

Björn Busse

University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany



Statement of Nominee

The European Calcified Tissue Society (ECTS) has been my scientific home for more than 15 years. My first ECTS annual meeting took place in 2007 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Since then, I have not only been an enthusiastic member of the ECTS but also a frequent attendee of the past Annual meetings all over Europe contributing to the main basic and clinical science sessions presenting and discussing various new proceedings on the cellular, structural and compositional characteristics of bone and calcified tissues. Following my appointment in the ECTS Academy (2017-2022), I have been involved in organizing several educational events and conferences aiming to provide every year an exciting programme for researchers in training including 'New Investigator' and 'Mentoring' sessions. In addition, I am currently serving as co-chair of the ECTS Basic Science Action group (2017–present) and as a member of the scientific program committee (SPC) for the 2022 ECTS Annual Meeting in Helsinki, Finland. With these positions, I was fortunate enough to collect over the years comprehensive ECTS organization and management experience to complement my expertise in translational osteology, biomedical sciences and functional imaging.

Beyond my volunteering work with the ECTS, I am serving as Associate Editor for the American Bone and Mineral Research Societies (ASBMR) Journal of Bone and Mineral Research (JBMR). In the future, I would like to keep on working on building scientific bridges between the European and US bone societies. I am interested in stimulating scientific exchange and international collaborations. Furthermore, team-working and wide-ranging communication capacities will be of help in bringing our basic and clinical members together to fulfil our scientific mission. I would like to provide scientific and personal support and guidance, while always being open to new ideas. Due to my interdisciplinary background on the one hand, and experience in clinical bone imaging on the other hand, I am particularly enthusiastic about fostering translational medicine at the interface between clinical practice and basic research in the musculoskeletal field.

Short profile of nominee

Björn Busse is Full Professor of Biomedical Sciences and Medical Technology at the Department of Osteology and Biomechanics, University Medical Center Hamburg, Germany. He is director of a Heisenberg Research Group and the Forum Medical Technology Health in Hamburg (FMTHH), Germany. Björn has a strong interest in skeletal imaging, biomechanics and bone quality analyses. He has graduated in bioengineering and has finished his Ph.D. work with honors at the Free and Humboldt University Berlin / Charité, University Medicine Berlin, where he has focused on bone imaging and bone mineralization. In particular, he has focused on scanning/backscattered electron microscopy, microanalysis, materials testing and bone histomorphometry. His work provides a contribution to our understanding of the fracture mechanisms of bone, specifically by focussing on aspects of bone quality, such as osseous changes with skeletal aging, osteoporosis, osteoporosis treatment strategies, osteomalacia, osteogenesis imperfecta, Paget's disease of bone, etc. from both a medical and bioengineering perspective.

Björn gained further academic teaching and research experience during his post-doc research fellowship at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and the University of California, Berkeley. Björn has published more than 100 papers in highly visible journals and was awarded with several research prizes including the 'John Haddad Young Investigator Award' of the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research and the 'von Recklinghausen-Prize' of the German Society of Endocrinology.

Geert Carmeliet

KU Leuven, Belgium



Statement of Nominee

I am excited and honoured to be nominated for a second term as Secretary of the ECTS Board of Directors. Starting as chair of the Basic Science Action Group within the ECTS, I was privileged to enjoy the great enthusiasm of all the members of this Action Group, to promote basic science abstract submission and to initiate well-argued critical reflection on animal research and omics approaches. Being ECTS Secretary during the last year, I want to further engage in supporting and optimizing the different Action Groups and connecting to IFMRS.

Scientifically, I can offer knowledge and expertise in basic bone research using preclinical mouse models and several omics approaches with focus on hypoxia signalling and cell metabolism, next to vitamin D and calcium homeostasis. Not only bone development and homeostasis, but also several bone disorders are investigated, including osteoporosis, osteoarthritis and bone metastasis, in addition to the therapeutic possibilities of skeletal tissue engineering.

Short profile of nominee

Geert Carmeliet is MD, trained in paediatrics (KU Leuven, Belgium) and obtained her PhD in Biomedical Sciences (KU Leuven). She is now primarily focussing on understanding molecular and cellular mechanisms contributing to skeletal development and disorders. She is Professor of Medicine and Chairman of the Division of Clinical and Experimental Endocrinology, KU Leuven. She is first, corresponding and/or senior author in a broad spectrum of basic and translational manuscripts published in journals in the field of bone development, disorders and regeneration, but also in more general biomedical journals including Nature, Cell Metabolism, Developmental Cell, Nature Metabolism. She is involved in teaching medical students (>400 students) and mentoring PhD students and Postdocs. She is member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium, member of several editorial boards (JBMR, Bone, Frontiers) and invited speaker at international conferences (Gordon, ASBMR, Keystone).

Christian Meier

University Hospital Basel, Basel, Switzerland



Statement of Nominee

After having been elected as Treasurer of the ECTS in 2019 it was my great pleasure to serve the ECTS in this function in the past years. In my opinion it is imperative that our Society continues to flourish and that we further attract the most talented young researchers in the field in order to strengthen the Society's future. For this purpose, we depend on a stable and healthy economy, a challenging task in times of fewer funding opportunities, increased competition and strict regulations. In this respect it would be a pleasure and honour to continue my contribution and to serve the Society for another 3-years-term in the Board.

As Treasurer it is my mission to make sure that ECTS remains a financially stable organization. To this end and to ascertain financial stability my vision is to:

- Maintain transparency and effective reporting
- Reducing unnecessary expenses without challenging the Society's tasks
- Sustain current sponsoring environment
- Create new funding opportunities (basic science research, laboratory medicine, create platform for potential new products)
- Recruit more members, specifically young researchers and clinicians
- Consolidate and increase conference attendance and expand congress revenue.

Short profile of nominee

Christian Meier is associate professor of endocrinology at the University of Basel and serves as consultant at the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Clinical Nutrition at University Hospital Basel, Switzerland. Christian received his scientific and medical training (Swiss Board Certification Internal Medicine 1997 and Endocrinology & Diabetology 1999) in Switzerland and in Australia. From 2002-2004, he joined the Bone Biology Research Group at the ANZAC Research Institute in Sydney and was involved in various clinical projects assessing the clinical utility of bone turnover markers. His research interests include various aspects of bone and mineral metabolism.

Christian is past-president of the Swiss Society against osteoporosis (SVGO), serves as committee member of the Dachverband deutschsprachiger osteologischer Gesellschaften e.V. (DVO), is member of the Committee Scientific Advisors of the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) and serves as Treasurer of the European Calcified Tissue Society since 2019. Since 2021 he serves as medical advisor in the disciplinary board of Swiss Olympic

Heide Siggelkow

University of Göttingen Medical Center, Göttingen, Germany



Statement of Nominee

Dear colleagues,

Since Heidelberg in 1993 and Harrogate in 1997, I visited ECTS meeting 2003, 2005 and 2009 presenting scientific data. My active involvement further included speaker engagement at the Bone Turnover Markers course in Salzburg, abstract review, a presentation in 2020, and as a chairperson in 2021. From 2017-2020, I was member of the ECTS Website and Social Media Action Group. In 2021, I joined the ECTS action group of rare bone diseases.

Given my work in an outpatient clinic for endocrine or metabolic bone diseases including osteoporosis, hypoparathyroidism, hyperparathyroidism, and rare bone diseases, my focus is now clearly on clinical medicine also in research. My experience in education is based on ten years of membership in the organizational team of the yearly "Intensive Course for Clinical Endocrinology" of the German Society of Endocrinology (DGE), which took place in Göttingen twice under my leadership in 2007 and 2017. In 2019, I had the privilege of organizing the yearly congress of the German Society of Endocrinology in Göttingen.

My past experience as a board member derives from several positions. Between 2011 and 2015, I was head of the Association of German Language Societies in the specialty field of Osteology (DVO). From 2017–2019, I was president of the German Society of Osteology (DGO) and serve this society in the current position as a treasurer. During my presidency, in 2018, I was one of the founders, and I am the current spokesperson, of the German network of rare bone diseases, "Netzwerk für seltene Osteopathien NetsOs". Since 2020, I have been a member of the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE) Education Committee and representative in the PARAT programme of the ESE.

With a large network of expert clinicians and scientists from Germany and German speaking countries also dedicated to the treatment of patients and research in the field of bone and calcium metabolism in the background and personal strength in education, organization and networking I am convinced of my ability to promote the further development of the Society, in accordance with its ambitions and goals.

Short profile of nominee

Prof. Dr. Heide Siggelkow is associate professor for Endocrinology at the Clinic of Gastroenterology, Gastrointestinal Oncology and Endocrinology, Head of the Working Group of Molecular Endocrinology and Osteology at the University Medical Center, Göttingen and Medical Director of the MVZ Endokrinologikum. She works in an outpatient clinic for endocrine or metabolic bone diseases including osteoporosis, hypoparathyroidism, hyperparathyroidism and rare bone diseases. Between 2011 and 2015, she was head of the Association of German Language Societies in the special Field of Osteology (DVO). In this position, she initiated and supported the development of the Osteologic Research Centers DVO. She has been president of the German Society of Osteology (DGO) from 2017–2019, since then she serves as vice-president. In 2017, the Intensive Course for Clinical Endocrinology of the German Society of Endocrinology (DGE) took place in Göttingen under her leadership, and in 2019 she hosted the yearly congress of the society DGE in Göttingen. Since 2018, she has been spokesperson of the German network of rare bone diseases, "Netzwerk für seltene Osteopathien NetsOs". 2017-2020 she was member of the European Calcified Tissue Society (ECTS) Website and Social Media Action Group, since 2021 she joined the ECTS Action group of Rare Bone Diseases. Since 2020 she is member of the ESE Education committee and representative in the PARAT programme of the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE). Her basic scientific work focuses on molecular and metabolic mechanisms important for the interplay between fat and bone in primary and secondary forms of osteoporosis, with a special focus on cortisol and bone. Another main topic was the investigation of mechanisms of osteoporosis in chronic inflammatory bowel diseases. Her clinical research is now concentrated on secondary forms of osteoporosis and on hypoparathyroidism with a special focus on quality of life. invited speaker at international conferences (Gordon, ASBMR, Keystone).

Andre van Wijnen

University of Vermont, Burlington, USA



Statement of Nominee

Andre J. van Wijnen, Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, USA

Service for the ECTS is a privilege that aligns with my deep held belief that academic interactions without political borders or social impediments, are necessary to ensure that the power of science will continue to transform societies at a global scale. Consistent with this vision, during my first term on the ECTS Board I have served as the liaison for the ECTS Communications Committee which supports the ECTS website, ECTS social media (Twitter, Facebook) and the ECTS newsletter. Prior service in leadership and/or volunteer positions within the ECTS, ASBMR, BMAS and ORS organizations, have collectively endowed me with a broad perspective of international goals and issues as the basis for experienced advocacy to accommodate diverse stakeholders ranging from pure scientists, physician-investigators, clinicians, patient advocates, industry representatives, and government officials. As a European-born academician residing in North America, I have actively collaborated with investigators on five different continents, and very much appreciate equity, diversity and inclusion at an international level. My leadership style is agnostic, inquisitive and inclusive: consensus opinions should be reached based on transparent facts and incorporate a diversity of opinions into a single voice, guided by the principle that international scientific cooperation is based on equality and symmetry at both institutional and personal levels. Other professional expertise that I have brought to the ECTS the mindset of a free-thinking scientific polyglot with a high level of service and research productivity based on faculty track record spanning 30 years, including active service on >100 grant review panels, duties on many editorial boards, and authorships on >650 well-cited papers in fundamental and translational sciences in a very broad range of topics, including bone, cancer, musculoskeletal development and degeneration, mouse genetics, stem cells, tissue engineering, orthopedic disorders and regenerative medicine. These service and research achievements reflect an innovative, broad-minded and forward-thinking mindset that parallels the collaborative spirit and energy that I would continue to offer while serving on the ECTS Board.

Short profile of nominee

Dr. Andre van Wijnen received pre-doctoral training in molecular biology and biochemistry at the University of Utrecht, Netherlands, in conjunction with the University of Florida (Gainesville, FL). He graduated with a doctoral degree in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Massachusetts Medical School (Worcester, MA), where he ascended the academic track to the rank of Professor. From 2012 to 2021, he directed a translational research laboratory at Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN) focusing on musculoskeletal disorders and stem cell therapies. Since 2021, he has been affiliated with the University of Vermont (Burlington, VT). From a fundamental perspective, his research group addresses biological and mechanistic questions fundamental to regulation and deregulation of musculoskeletal tissue development and cancer using state-of-the-art approaches including genomics, epigenomics, proteomics, metabolomics, high resolution microscopy and mouse genetics.