Objectives

The New Directions in Biology and Disease of Skeletal Muscle Conference will be held in New York, New York on July 6-9, 2020. This meeting brings together scientists working to understand mechanisms and develop new therapies for muscle disease, especially the muscular dystrophies. The “New Directions” meeting differs from other topically related meetings because of its focus on bringing together industry and academic attendees with a focus on evaluating laboratory based observations and assessing or testing suitability for therapy in the preclinical and clinical setting. This meeting was developed in response to MD Care Act and the recognition that devising and testing therapy for rare neuromuscular disorders requires organization and coordinated efforts among all stakeholders. In addition to the focus on identifying and testing therapeutic pathways, the New Directions meeting places a high emphasis on inclusion of trainees and young investigators, as it is recognized that the challenges of these medical problems will require a diverse and prolonged effort to realize cures for these devastating disorders.

Objective 1: The presentation and sharing of cutting edge research. This meeting specifically emphasizes the presentation of unpublished work through oral and poster presentations. Early access to information allows for new collaborations to form moving scientific discovery forward faster into translation.

Objective 2: Promotion of collaboration between industry and academic investigators. With rigorous mechanistic understanding of the disease processes and moving targets towards development, preclinical and clinical testing, the interaction and partnership between industry and academia is increasingly important. The first session of this meeting is designed to promote industry and advocacy group participation.

Objective 3: Identify both common and unique targets for among muscle diseases. This meeting provides a format where multiple different mechanisms of muscle disease are covered providing a backdrop to identify common elements that can be manipulated therapeutically.

Objective 4: Provide trainees and young investigators a forum in which to present data and to encourage trainees to remain studying neuromuscular disease. Trainees are expected to present posters, and senior and junior investigators are engaged by evaluating these presentations.

Conference Organizers
Elizabeth McNally, Northwestern University
H. Lee Sweeney, University of Florida

Coordinators
Christa Stout, University of Florida

Program Committee
Mary Baylies, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Alexis Demonbreun, Northwestern University
Jim Dowling, SickKids
Angela Lek, Yale University
Doug Millay, Cincinnati Children’s
Ben Prosser, University of Pennsylvania
April Pyle, University of California, Los Angeles
DeWayne Townsend, University of Minnesota
Monday, July 6, 2020

**Industry Workshop**, Westside Ballroom Salons 1 and 2, 5th floor
(all registered conference attendees are welcomed and encouraged to attend)

12:00 – 5:00PM  Industry Workshop Presentations

6:00 - 9:00PM  Evening Welcome Reception

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

7:15AM  Continental breakfast served in Westside Ballroom Foyer, 5th floor

**Session I: Novel Genetic Neuromuscular Disorders**, Westside Ballroom Salons 1 and 2, 5th floor
Chair: Jim Dowling

8:00 – 8:20AM  Jim Dowling, Sick Kids

8:20 – 8:40  Monkel Lek, Yale University

8:40 – 9:00  Kim Boycott, CHEO Research Institute

9:00 – 9:20  TBD

9:20 – 9:40  TBD

9:40 – 10:10AM  COFFEE BREAK

**Session II: Muscle Myonuclear Domains**, Westside Ballroom Salons 1 and 2, 5th floor
Chair: Mary Baylies

10:10 – 10:30AM  Mary Baylies, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

10:30 – 10:50  Edgar Gomes, University of De Lisboa

10:50 – 11:10  Charlotte Peterson, University of Kentucky

11:10 – 11:30  TBD
11:30 – 11:50 TBD

11:50AM - 1:30PM LUNCH BREAK (on your own)

1:30 – 3:30PM Poster Session I, Westside Ballroom Salons 3 and 4, 5th floor

Session III: Screening For Novel Drugs And Targets, Westside Ballroom Salons 1 and 2, 5th floor
Chair: Angela Lek
3:30 – 3:50PM Angela Lek, Yale University
3:50 – 4:10 Nicolas Wein, Nationwide Children’s Hospital
4:10 – 4:30 Eric Wang, University of Florida
4:30 – 4:50 TBD

4:50 – 5:10PM TBD

5:30 - 6:30PM Keynote Speaker: Bruce Spiegelman, Harvard University Medical School

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

7:15AM Continental breakfast served in Westside Ballroom Foyer, 5th floor

Session IV: Muscle Growth In Normal And Diseased Muscles, Westside Ballroom Salons 1 and 2, 5th floor
Chair: Doug Millay
8:00 – 8:20AM Doug Millay, Cincinnati Childrens
8:20 – 8:40 Thomas Rando, Stanford University
8:40 – 9:00 TBD

9:00 – 9:20 TBD

9:20 – 9:40 TBD

9:40 – 10:10AM COFFEE BREAK

Session V: Engineered Muscles As Models, Westside Ballroom Salons 1 and 2, 5th floor
Chair: April Pyle
10:10 – 10:30AM April Pyle, University of California, Los Angles
10:30 – 10:50  Nenad Bursac, Duke University
10:50 – 11:10  Penny Gilbert, University of Toronto
11:10 – 11:30  TBD
11:30 – 11:50  TBD
11:50AM - 1:30PM  LUNCH BREAK (on your own)
1:30 – 3:30PM  Poster Session II, Westside Ballroom Salons 3 and 4, 5th floor

Session VI:  Muscle Inflammation In Disease And Therapy, Westside Ballroom Salons 1 and 2, 5th floor
Chair: Alexis Demonbreun
3:30 – 3:50PM  Alexis Demonbreun, Northwestern University
3:50 – 4:10  Armando Villalta, University of California, Irvine
4:10 – 4:30  Melissa Spencer, University of California, Los Angeles
4:30 – 4:50  TBD
4:50 – 5:10  TBD

6:30pm  Boarding for Circle Line Sight Seeing Cruise, set sail at 7:00pm sharp!
Pier 83, Midtown
7:00 – 10:00PM  Banquet Dinner: Circle Line Sight Seeing Cruise

Thursday, July 9, 2020
7:15AM  Continental breakfast served in Westside Ballroom Foyer, 5th floor

Session VII:  Hypoxia And Metabolism As Drivers Of Disease, Westside Ballroom Salons 1 and 2, 5th floor
Chair: DeWayne Townsend
8:00 – 8:20AM  DeWayne Townsend, University of Minnesota
8:20 – 8:40  Clara Bien Peek, Northwestern University
8:40 – 9:00  Rong Tian, University of Washington
9:00 – 9:20  TBD
9:20 – 9:40  TBD
9:40 – 10:10AM  COFFEE BREAK

**Session VIII: Novel Mechanisms Of Muscle Dysfunction, Westside**

*Ballroom Salons 1 and 2, 5th floor*

Chair: Ben Prosser

10:10 – 10:30AM  Ben Prosser, University of Pennsylvania

10:30 – 10:50  Kathryn Wagner, Kennedy Krieger Institute, John Hopkins University

10:50 – 11:10  Jan Lammerding, Cornell University

11:10 – 11:30  TBD

11:30 – 11:50  TBD

11:50 – 12:00  Closing Remarks

12:00PM  Adjourn