

From the Editor-in-Chief

This number of the Clinical Cases in Mineral and Bone Metabolism (*CCMBM*) is hosting a collection of interesting clinical and basic reports in different areas of metabolic bone disorders. The role of phosphatonins in the control of phosphate clearance and through this action also of important physiopathological processes, as ectopic calcification and bone healing, is elegantly presented by Loredana Cavalli. These "novel" hormones are becoming the key for understanding the pathogenetic basis of several congenital disorders and also to better interpret the physiological basis of skeletal metabolism. Today, phosphate is not second to any other ion in the homeostatic control of bone turnover.

Laura Masi introduces the cross-talk between brain and bone. This is a topic that encompasses several unanswered questions. The article reviews the published clinical literature and opens new interpretations in the biological bases of the segregation of neuropsychiatric disorders with fragility fractures. This same area is also presented by Prisco Piscitelli who describes an observational protocol to evaluate the impact of depression and the use of antidepressants on fragility fractures. In this same direction is also moving the manuscript of Alfonso Fasano, who reviewed the neurologic component of falls, one of the main causes of fragility fractures.

To whet your appetite, here are some highlights on the use of cell therapies in orthopedic surgery. This is, indeed, an area of great development with a large series of publications. It is understandable that both scientists and clinicians are constantly confronting new questions. Some are basic issues, involving the identification and characterization of new models. Other are challenges for surgical applications: have we obtained the necessary permission for clinical use of *in vitro* models, and have we offered all the available therapeutic approaches to our patients? All these questions are faced in the papers from Philippe Hernigou, Elizaveta Kon, and Simone Ciuffi.

One important report from Maurizio Rossini describes the results obtained in Veneto through the hip fractures initiative, offering an example of the role of public institutions in facing important preventive strategies, including the reduction of hip fractures in the elderly.

Particularly useful to the clinicians are the two excellent reports by Maurizio Muratore e Fabio Vescini on the role of antifracture drugs respectively in periprosthetic and long-bone healing.

Finally, Stefano Giannotti participates with two manuscripts on humeral fractures, one fully dedicated to a review on this important fragility fracture and the other describing a clinical case of humeral periprosthetic re-fracture.

We wish to express our gratitude to Francesco Tonelli for his generous collaboration that enriches our collection of articles in the "Bone Disease in Art" section with a beautiful article on Pierre-Auguste Renoir.

I hope that the readers of *CCMBM* will particularly enjoy the contributions of this issue, all focusing on important and scientifically exciting areas of cutting-edge bone research.

As always, *CCMBM* takes only responsibility for the editorial content and peer-review.

At *CCMBM* we're always trying to enhance your interest in the management of mineral and skeletal metabolic disorders. I hope this issue fills the bill.



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