

ATzO

CONFERENCE

BERLIN

24 – 26 June 2026

24 Wednesday

13:00-13:15 Welcome Address *Michiel Bröker*

13:15-13:25 What's New at ATiO? *Tobias Winkler*

13:25-13:55 Featured Lectures *Moderation: Tobias Winkler*

10'+5' Transatlantic Trends: MSK Innovation at a Crossroads *Scott Bruder*

10'+5' Australasia Uncovered: Emerging Trends in a High-Growth Market *Edward Willems*

14:00-14:25 Keynote Lecture *Moderation: Tobias Winkler*

15' Building Academic Structures for Advanced Therapies in Europe - view from Europe's largest university clinics *Heyo Kroemer*

10' 5 questions to Berlin *Heyo Kroemer and Tobias Winkler*

14:25-14:35 ATiO Emerging Company Pitch Contest *Moderation: Noorjan Saidi*

5' Introduction *Noorjan Saidi*

5' Winner 2025: Peptilogics *Nicholas Pachuda*

14:35-16:00 ATiO Emerging Company Pitch Contest (1 of 2) *Moderation: Edward van Wezel*

8'+2' Orthotreat.io *Sahar Meiron*

8'+2' Implant Preservation Decives B.V.: An induction heating technology, improving the current standard of care for Prosthetic Joint and Fracture related infections *Richard Van De Wateringen*

8'+2' Bioncart *André Gerth*

8'+2' Xintela: XSTEM towards a disease modifying treatment for osteoarthritis *Lucienne Vonk*

8'+2' Biomimetic Innovations Ltd *Bronagh O'Doherty*

8'+2' askel healthcare *Virpi Muhonen*

8'+2' NextStepCare.ai *Jeremy Dublon*

8'+2' TissueXcel: Turning Damaged Joint Tissue into a Rechargeable Therapeutic Matrix for Next-Generation Regenerative and Anti-Inflammatory Drugs *Thomas Pap*

5' Voting (1st Group) *Edward van Wezel*

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

16:30-16:50 Keynote Lecture *Moderation: Tobias Winkler*

15'+5' Cartilage repair - The surgeon's perspective on a future market *Christian Lattermann*

16:50-17:50 Research vs. Reaction (1 of 3) *Moderation: Matthias Schieker*

7' 3D bioprinting for cartilage repair *Jos Malda*

3' Reaction *Kirk Bailey*

7' Platelet-derived extracellular vesicles loaded onto hyaluronic acid hydrogels for tendon regeneration *Manuel Gomez-Florit*

3' Reaction *Markus Mateyka*

7' ACL derived cell-augmented graft: a solution to improve graft healing and strength? *Jin Kyu Lee*

3' Reaction *Thomas Bemand*

7' Smartphone-Based Thermography and AI for Postoperative Infection Surveillance *Marie Fridberg*

3' Reaction *Stefan Geiselbrechtinger*

24 Wednesday continued

16:50-17:50 **Research vs. Reaction (1 of 3) – continued** Moderation: *Matthias Schieker*

7' Reducing cartilage wear in joint implants *Luna Imperiali*
3' Reaction *George Dodge*

7' Decoding mechanosignaling in bioengineered tendon models for regenerative strategies
Rui Miguel de Andrade Domingues
3' Reaction *Rao Kandula*

17:50-18:00 **Sponsor Addresses** Moderation: *Michiel Bröker*

5' Heraeus *Arthur Charlet*

3' IMPACT *Stefan Nehrer, Stephanie Thoennissen*

18:00-18:25 **Keynote Lecture** Moderation: *Noorjan Saidi*

20'+5' Regenerative Engineering *Sir Cato T. Laurencin*

Society Panel: Where Science Meets Strategy – Global Perspectives on MSK Innovation

18:25-19:00 **(ARM, IOF, ICRS, OARSI, TERMIS)** *Martin Englund, Philippe Halbout, Christian Lattermann (Moderation), Abhay Pandit, Bob Smith*

19:00-22:00 **Networking Dinner** at ROOT, Hotel Telegraphenamt, Monbijoustraße 11, 10117 Berlin

25 Thursday

07:30-08:30 **Networking Breakfast**

08:30-08:50 **Morning Session** Moderation: *Tobias Winkler*

8'+2' Bionic Extremity Reconstruction - Cyborgs ahead? *Oskar Aszmann*

8'+2' Hand surgery - latest innovations and what's to come *Leila Harhaus-Wähner*

08:50-10:25 **ATiO Emerging Company Pitch Contest (2 of 2)** Moderation: *Daniel Saris*

8'+2' Altach Health *Tomir Kosowski*

8'+2' CartileniX AG: From Nose to Knee – Mature Cartilage Tissue for OA *Kay Horsch*

8'+2' Symcel: Rapid microbial detection *Wilhem Paulander*

8'+2' TybrHealth *Tim Keane*

8'+2' SentryX: Clinical-Stage Surgical Pain Blockers *Jorrit-Jan Verlaan*

8'+2' Customsurg: AI-Powered Fracture Surgery *Thomas Zumbrunn*

8'+2' Allegro: Reinventing Osteoarthritis *Lucas Decuypere*

8'+2' Vanarix: Allogeneic CartiBeads - Scalable Off the Shelf Cartilage Therapy for Faster Recovery
Vannary Tieng

8'+2' MicroGenDX: Know your Enemies: Diagnose Infections through Next Generation DNA Sequencing
by MicroGenDX *Ewald Kreid*

5' Voting (2nd Group) *Noorjan Saidi*

10:25-10:35 **Sponsor Addresses** Moderation: *Tobias Winkler*

5' DSM *Conor Farrell*

3' Bonesupport *Michael Diefenbeck*

10:35-11:15 **Coffee Break**

25 Thursday continued

11:15-11:35	Keynote Lecture Moderation: <i>Noorjan Saidi</i>
15'+5'	Rethinking OA - What If We Can Regrow Cartilage? <i>Nidhi Butani</i>
11:35-12:15	News in the tool box: Image-Guided Therapies in Musculoskeletal Pain Management Moderation: <i>Federico Collettini, Florian Fleckenstein</i>
8'	Transarterial MSK Embolization: Hype or Game Changer? <i>Makoto Taninokuchi</i>
8'	Transarterial MSK Embolization: Wish List for the Future <i>Florian Fleckenstein</i>
8'	Focused Ultrasound: Things We Never Could Do Before <i>Mario Fabiilli</i>
16'	Panel & Q&A <i>Federico Collettini, Mario Fabiilli, Florian Fleckenstein, Makoto Taninokuchi</i>
12:15-12:25	Sponsor Addresses Moderation: <i>Tobias Winkler</i>
5'	UBS
3'	Medipost <i>Rao Kandula</i>
12:25-12:30	Group Picture – all participants to the stage
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:40	ATI²O Think Tanks: Follow the Money – What Drives Investment in MSK Health? Moderation: <i>Thomas Bemand</i>
10'	Ignition Talk: Building the Right Company – Clinical Needs Meet Investor Expectations <i>Thomas Bemand, Daniel Saris, Bob Smith</i>
	Group 1 <i>Kirk Bailey, Lorenz Pichler, Bob Smith</i>
	Group 2 <i>Ieva Ankorina-Stark, Ludwig Ensthaler, Sijia Zhou</i>
40'	Group 3 <i>Shamin Dadvar, Conor Farrell, Azzura Paolucci</i>
	Group 4 <i>Thomas Bemand, Alexander Hildebrandt, Andrea Montali</i>
	Group 5 <i>Nicholas Pachuda, Daniel Saris, Jennifer Straub</i>
	Group 6 <i>Fernando Pacheco, Siddarth Satish, Max Volcksdorff</i>
15'	Briding the Gap: Aligning MSK Innovation with Investor Appetite <i>Kirk Bailey, Thomas Bemand, Nicholas Pachuda, Fernando Pacheco, Bob Smith</i>
14:40-15:00	Featured Lectures Moderation: <i>Ali Mobasher</i>
8'+2'	Keep it soft: Synovial membrane stiffness in OA and response to Polyacrylamide hydrogel treatment <i>Markus A. Wimmer</i>
8'+2'	Raising money for OA - These points keep me awake at night <i>Corné Baatenburg de Jong</i>
15:00-15:20	One on one Panel Moderation: <i>Tobias Winkler</i>
20'	Beyond what we imagine now - AI Insights from Corporate and Investment <i>Ludwig Ensthaler, Siddarth Satish</i>
15:20-16:20	Research vs. Reaction (2 of 3) Moderation: <i>Mohit Kapoor</i>
7'	CHONDRONOVA: regenerative innovation for cartilage lesions in early OA <i>Laura de Girolamo</i>
3'	Reaction <i>David Wemans</i>
7'	Designing osteoarthritis gene therapy <i>Henning Madry</i>
3'	Reaction <i>Ieva Ankorina-Stark</i>
7'	Paradigm shift in spine surgery - Will biologically informed simulations change everything? <i>Alex Hughes</i>
3'	Reaction <i>Siddarth Satish</i>
7'	Cell therapies for MSK infection - a new approach to combat an old enemy <i>Xinhua Qu</i>
3'	Reaction <i>Nicholas Pachuda</i>

25 Thursday continued

15:20-16:20 **Research vs. Reaction (2 of 3) – continued** Moderation: Mohit Kapoor

- 7' Therapeutic Targeting of Maladaptive Progenitor Cells Activation in Arthrofibrosis *Una Stevic*
- 3' Reaction *Sebastian Konrad*

- 7' Reconstruction of intra-articular environment in osteoarthritis with a simple 3D co-culture system ("Pizza Chip") *Gun-Il Im*
- 3' Reaction *Arthur Charlet*

16:20-16:50 **Coffee Break**

16:50-17:35 **ATiO Emerging Company Pitch Contest Finals** Moderation: Daniel Saris

- 5' Introduction *Daniel Saris*
- 20' Presentations (4x '3+'2 Q&A)
- 5' Voting (Finals) *Daniel Saris*
- 10' ATiO Pitch Contest Panel *Nicholas Pachuda, Daniel Saris, Bob Smith*
- 5' Feedback

17:35-17:45 **Sponsor Addresses** Moderation: Tobias Winkler

- 5' Contura *Ieva Ankorina-Stark*
- 3' Zimmer Biomet *Kirk Bailey*

17:45-18:15 **Featured Lectures** Moderation: Georg Duda

- 8'+2' FAQ Health - Starting young getting old *Roman Malessa*
- 8'+2' Pain mechanisms in cartilage lesions and Osteoarthritis and what they mean for therapy development *Mats Brittberg*
- 8'+2' The EU regulators' role in support of development and approval of ATMPs: a short overview *Andrea Laslop*

18:15-19:00 Break to refresh

19:00-23:00 **Networking Dinner on Berlin's River Spree**

19:00 | Drinks reception at *petit bijou, Monbijoustraße 1, 10117 Berlin*



19:30 | Short walk to *Anleger Friedrichstraße/Reichstager, 10117 Berlin*



20:00 sharp! | Boat departs

23:00 | Boat returns – Please note: It will not be possible to disembark during the trip.

26 Friday

07:30-08:30 **Networking Breakfast**

08:30-09:40 **Research vs. Reaction (3 of 3)** Moderation: *Georg Duda*

7' GLP-1 Agonists - Will they solve OA? *Francis Berenbaum*

3' Reaction *Matthias Schieker*

7' Recreating the Fracture Microenvironment: Clinical Potential of a Biomimetic Hematoma Scaffold
Vaida Glatt

3' Reaction *Shamim Dadvar*

7' From Omics to Antibody Therapeutics in Tendon Disease *Jess Snedeker*

3' Reaction *Rob Bigsby*

7' Rewriting the Fate of the Disc: Next-Generation iPSC Therapies for Discogenic Pain *Dmitriy Sheyn*

3' Reaction *Michael Diefenbeck*

7' Target the fibroblast, target OA *Mohit Kapoor*

3' Reaction *tbd*

7' DiscVive: Pioneering Allogeneic Fibroblast Therapy for Degenerative Disc Disease — From IIT to IND *Ming Fan*

3' Reaction *Manuel Groth*

7' Joint-on-a-chip Technologies: Recent Progress towards humanized Preclinical Modelling
Mario Rothbauer

3' Reaction *Scott Bruder*

Panel | Osteoarthritis in 2026: Current Evidence, Emerging Therapies & Future Directions

09:40-10:05 *Ieva Ankorina-Stark, Martin Englund, David Hunter (Moderation), Sir Cato T. Laurencin, Mohit Kapoor, Matthias Schieker*

10:05-10:15 **Sponsor Addresses**

5' PROTO *Tobias Winkler*

Panel | Advanced Therapies Strategies - Bioactive Materials, Journal of Orthopaedic Translation, Osteoarthritis and Cartilage, CARTILAGE

10:15-10:45 Moderation: *David Hunter*

5' Ignition Talk: The Publication Crisis: Quality Control in the Age of Quantity *Ali Mobasheri*

20'+5' Panel Discussion: *Mats Brittberg, David Hunter (Moderation), Ali Mobasheri, Jessica Wang*

10:45-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-11:35 **Keynote Lecture** Moderation: *Tobias Winkler*

15'+5' Electroactive biomaterials for regenerative medical devices *Malavika Nair*

11:35-12:00 **Infection Panel: What Antibiotics Can't Fix – The Next Chapter in Infection Control**

Arthur Charlet, Manuel Gomez-Florit, Svetlana Karbysheva, Andrea Montali, Nicholas Pachuda

12:00-12:15 **ATiO Award Ceremony** *Noorjan Saidi*

12:15-12:30 **Wrap-up and Take-Home Message** *Michiel Bröker and Tobias Winkler*

SAVE THE DATE

ATiO Conference 2027 | 2 – 4 June, Vienna, Austria

Conference Speakers

Scan for faculty details



Scan for details on our Keynote & Featured Speakers



Conference Sponsors



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They engage in a close and collaborative partnership, working towards advancing the foundation's mission and **shaping the future of musculoskeletal innovation.**

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Heraeus Medical is a global leader in the field of bone cement and biomaterials for surgical orthopaedics and trauma surgery. Our portfolio focuses on products for use in bone and joint surgery as well as modern cementing technique and high-level medical education. Infection prevention and infection management is at the core of our business, enabling surgeons to support improved patient outcomes by providing a rich evidence-based offering of single and dual antibiotic loaded bone cements and accessories. The core product PALACOS® bone cement is considered the gold standard globally and has proven itself consistently for more than 60 years and in over 40 million procedures worldwide.

Conference Speakers

Ieva Ankorina-Stark is MD and CSO at Contura International, where she leads R&D and global commercialization of its hydrogel injectables for osteoarthritis.

Oskar C. Aszmann is Director of the Center of Bionic Extremity Reconstruction and Vice-Chair of the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Medical University of Vienna. A European Board-Certified Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, he specialises in extremity reconstruction and bionic reconstruction, with research published in leading journals including The Lancet, Science, Nature journals, and The New England Journal of Medicine.

Corné Baatenburg de Jong is the Deputy Director of ReumaNederland, the Dutch Arthritis Society, where he oversees research policy and operations. With extensive experience in uniting value chain partners, he focuses on creating impactful solutions for patients.

Kirk Bailey is the Vice President of Engineering Services and Solutions at Zimmer Biomet, a role he has held since June 2015.

Thomas Bemand is a healthcare investment banking professional based in London, who serves as an Investment Banking Associate Director at UBS. Before transitioning into the corporate finance and banking sector, he worked as a Medical Doctor within the UK's National Health Service (NHS).

Francis Berenbaum, MD, PhD is Professor of Rheumatology at Sorbonne University and Head of the Rheumatology Department at Saint-Antoine Hospital, AP-HP, Paris. He founded an INSERM research team dedicated to metabolic inflammation and osteoarthritis. He previously served as President of both OARSI and the French Society of Rheumatology and is Associate Editor of "the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases". He is also co-founder and Chief Medical Officer of 4Moving Biotech, developing intra-articular GLP-1-based therapies for the treatment of osteoarthritis.

Nidhi Bhutani is an Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Stanford Medicine University. Her research focuses on stem cells, regenerative medicine, and the epigenetic mechanisms that regulate cell fate, tissue regeneration, and diseases such as osteoarthritis. Through her work, she develops innovative approaches to cartilage and muscle tissue regeneration, contributing to advances in personalized therapies.

Rob Bigsby is Vice President of Research at Zimmer Biomet with three decades of implant-design experience and multiple joint-reconstruction patents.

Mats Brittberg is Professor of Orthopaedics at the University of Gothenburg and orthopedic surgeon at Region Halland (Varberg Hospital), Sweden. His research focuses on cartilage repair, particularly autologous chondrocyte implantation, as well as biotribology, osteoarthritis, and joint preservation. He is Editor-in-Chief of the journal Cartilage and a former President of the ICRS.

Michiel Bröker is the Managing Director in the healthcare EMEA team at UBS, Board Member of Lamellar Biomedical Limited and co-founder and executive board member of the Advanced Therapies in Orthopaedics Foundation (ATiO).

Scott Bruder is the Master Principal and General Manager, Regenerative Medicine at Dark Horse Consulting, providing strategic guidance in regenerative medicine and orthobiologics. He is a recognized leader in the field, previously founding the Bruder Consulting & Venture Group, and serving in senior C-Suite roles at Johnson & Johnson, Becton Dickinson, and Stryker.

Arthur Charlet is Co-President and Managing Director of Heraeus Medical. He has held several leadership roles within the Heraeus Group and now oversees the company's global activities in orthopaedic and trauma care solutions.

Federico Colletini is the chief attending and chief of interventional radiology at Charité Mitte – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, specializing in minimally invasive image-guided therapies. His research focuses on interventional oncology and musculoskeletal interventions using advanced imaging techniques.

Shamim Dadvar is an investment professional at HealthCap, a leading life sciences venture capital firm. With a background as a physician-scientist from Karolinska Institutet, she combines expertise in metabolism, immunology, and translational medicine with investments in innovative healthcare and biotechnology companies.

Miguel de Andrade Domingues is a Research Group Leader at the International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL) in Portugal. His work focuses on nanotechnology, biomaterials, and tissue engineering, with a strong emphasis on developing regenerative solutions for musculoskeletal repair, particularly tendon regeneration.

Lucas Decuyper is the CEO and President of Allegro, a Belgian biotechnology company developing innovative treatments for osteoarthritis. A serial entrepreneur with a background in law, management, and economics, he has founded and scaled several companies across the technology and life sciences sectors.

Laura de Girolamo, PhD, is Director of the Orthopaedic Biotechnology Laboratory and RE.GA.IN® at the Galeazzi Orthopaedic Institute in Milan. Her research focuses on biological solutions for cartilage, tendon and bone regeneration, particularly through mesenchymal stem cells and other biologics. She co-leads the ESSKA Orthobiologics Initiative, serves as ESSKA Educational Secretary, is Vice-President of the ON Foundation and holds editorial roles with JEO and KSSTA.

Michael Diefenbeck is the Chief Medical Officer at BONESUPPORT AB and a specialist in orthopedic surgery and infection. He leads the company's clinical strategy, focusing on bone regeneration and the treatment of bone infections with antibiotic-eluting biomaterials.

George Dodge is Co-Founder and CEO of Mechano-Therapeutics and a leading researcher in arthritis and musculoskeletal science. He formerly served as Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and Co-Director of the Translational Musculoskeletal Research Center at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center. He also chaired the OARSI Strategic Alliance Committee.

Jeremy Dublon is a digital health entrepreneur who serves as the Co-Founder and CEO of NextStepCare.

Georg Duda is Director of the Berlin Institute of Health Center for Regenerative Therapies (BIH-CRT) at Charité and Founding Director of the Julius Wolff Institute. He is a leading expert in musculoskeletal research and mechanobiology, focusing on how mechanical environments influence tissue regeneration.

Martin Englund is a Professor of Orthopaedics and a Swedish epidemiologist and clinical investigator. He heads the Clinical Epidemiology Unit, Orthopedics at Lund University and also holds a position as adjunct associate professor in Boston. His main research focus is the role of meniscus in early knee OA as well as OA pathogenesis and the societal burden of musculoskeletal disease.

Ludwig Ensthaler is Partner at 468 Capital, a venture capital firm focused on technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and enterprise software. He works with early-stage startups and supports founders in scaling innovative technology companies.

Mario Fabiilli is a faculty member in the Department of Radiology at the University of Michigan and leads the Fabiilli Lab within the Basic Radiological Sciences Division. His research focuses on the interaction between focused ultrasound and biomaterials to enable controlled drug delivery and modulation of material properties. His work integrates biomaterials science, acoustics, and therapeutic ultrasound to develop non-invasive treatment strategies.

Ming Fan is a researcher at the AIMed Laboratory, The University of Hong Kong, working on the application of extended reality (XR) in surgical planning and medical training. His work focuses on improving healthcare education and clinical workflows through immersive technologies and AI-driven solutions.

Conor Farrell is a medical technology executive and commercial development specialist who serves as a Senior Manager in Commercial Development for Biomaterials at dsm-firmenich Biomedical. He manages the commercial development and strategic supply market of advanced biomaterials and components within the MedTech sector.

Florian Fleckenstein is a specialist in radiology and a BIH Clinician Scientist at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, focusing on interventional radiology techniques for musculoskeletal disorders.

Marie Fridberg is a clinician-scientist at Aalborg University Hospital specializing in postoperative infection surveillance in orthopaedic surgery. Her research established thermography as a reproducible and clinically relevant tool for early detection of pin-site infections in external fixation, defining temperature-based thresholds for point-of-care monitoring. She is also actively engaged with the IODA.

Stefan Geiselbrechtner is a German medical technology executive who serves as the CEO of the OPED Group Managing Director of OPED GmbH since 2011.

André Gerth is the founder and Managing Director of BIONCaRT GmbH, a biotech company developing stem cell-based therapies for orthopedic diseases. He has extensive experience in biotech leadership and corporate development, having previously founded and led BioPlanta GmbH and served as Chairman of Vita 34 AG's Management Board.

Vaida Glatt is an orthopaedic researcher and Assistant Professor at UT Health San Antonio. Her work focuses on bone regeneration, fracture healing, and regenerative medicine, with the goal of developing innovative treatments for musculoskeletal injuries.

Manuel Gomez-Florit is Associate Researcher at the Health Research Institute of the Balearic Islands (IdISBa), based at Hospital Universitari Son Espases in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. His research focuses on biomaterials, extracellular vesicles, and biofabrication strategies for musculoskeletal and tendon regeneration, including the development of advanced hydrogel and nanocomposite platforms for tissue engineering applications.

Manuel Groth is Business Development Manager at Heraeus Medical, where he works on advancing innovative biomaterials and regenerative solutions for orthopaedic care. His role focuses on identifying growth opportunities and supporting the development of new technologies that improve musculoskeletal treatment outcomes.

Philippe Halbout is a scientist and healthcare leader specializing in bone health and musculoskeletal diseases. He served as CEO of the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF), where he led global initiatives to improve osteoporosis awareness, prevention, and patient care.

Leila Harhaus-Wähner is Professor of Hand, Replantation and Microsurgery at Charité – Berlin and Director of the Clinic for Hand, Replantation and Microsurgery at BG Klinikum Unfallkrankenhaus Berlin. Her clinical expertise includes microsurgical replantation, peripheral nerve surgery, complex upper extremity reconstruction, and joint replacement of the hand and wrist. Her research focuses on bone and nerve regeneration as well as outcomes research in hand surgery.

Alexander Hildebrandt is a resident in Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery at Charité – Universitätsmedizin. His research focuses on regenerative therapies and innovative treatment approaches for musculoskeletal disorders.

Kay Horsch is Executive Director of the ON Foundation and a recognized advocate for regenerative medicine and orthopaedic innovation. Through his work, he supports the translation of advanced therapies—such as the N-TEC cartilage regeneration technology—from research into clinical practice, helping accelerate new treatment options for patients with musculoskeletal diseases.

Alexander Hughes is a spinal surgeon at HSS and Associate Professor in Orthopedic Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical School with a background in biomedical engineering. He specializes in degenerative, deformity, and trauma-related diseases of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbosacral spine.

David Hunter is a rheumatology clinician researcher whose main focus has been clinical and translational research in osteoarthritis, where he is the worldwide most published researcher on expertscape.com. He is the Florance and Cope Chair of Rheumatology, Professor of Medicine at the University of Sydney, and Staff Specialist at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Gun-Il Im is a Professor in the Department of Orthopaedics and Director of the Integrative Research Institute for Regenerative Biomedical Engineering at Dongguk University in Goyang, Korea. He has served as President of the Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI) from 2022 to 2024 and is currently the Immediate Past President for the 2024–2026 term.

Luna Imperiali is a biomedical materials scientist at ds-firmenich. With a PhD in Chemical Engineering from KU Leuven, she works on advanced biomaterials and collaborates on innovations for regenerative medicine and musculoskeletal therapies.

Jagannadha Rao Kandula is an international pharmaceutical and biotechnology executive specializing in cell therapies, biologics, and cellular manufacturing. He serves as the Head of CMC & Operations (Cell and Gene Therapy) at the biotechnology company MEDIPOST, Inc.

Mohit Kapoor is Co-Director of the Schroeder Arthritis Institute at University Health Network, Toronto, and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Joint Degeneration. He is a Senior Scientist at the Krembil Research Institute and Professor at the University of Toronto. His research focuses on osteoarthritis, cartilage degeneration, and biomarker discovery.

Svetlana Karbysheva is a clinical microbiologist and researcher at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Her work focuses on musculoskeletal infections, biofilm-associated infections, and improving diagnostic methods for implant-associated and prosthetic joint infections.

Tim Keane is Co-Founder and CEO of TYBR Health, a regenerative medicine company developing innovative solutions to improve surgical recovery. His work focuses on translating biomaterials research into clinical applications that enhance healing and patient outcomes.

Sebastian Konrad works in the orthopaedic and medical technology sector and is currently associated with Arthrex in Germany. He focuses on biologics and joint preservation solutions, particularly in the context of sports medicine and regenerative orthopaedics. His work combines clinical education, product engagement, and collaboration with healthcare professionals.

Tomir Kosowski is the CEO and co-founder of Altach Biomedical, a health technology company developing regenerative cartilage repair solutions. With a background in orthopaedics and sports medicine, he focuses on advancing innovative biomaterials that improve joint preservation and patient outcomes.

Ewald Kreid is the Managing Director Europe for MicroGenDX, a US-based company specializing in molecular infection diagnostics (DNA sequencing).

Heyo Kroemer is CEO of Charité –Berlin. He previously served as CEO and Dean of Universitätsmedizin Göttingen and as Dean of the Medical Faculty and Chair of Pharmacology at the University of Greifswald. Trained in pharmacy, his academic background is in clinical pharmacology. He is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and chairs the University Council of the Technical University of Munich.

Andrea Laslop is a physician, pharmacologist, and regulatory science expert at the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES). She leads the Scientific Office and works closely with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) on the evaluation and approval of innovative medicines.

Christian Lattermann is Chief of Sports Medicine and Director of the Cartilage Repair Center at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School. He specializes in cartilage repair, post-traumatic osteoarthritis, and clinical outcomes research. He currently serves as the President of the ICRS.

Sir Cato T. Laurencin is a surgeon-engineer and scientist, who is the CEO of The Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering. at the University of Connecticut. The founder and pioneer of Regenerative Engineering, he is the first surgeon elected to the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Inventors. He is the Editor in Chief of Regenerative Engineering and Translational Medicine, and is the 2026 recipient of the Jensen Award, the highest honor of the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society.

Jin Kyu Lee is Full Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Hanyang University Medical Center in Seoul, Republic of Korea. His research focuses on sports medicine, stem cell applications, traumatology, and reconstructive orthopaedic surgery.

Henning Madry is Professor and Chair of Experimental Orthopaedics and Osteoarthritis Research at Saarland University and the University Medical Center of Saarland. He is a board-certified specialist in Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery with a clinical focus on cartilage surgery and osteoarthritis treatment. His research centers on musculoskeletal regeneration and the biological basis of joint degeneration. He serves as Founding Editor-in-Chief of Osteoarthritis and Cartilage Open and holds leadership roles within international orthopaedic societies.

Jos Malda is Professor of Biofabrication in Translational Regenerative Medicine and Head of Research at the Department of Orthopaedics, University Medical Center Utrecht. He also holds an appointment at the Department of Equine Sciences, Utrecht University. His research focuses on biofabrication and biomaterials design for regeneration of osteochondral defects. He currently serves as 1st Vice President of ICRS.

Roman Malessa is Co-Founder and VP Growth at F/A/Q Health, a health organization dedicated to empowering young people through accessible health education and prevention. He leads growth, partnerships, and community engagement initiatives, helping connect health topics with younger audiences through innovative digital formats and collaborations.

Markus Mateyka is the co-founder and General Manager of Haemo Pharma GmbH. As an Austrian healthcare entrepreneur and executive, he specialises in regenerative medicine and medical device distribution

Sahar Meiron is the CEO and co-founder of OrthoTreat, a MedTech company developing innovative approaches to bone regeneration. He has a background in life sciences and entrepreneurship, focusing on translating regenerative biology into clinical solutions for fracture healing and orthopaedic care.

Ali Mobasher is a Professor of Musculoskeletal Biology at the University of Oulu, Finland, specializing in cartilage biology and osteoarthritis biomarkers. He served as President of the Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI) from 2019 to 2021.

Andrea Montali is Lead Development Incubator at the AO Innovation Translation Center of the AO Foundation. A materials scientist and med-tech leader with over 25 years of experience, he specialises in translating infection-preventive biomaterials from bench to bedside. He previously spent nearly two decades at DePuy Synthes, where he helped launch the world's first gentamicin-coated intramedullary nail, and now supports early-stage projects in hydrogels and regenerative orthobiologics.

Virpi Muhonen is the CEO and co-founder of Askel Healthcare, a Finnish medtech company developing innovative cartilage repair solutions for knee injuries. With a PhD in orthopaedic cell biology, she combines scientific expertise and entrepreneurial leadership to advance regenerative therapies from research into clinical practice.

Malavika Nair is an Associate Professor of Biomaterials at the University of Oxford's Institute of Biomedical Engineering. Her research focuses on electroactive biomaterials and smart medical devices for applications in tissue regeneration, drug delivery, and bio-sensing. She previously completed her PhD at the University of Cambridge and has since built an interdisciplinary research group at Oxford.

Stefan Nehrer is Professor for Tissue Engineering at the Center for Regenerative Medicine and Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medicine at the University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria, where he also leads the Department for Health Sciences, Medicine and Research. An orthopedic surgeon by training, he specializes in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, focusing on cartilage repair and osteoarthritis.

Bronagh O'Doherty is Chief Executive Officer of Biomimetic Innovations Ltd, a company focused on developing next-generation biomaterials for tissue repair and regeneration. With a background spanning research, innovation, and commercialization, she works to advance regenerative technologies from early development toward clinical application.

Fernando Pacheco is an investment director at Endeavour Vision, where he focuses on medtech and healthcare investments, particularly in orthopaedics and digital health. He previously worked at McKinsey & Company and as an R&D engineer at Stryker Orthopaedics, combining engineering expertise with strategy and investment experience in the medical technology sector.

Nicholas Pachuda is the Chief Operating Officer at Peptilogics, bringing over 30 years of experience in orthopedics and the life sciences industry. Prior to joining Peptilogics, he held senior leadership roles at Johnson & Johnson's DePuy Synthes, Arthrex, and other MedTech companies, focusing on external innovation, business development, and clinical strategy.

Abhay Pandit is the Established Professor of Biomaterials at the University of Galway and the Founding Director of CÚRAM, the Research Ireland Centre for Medical Devices. Since 2024 he is President-Elect of the Global Tissue Engineering Regenerative Medicine International Society (TERMIS).

Azzurra Paolucci a clinical researcher and resident physician at the Center for Musculoskeletal Surgery (CMSC) at the Charité. Her surgical and research expertise is concentrated on joint arthroplasty, regenerative orthopedics, and the treatment of severe bone loss.

Thomas Pap is a University Professor of Experimental Medicine at the University of Münster. He is also the Managing Director of the Institute for Musculoskeletal Medicine (IMM) there.

Wilhelm Paulander is Chief Scientific Officer at Symcel, a company specializing in advanced microbial detection technologies. With a background in microbiology and infectious disease research, he focuses on developing innovative methods to detect and characterize biofilm-associated and implant-related infections.

Lorenz Pichler is a healthcare and life sciences professional working in orthopaedics and regenerative medicine. His work focuses on biomaterials and the development of innovative solutions for musculoskeletal care.

Xinhua Qu is Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and Director of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Renji Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine. He specializes in minimally invasive joint arthroplasty and arthroscopic procedures. He has authored over 60 as first or corresponding author, in leading journals such as Advanced Materials, Advanced Functional Materials, and Advanced Science. He has received multiple national and regional honors and contributes to international clinical guidelines on prosthetic joint infection.

Mario Rothbauer leads the "Orthopedic Microsystems" research group and serves as Deputy Head of the Karl Chiari Lab for Orthopaedic Biology (KCLOB) at the Medical University of Vienna. He also conducts research as a Principal Investigator at the TU Wien.

Noorjan Saidi is Project Coordinator at the Advanced Therapies in Orthopaedics (ATiO) Foundation. He supports international collaborations and innovation initiatives aimed at advancing regenerative medicine and next-generation therapies for musculoskeletal diseases.

Daniel Saris is an orthopaedic surgeon and researcher at Mayo Clinic. His work focuses on cartilage repair, regenerative medicine, and translating cell-based and biomaterial therapies into clinical treatments for joint disease. He is also involved in advancing minimally invasive surgical techniques for musculoskeletal conditions.

Siddarth Satish is Vice President of Digital Innovation for Surgical Technologies at Stryker, focusing on integrating advanced digital solutions into surgical practices. He founded Gauss Surgical in 2011, where he developed Triton, an AI-enabled platform for real-time blood loss monitoring during surgery; Stryker acquired Gauss Surgical in 2021.

Matthias Schieker is Vice President and Senior Distinguished Fellow at Novartis, leading early-phase development of investigational medicines for musculoskeletal diseases, particularly osteoarthritis. Prior to joining Novartis, he served as Professor of Regenerative Medicine at Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich, focusing on tissue engineering and bone regeneration.

Dmitriy Sheyn is an Associate Professor at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he leads the Sheyn Lab focusing on developing stem cell therapies for musculoskeletal disorders caused by injuries and aging. His research emphasizes the regeneration of intervertebral discs, bone, and soft tissues using adult and induced pluripotent stem cells, aiming to reverse degenerative and inflammatory processes.

Bob Smith is a seasoned biopharmaceutical executive with over 30 years of experience, notably serving as Senior VP of Pfizer's Global Gene Therapy Business. Following his retirement from Pfizer in January 2024, he became a Venture Partner at OrbiMed and joined several advisory boards, including those of Ocugen and Citius Pharmaceuticals. In 2025, he further expanded his engagement in the field by joining the Advisory Board of the Advanced Therapies in Orthopaedics (ATiO) Foundation.

Jess Snedeker is a professor at ETH Zurich specializing in biomechanics and musculoskeletal research. His work focuses on tendon and ligament mechanics, injury mechanisms, and the development of improved surgical and rehabilitation strategies. He combines engineering approaches with clinical insights to better understand soft tissue function and repair.

Una Stevic is a product management professional with experience in fintech and technology, currently working as a Product Owner at BlackRock. Her background spans product development, software quality, and digital innovation, with a focus on building user-centered technology solutions.

Jennifer Straub is an orthopaedic resident at the Medical University of Vienna and AKH Wien. She has a background in technical mathematics and medicine, with research focusing on musculoskeletal surgery, periprosthetic joint infection, and clinical data analysis in orthopaedics.

Makoto Taninokuchi Tomassoni is a radiologist and medical researcher affiliated with the University of Bologna. His work focuses on interventional radiology and minimally invasive treatments, particularly in oncological and vascular applications. He has contributed to studies on embolization techniques and regenerative medical approaches.

Stephanie Thoennissen is a German healthcare executive and management consultant. She serves as the Managing Director of IMPACT International GmbH and acts as Head of Business Development & Regulatory Affairs for Plasmaconcept AG. Her core expertise includes pharmaceutical marketing, medical device distribution, and strategic interim management.

Vannary Tieng is Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder of Vanarix SA, a Swiss biotechnology company developing regenerative therapies for musculoskeletal diseases. With expertise in tissue engineering and translational research, she leads the scientific development of innovative treatments aimed at restoring cartilage and joint function.

Richard van de Wateringen is the CEO of Implant Preservation Devices (IPD), a Dutch medtech company developing a technology to treat prosthetic joint infections using non-contact induction heating. He has a background in the orthopaedic and medical device industry and leads IPD's commercial and strategic development activities.

Edward van Wezel is Managing Partner and founder of BGV. Edward started his career as process engineer for Chiron Inc. He subsequently worked in product development and corporate licensing at Johnson & Johnson. Since 2000 he expanded his experience as CEO of several life sciences companies in the Netherlands. He currently serves on the supervisory boards of Azafaros, Scenic Biotech, Confo Therapeutics, EpsilonGen, RhyGaze and Tania Therapeutics.

Jorrit-Jan Verlaan is Co-founder and Chief Medical Officer at SentryX. He is a spine surgeon from the University Medical Center Utrecht with a special interest in improving clinical outcome by tailoring treatment through a multidisciplinary approach. Professor Verlaan is past chairman of the Research and Innovation Committee of the Dutch Orthopedic Association, served as (co-)director of the Orthopedic residency program and is also on the steering committee of the AO Spine Tumor Knowledge Forum.

Maximilian Volcksdorff is a physician and researcher at the Centrum for Musculoskeletal Surgery (CMSC), Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. His work focuses on orthopaedics and trauma surgery, with an emphasis on clinical treatment and surgical management of musculoskeletal conditions.

Lucienne Vonk is a scientist and Chief Scientific Officer at Xintela AB, where she focuses on developing cell-based therapies for musculoskeletal diseases. She also has a strong academic background in orthopaedics and regenerative medicine, with research on cartilage repair and joint preservation.

Jessica Wang is Publishing Director at KeAi Publishing, a joint venture between China Science Publishing & Media and Elsevier. KeAi publishes more than 160 scholarly journals, including several top-ranked titles such as Bioactive Materials, Journal of Magnesium and Alloys, Petroleum Exploration and Development, and Frontiers of Architectural Research, which hold No. 1 positions in their respective Journal Citation Reports categories.

David Wemans is Vice President of Regenerative Technologies at Geistlich Pharma AG, having been appointed Global Head in December 2024. With nearly 17 years at Geistlich, he has established regenerative solutions with clinicians and previously served as deputy head of the Regenerative Technologies business.

Edward Willems is the CEO and Co-founder of Gold Nest Capital, an asset management company specializing in VC investments within the life sciences sector. He also serves as the Non-Executive Chairman and Co-founder of Synapto Ventures, a corporate finance boutique firm focused on empowering life science innovators through strategic financial guidance and global fundraising solutions.

Markus A. Wimmer is a physician-scientist and orthopedic researcher serving as the Grainger Director of the Rush Arthritis and Orthopedics Institute at Rush University. His work focuses on periprosthetic joint infection, cartilage degeneration, and translational approaches to improve outcomes in orthopedic surgery.

Tobias Winkler is the Chair of Orthopaedics at MedUni Vienna. Most recently he was a professor at the Berlin Institute of Health and Center for Musculoskeletal Surgery @Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, leading the Advanced Musculoskeletal Therapies Section. He is co-founder and chair of the executive board of the Advanced Therapies in Orthopaedics (ATiO) Foundation.

Sijia Zhou is a physician and researcher at the Centrum für Muskuloskeletale Chirurgie (CMSC), Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. His work focuses on orthopaedic research and the development of innovative approaches for the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders, bridging clinical practice and translational science.

Thomas Zumbrunn is Co-Founder and CTO of CustomSurg, a Swiss medical technology company developing patient-specific solutions for orthopaedic and trauma surgery. With a background in engineering and digital health, he leads the development of personalized surgical planning and implant technologies designed to improve clinical outcomes.