

Jim Gallagher

University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK



Statement of Nominee

Membership of ECTS and attendance at the annual congresses has had a major positive impact on my career, leading to research opportunities, collaborations and friendships. I wish to repay the Society, by using my enthusiasm and skills to ensure that similar opportunities are available to ECTS members, particularly young investigators and mid-career scientists.

I have been an enthusiastic supporter of ECTS for over 40 years, since attending my first conference in Knokke, Belgium in 1981. I have always encouraged my students and postdocs to join ECTS and present their research at the annual congresses. I am delighted to be the local organiser of the ECTS 2023 Congress, taking place in Liverpool, UK, 2023, in conjunction with the Bone Research Society Annual Meeting.

Throughout my research career, I have striven to undertake excellent basic science research that has translated into benefit for patients with musculoskeletal disorders. I have supervised many PhD students and mentored many young researchers. I believe international collaboration is a major driver of successful research and I am passionate about inclusivity and transparency,

I have developed skills in academic leadership through many years of experience running my research group, serving as departmental chair and membership of many scientific and regulatory committees. These roles have involved education, communication, organising and fundraising. I have served as President and Treasurer of the Bone Research Society (BRS). I have organised many successful scientific meetings including BRS annual meetings and the International Workshops on Alkaptonuria.

In summary, ECTS has had a major influence on my research career, particularly when I was a young scientist. I want to apply my skills, experience, and enthusiasm to ensure that ECTS remains a vibrant and welcoming forum for clinical and basic researchers in the field of calcified tissues.

Short profile of nominee

Jim Gallagher is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Liverpool. He held the Derby Chair of Anatomy and Cell Biology at Liverpool from 2007-2020 and is Past-President of the Bone Research Society, UK, a Fellow of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, and a member of European Calcified Tissues Society since 1981. Jim undertook his PhD with Eric Lawson in Cambridge, where they showed that 1,25(OH)₂D₃ is necessary and sufficient to cure bone lesions in rachitic rats. His first post-doc was working with Herbie Fleisch on the effects of bisphosphonates on osteoblasts. He returned to the UK to Graham Russell's lab, where he developed the first system to culture human osteoblasts with Jon Beresford. His group in Liverpool cloned the human P2Y₂ receptor and pioneered the investigation of purinergic signalling in bone and skin. Jim has supervised over 40 PhD students, several of whom hold academic positions at UK and international universities including 2 chairs. In recent years, he has worked with Lakshminarayan Ranganath on the mechanism of arthropathy in the rare genetic disease alkaptonuria and they have identified an effective therapeutic agent, nitisinone, which was approved by the EMA in 2020. Morphological studies on the severe osteoarticular phenotype in alkaptonuria, in collaboration with Alan Boyde, have revealed new mechanisms of joint destruction that are also observed in more common osteoarthritis. Jim collaborated with DaisyBeck Productions on the acclaimed Channel 5 documentary "Body Donors", which won a Royal Television Society Award.

Peter Pietschmann

Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria



Statement of Nominee

As a long-term member of the ECTS it will be a special honour to serve as the President-Elect of our society. My commitment to ECTS is evidenced by my function as the co-chair of the grants & awards committee and by my activities in the programme committee of ECTS 2020. Being a physician scientist working in the bone field for over 30 years I fully support the ECTS mission to advance science for the benefit of patients with metabolic bone diseases. My activities both at ECTS and at my university are guided by the core values of excellence, inclusion, collaboration and transparency. I have special skills in education (teaching at universities, national and international activities in medical education), scientific communication, organisation (of scientific events) and leadership (head of a bone research laboratory/group for over 25 years). My strengths are commitment, perseverance, open-mindedness, empathy and tolerance. I also have long term experience with activities in several scientific organisations (including President of the Austrian Bone and Mineral Society, President of the Austrian Society of Geriatrics and Gerontology, board member of the Austrian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism). The current pandemic is a challenge for science in general and in particular for scientific societies. I will fully support all activities of the ECTS to successfully master this crisis and to further prosper after the crisis. I particularly can add a very broad knowledge of basic, translational and clinical aspects of osteology and related fields, experience in scientific societies and with the organisation of scientific events.

Short profile of nominee

Since over 30 years Peter Pietschmann made numerous major and innovative contributions to the field of bone and osteoporosis research. His areas of research include markers of bone turnover, the pathogenesis of secondary osteoporosis, osteoporosis in men, the regulation of bone resorption and the development and characterization of in vivo models for bone research. On the basis of his broad experimental and clinical research experience he was among the first to delineate interactions between bone and the immune system, a field now termed "osteimmunology". Within the area of osteimmunology, in particular his work relating the pathogenesis of age related osteoporosis to inflammaging and his contributions to bone pathology of inflammatory diseases should be highlighted. Peter Pietschmann has published over 260 papers in peer reviewed journals, 33 book chapters and edited three books. According to Scopus his H-index is 47. He has trained over 50 bachelor, master and doctoral students.