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Dear ASMB Friends,

I am delighted to announce the establishment of the Renato Iozzo Award for Outstanding Research in Matrix Biology, the result of a remarkably generous, personal bequest to the ASMB. As you may know, Renato V. Iozzo, MD, is and has been a tireless advocate for the advancement of matrix science from both a scientific and administrative perspective. Dr. Iozzo holds the academic titles of Professor of Pathology, Anatomy, and Cell Biology and of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Thomas Jefferson University. Throughout his career, he has made enormous scientific contributions, with his in-depth investigation of several categories of proteoglycans and their cellular interactions. He has recently served as president of both the ASMB and the ISMB. He is currently the new editor-in-chief of our affiliated journal, *Matrix Biology*.

Above and beyond these professional contributions, Dr. Iozzo has now granted to ASMB a \$100,000 endowment whose revenue will sustain the recognition of individuals approaching the apex of their scientific career in matrix biology. The Iozzo Award will be a \$5,000 prize, given biennially to mid-career investigators, 5-20 years from their first faculty or equivalent appointment, in a fashion that distinguishes the qualifications of the awardee from the recipients of the current Junior and Senior Investigator Awards. The first award will be presented in Cleveland, Ohio at the biennial [ASMB meeting](#) in October 2014.

This award endowment is an exceptional gesture by one of our most respected leaders to ensure the appropriate recognition of excellence in our field. It fills an important gap in our existing awards by recognizing individuals that have and are likely to have a stellar level of scientific accomplishment and impact on the field. Such role models are an inspiration to the matrix biology community.

For more detailed information about the Iozzo Award and the nomination process visit the [ASMB website](#) or [click here](#).

Sincerely,

Jeff Davidson, PhD
President, ASMB