

Editorial

***Journal of Functional Biomaterials* Best Paper Award 2015**

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The *Journal of Functional Biomaterials* is instituting an annual award to recognize the outstanding papers related to materials for biomedical applications published in this journal. We are pleased to announce the first “*Journal of Functional Biomaterials* Best Paper Award” for 2015.

Nominations were made by the Editorial Office of *Journal of Functional Biomaterials* based on the citations and downloads among all the research papers published in 2014 and 2013. We are pleased to announce that the following three papers were chosen by the Prize Awarding Committee:

Best Paper Award

1st Prize

Victoria Leszczak, Dominique A. Baskett and Ketul C. Popat

Smooth Muscle Cell Functionality on Collagen Immobilized Polycaprolactone Nanowire Surfaces

J. Funct. Biomater. **2014**, *5*(2), 58–77; doi:10.3390/jfb5020058

Available online: <http://www.mdpi.com/2079-4983/5/2/58>

“*A very comprehensive study of an important cell–material interaction that could be of wide interest to tissue engineers.*”—Prof. Dr. Joachim B. Kohn

“*Advanced biomaterial concepts, comprehensive characterization.*”—Prof. Dr. Aldo R. Boccaccini

“*A very accurate biological characterization.*”—Dr. Antonella Sola

“*Useful study of SMC morphology and turnover on a surface of nanowires orientated vertically to the surface. Normally such structures are horizontally arrayed on the surface. More could have been done to rationalise the structure with a surface that has so many unusually deep vacant spaces. The physiological relevance of such an unusual surface is also not clear.*”—

Prof. Dr. Pankaj Vadgama

2nd Prize

Adel M.F. Alhalawani, Declan J. Curran, Belinda Pinguan-Murphy, Daniel Boyd and Mark R. Towler

A Novel Glass Polyalkenoate Cement for Fixation and Stabilisation of the Ribcage, Post Sternotomy Surgery: An *ex-Vivo* Study

J. Funct. Biomater. **2013**, *4*(4), 329–357; doi:10.3390/jfb4040329

Available online: <http://www.mdpi.com/2079-4983/4/4/329>

“The article describes an interesting result but is only of limited interest to a specialized subgroup of scientists.”—Prof. Dr. Joachim B. Kohn

“Comprehensive, scientifically sound, well written and completed by a rich bibliography.”—Dr. Antonella Sola

“Exceptionally comprehensive study of based glass polyalkenoate cements with comparison of surface, bulk and ion release properties. It has breadth and sufficient bone fixation interest to be of significance to all who work in this field. However, it tends to veer towards the descriptive rather than a mechanistic analysis.”—Prof. Dr. Pankaj Vadgama

3rd Prize

Deepen Paul, Sharmistha Paul, Nima Roohpour, Mark Wilks and Pankaj Vadgama

Antimicrobial, Mechanical and Thermal Studies of Silver Particle-Loaded Polyurethane

J. Funct. Biomater. **2013**, *4*(4), 358–375; doi:10.3390/jfb4040358

Available online: <http://www.mdpi.com/2079-4983/4/4/358>

“The article describes an interesting result but is only of limited interest to a specialized subgroup of scientists. It’s a well done study.”—Prof. Dr. Joachim B. Kohn

“Relevant, timely, well conducted study on Ag nanoparticles as part of a composite material.”—Prof. Dr. Aldo R. Boccaccini

“A step forward into the investigation of Ag use for antibacterial applications.”—Dr. Antonella Sola

These three outstanding papers are valuable contributions to the *Journal of Functional Biomaterials*. On behalf of the Prize Awarding Committee and the Editorial Board, we would like to congratulate these three teams for their excellent work. In recognition of their accomplishment, the corresponding authors of these three best papers, Dr. Ketul C. Popat, Dr. Mark R. Towler, Dr. Deepen Paul and Dr. Pankaj Vadgama will receive the privilege of publishing an additional paper free of charge in open access format in the *Journal of Functional Biomaterials* after regular peer-review procedures.

Prize Awarding Committee

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