

## 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SKELETAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM INVITED SPEAKERS

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**Anne-Marie Malfait, MD PhD**, is Professor of Medicine and the George W. Stuppy, MD, Chair of Arthritis at Rush University in Chicago IL. Anne-Marie received her MD degree in 1989 and her PhD in 1994, both from Ghent University in Belgium. Her early training was in rheumatology. During her postdoctoral training at the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology in London, she was involved in the very early experiments that targeted TNF $\alpha$  in inflammatory arthritis. In 2001, she joined the pharmaceutical industry, as part of a team for the development of disease-modifying osteoarthritis drugs (DMOADs). In 2009, Anne-Marie established a research group at Rush University, focused on the relationship between joint damage and the neurobiological processes that underlie pain associated with rheumatic diseases, using animal models and human tissues. Anne-Marie has co-authored more than 120 peer reviewed papers and book chapters. She is the Director of the newly established P30-funded *Chicago Center for Musculoskeletal Pain* (NIAMS), <https://mskpain.center>, and co-director of a T32 that provides postdoctoral training in Joint Health. She is PI of RE-JOIN, a new NIH-funded consortium aimed at mapping the joint-nerve interactome of the knee. In the past few years, Anne-Marie served on the Board of the Osteoarthritis Research Society International and of the Rheumatology Research Foundation. She currently serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Arthritis National Research Foundation. She is Editor-in-Chief of *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage*, the premier journal in the field (together with David Hunter from the University of Sydney).

**Frank Beier** is the Canada Research Chair in Musculoskeletal Research, the Chair of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Western Ontario, and a member of Western University's Bone and Joint Institute. His lab explores mechanisms controlling cartilage and joint biology, both during skeletal development and in diseases such as osteoarthritis, using genome-wide gene expression studies and genetically modified mice for osteoarthritis research. For example, his research first implicated the EGFR pathway, several nuclear receptors, and the channel protein Pannexin 3 in this disease. Based on the identification of these pathways as mediators of osteoarthritis pathogenesis, several of his current projects attempt to translate these basic findings towards clinical applications.

Dr. Beier has published more than 140 peer-reviewed articles and gave more than 120 invited presentations across the world. His work is currently supported by Project Grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and funds from the NIH. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the *Osteoarthritis Research Society International* (OARSI) and Deputy Editor for *Osteoarthritis & Cartilage*. He was the Chair of the 2017 *Cartilage Gordon Conference* and was awarded the Basic Science Award from OARSI in 2019. He served as standing member of the SBSR study section at NIH and currently is a standing member of the SBDD study section.

In addition to his research, Dr. Beier is passionate about mentoring the next generation of scientists and about EDI and social justice in academia and beyond. Dr. Beier lives in London, Canada. He has six children and, consequently, enjoys every moment of quiet he can get, especially while hiking and biking outside.