

PREFACE

The volume entitled **Current Topics in Bone Biology** is the first to be generated by the members and friends of International Chinese Hard Tissue Society (ICHTS), which underscores the Society's commitment to promoting excellence in bone and mineral research and facilitating the translation of advances of bone biology to health care and clinical practice. The publication of the volume will be translated into Chinese and published by a prestigious publishing house in China, Higher Education Press, to accelerate our support of ICHTS' main mission "to promote scientific and profession excellence and enhance communication among scientists of Chinese heritage and other internationals in the field of hard tissue research and related areas".

The International Chinese Hard Tissue Society is indebted to the editors and authors who made this book possible. I did not think it was possible to recruit so many in this endeavor because of the problem that these authors encountered. Traditionally, scholars writing chapters for books are given credit and encouraged by their institution. However, government research administration in European countries and some academic institutions have changed this policy. Now the career evaluation system for scholars have downgraded the value of writing chapters and gives no credit for this activity. Publication credit in many academic institutions is based on impact, a measure of circulation and prestige of the journal in which the publication occurs. Thus, my hat is off to each of the dedicated scholars who took time to help further to fill in the void to our understanding of

physiology and pathology and to “connect the dots” in our understanding to generate new paradigms even though it may not advance their careers.

To implement publication of this volume, the International Chinese Hard Tissue Society is indebted to the tremendous efforts of Professor Hong-Wen Deng, Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Yaozhong Liu Co-Editor-in-Chief, and Associate Editors Dr. Chun-Yuan Gao and Dr. Di Chen. They successfully coaxed and cajoled authors of 20 chapters to complete their tasks on schedule. In addition, this monumental effort succeeded only with the continual support of the President, Dr. Darren Ji and the help of Dr. Ying Lu who introduced us to the publisher, World Scientific Publishing Co.

This book is intended for students, teachers, practitioners and investigators of the skeletal system. Basic scientists and clinical investigators interested in bone and their adjacent soft tissues will find this “Current Topics in Bone Biology” useful at all levels of inquiry, including molecular biology, cell biology, biochemistry, physiology, genetics, pathology and biomechanics. The volume is interesting reading. There are many chapters in this volume that describe skeletal effects of genetic and environmental factors from which the reader can formulate their own opinions and paradigms.

I recommend this volume strongly, especially to principal investigators, research associates, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, as well as established investigators and clinicians. Digesting it will pave the way for all to fill in the blanks and develop new paradigms for skeletal physiology and pathology.

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