ECTS Newsletter | May 2026

ECTS Newsletter

Your Monthly News & Updates

Announcements and Events

Congratulations to the ECTS 2026 Named Awardees!

During the 53rd Annual Congress of the European Calcified Tissue Society, hosted in Girona, Spain, from 24 to 27 April, there was be a ceremony to award five

distinguished scientists and three young investigators. This is an annual ceremony, since the European Calcified Tissue Society is highly committed in recognising scientific excellence in the field of bone and mineral metabolism.

This year's winners are:

Steve Stegen (Iain T. Boyle Award, for young scientists who have made significant progress and contribution to the field of bone and calcified tissue)

Geert Carmeliet (Mike Horton Award, for individuals who have made a significant basic or translational contribution to the field of bone and calcified tissue).

Sudhaker Dhanwada Rao (Philippe Bordier Award, for scientists who have made a significant clinical contribution to the field of bone and calcified tissue).

Bente Langdahl (Steven Boonen Award, for medical doctors who have made significant progress and contribution to the field of bone clinical and bone disease research).

Outi Mäkitie (Maria Luisa Bianchi Award, for medical doctors who have made significant progress and contribution to the field of clinical rare bone disease research).

For the third time this year, our society is presenting "ECTS Best Article Award". The prize is reserved to first Authors that published a relevant scientific manuscript during the period June 2024-October 2025 in three distinct areas of research: clinical, basic and translational. The winners that will present their results during the upcoming meeting in Girona are:

Rodrigo Montero-Lopez

Sara Reis Moura

Jelena Jadzic

ECTS Newsletter Committee Update

This issue we have two members of the ECTS Newsletter Committee who have finished their term – Antonio Maurizi and Elena Tsourdi. We would like to thank them

both for their passion, dedication and hard work each month which allows us to produce the Newsletter.

Antonio has been the Cochair of the Newsletter for nearly two years. In this time he has worked diligently leading the Newsletter team during his term. A lot goes on behind the scenes of the Newsletter, the planning and coordination required to collate and write articles each month is not insignificant, and the rest of the committee are extremely grateful for your contributions, time and care. Thank you Antonio!

Elena has been a highly active member of the committee, producing many timely, interesting and thoughtful articles on bone health. In particular her insights and expertise on anabolic and anti-resorptive therapies shine through in her articles, and we are grateful for her contributions. Thank you Elena!

Alanna Green, incoming Cochair

Heide Siggelkow, Chair of the communications committee

On behalf of the ECTS Newsletter Committee: Alexander Rauch, Elisa Pucci, Francois Robin, Geert Carmiliet, Iamana Sokolovic, Marco Angelozzi

---

Report on Webinar "Hypoparathyroidism New Developments" by Elisa Pucci

Dr. Maria Yropoulou, Senior Consultant in Endocrinology from Greece, is an internationally recognised expert with a strong focus on metabolic bone diseases and diabetes.

Her presentation addressed recent advances in the treatment of hypoparathyroidism, highlighting that the disease should be considered a dual hormonal deficiency involving both PTH and calcitriol, rather than simply a disorder of calcium deficiency. This explains the limitations of conventional therapy with calcium and active vitamin D, which often fails to fully replicate physiological conditions.

Read More

Register for the ECTS PhD Training Course in Manchester!

This prestigious PhD Training Course, aimed at promoting general knowledge of bone research to young investigators, is now in its 19th year and has been hailed as one of the most innovative and successful courses in the bone field.

The course programme incorporates interactive teaching sessions on a variety of topics with a primary focus on basic science, but with additional clinical context. An example of the topics likely to be included in the programme is provided below. Another important aspect of the course is the opportunity for students to network and obtain feedback on their project. Student will present and discuss their work

with peers and Faculty members through poster and short oral presentations of their PhD project. Networking and mentoring sessions with Faculty members also provide opportunities for career development. The course has been of immense value to previous participants, and the networks that form during these events will help to sustain the musculoskeletal field in Europe into the future.

Register Today!

Bringing the Herbert Fleisch Workshop to Europe: A Community-Driven Initiative.
By Alexander Rauch

The Herbert Fleisch Workshop (HFW) is a long-standing and highly regarded format in musculoskeletal research, combining scientific excellence with interdisciplinary exchange and dedicated mentoring of early-career researchers.

Established in honor of Herbert Fleisch (1933–2007), the workshop has its roots in the Davos meetings (1985–2007) and was revived in 2014 under the International Federation of Musculoskeletal Research Societies (IFMRS). It was subsequently held four times in Belgium (2014, 2016, 2019, 2022) through the efforts of Roger Bouillon and Christa Maes, before evolving into a rotating model among member societies, with the first edition outside Europe organized by ANZBMS in 2025.

Follow the link to find additional information about the workshop and how to register for the event.

Read More

News from the world

News from the World: DNA Synthesis WITHOUT a Template

By Alexander Rauch

Bacteria have long been known to fight viral infections using nucleic acid–based signals. The study from the lab of Alex Gao at Stanford University reveals a completely new way of generating such signals: DNA synthesis without a nucleic acid template.

Deng et al. describe in Science a system in which a DNA strand, first produced by a reverse transcriptase, is extended by an enzyme called Drt3b in a way that is not dictated by base pairing, but by the protein itself. The result is highly ordered, repeating DNA sequences generated through an entirely new mechanism.

As highlighted in a recent commentary, this represents "*a fundamentally new way life produces DNA*", challenging long-standing assumptions about how genetic information can be generated.

What makes this discovery particularly exciting is the underlying principle: sequence information can be encoded directly in a protein and then written into DNA on demand. This introduces a completely new mode of information flow in biology. Much like CRISPR, also a part of bacterial immunity, this system may represent the early glimpse of a new class of molecular tools. A programmable, protein-guided way of synthesizing DNA could open unexpected avenues in biotechnology, synthetic biology, and therapeutic design.

Read the Article

Read the Commentary

Paper of the Month: Linking Thermogenesis and Bone Through TNAP

By Alexander Rauch

Tissue-nonspecific alkaline phosphatase (TNAP), encoded by *ALPL*, is well known for its role in bone mineralization. A study led by Lawrence Kazak from McGill University in Montreal, now reveals an unexpected second function: TNAP also drives heat production in fat cells, linking skeletal biology to energy metabolism.

Read More

Announcements and Events

Education and Events:

- We welcome all suggestions for the scientific programme of **ECTS 2027**, which will take place in Bruges, Belgium. Submit your proposals here.
- Boost your learning with ECTS eCampus! Join our live webinars, explore expert-led lectures, and discover more exciting resources. Start today!
- IHN Core Educational Curriculum Slide Toolkit. Check it out.

Society's life:

- ECTS membership renewal for 2026 is now open: Be part of ECTS in 2026: become member of a dynamic community in the musculoskeletal field and take advantage from a wide range of benefits. Join or renew your membership now – View the membership benefits
- Let us know if you would like to be actively involved in ECTS activities and you may be called to be part in one of our committees or action groups. Complete an online form here.
- Are you following us on social media? You can stay connected with the ECTS outside of this newsletter. We are regularly sharing updates, important

deadlines and it is a great way to connect with your fellows too! Facebook, LinkedIn and **new Bluesky.**

- Subscribe to the ECTS Newsletters.

Job Opportunity:

- Do you have an exciting job opportunity that you would like to share with the ECTS Community? Submit your job posting here.

Suggested Reading:

- Could targeting GREM1 be the key to reducing peri-implant fibrosis and improving osseointegration? Read the article

---

Announcements and Events from our Partner Societies

Quick Links

ECTS website ECTS 2026 ECTS 2025 On Demand ECTS Education & Events

eCampus Webinars Grants and Awards

Members login Contact us

ECTS is thankful to its Corporate Members and other companies that have supported ECTS activities through unrestricted educational grants. These sponsors have in no way contributed to or influenced the content.

STAY CONNECTED:

ECTS - European Calcified Tissue Society

Washington 40, Rue, Brussels, 1050