological functions for improved diagnosis and therapy in a friendly informal atmosphere like the Sun Valley Hard Tissue Workshop. The Forum will meet this year May 10-13, 2007, in Castle Bad Liebenzell. In 2008 the Forum will meet with the next gathering of the ISMNI Workshop, Kardinal Schulte Haus in Bergisch Gladbach, Germany, May 8-11, under the direction of our current President, Dr. Jürg Gasser.

In addition, we have included an original article by N.M. Ocarino et al., “Physical activity in osteopenia treatment improved the mass of bones directly and indirectly submitted to mechanical impact”.

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