

October 2026

Celebrate Excellence in Meniscus Research: *Nominations Now Open*



We are proud to recognize outstanding contributions across all career stages through three award opportunities for the 2027 ORS Annual Meeting. Nominate a deserving colleague, mentor, trainee, or yourself and help celebrate the individuals driving innovation and discovery in meniscus science.

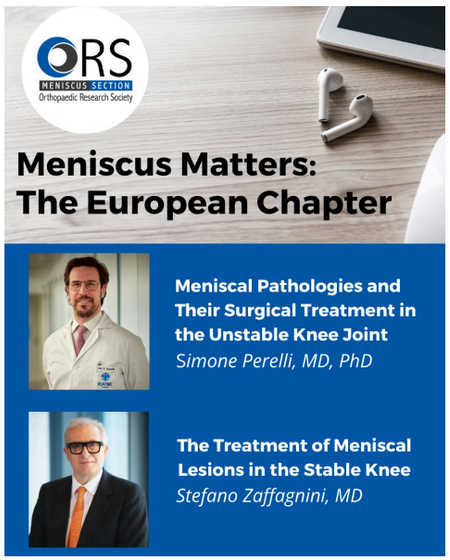
Clinical Impact Award
Submission Deadline:
November 9, 2026

Rising Star Award
Submission Deadline:
November 9, 2026

Trainee Travel Award
Submission Deadline:
November 10, 2026

Webinar Recap

The ORS Meniscus Research Section recently hosted the webinar *Meniscus Matters: The European Chapter* on September 30, 2026. This webinar featured two leading clinicians and researchers from Europe, Simone Perelli, MD, PhD and Stefano Zaffagnini, MD. The webinar highlighted current clinical standards in meniscus repair, compared treatment approaches, and shared best practices in meniscus care. The session also provided an opportunity to foster discussion and collaboration across the global meniscus research community. Stay tuned for the recording in the LearnORS Video Library soon!



Meet Our Leadership Member



Rebecca Irwin
Assistant Professor
Department of Biomedical Engineering
University of Rochester

"I am currently the Secretary for the ORS Meniscus Section and have been involved in the section's leadership since 2023. As a postdoc, I served as the Section Education Chair from 2023-2025, and am now serving as Secretary. I first got involved with the section when I started a postdoc in Dr. Amy McNulty's lab in 2020 where I was new to meniscus research."

Meet Rebecca



Meet Our Spotlight Lab

What key problem(s) is your lab working to address, and why is this work important?
Our lab has been dedicated to developing a regenerative therapy for meniscus injuries over a decade, and the current focus is to implement multi-tissue crosstalk in the joint, regulating the injury, healing, and degeneration of meniscus, using our novel meniscuson- a-chip (MoC) model. This is important as meniscus work as an integrative part of our joint, rather than an isolated tissue.

What key techniques, technologies, or resources does your lab use that may support future collaborations? Examples may include omics, machine learning, animal models, advanced imaging, bioreactors, 3D bioprinting, computational modeling, or other specialized capabilities.
We have established a reliable and reproducible MoC where meniscus, either engineered or human explants, can be co-cultured with other joint tissues, including but not limited to cartilage, bone, ligaments, synovial membrane, and infrapatellar fat pad. Our MoC is also integrated with meniscus-specific bioreactor, applying physiological or pathphysicological loading to meniscus and other joint tissues.

What has been the most exciting finding, accomplishment, or milestone from your lab in

the past few years?

I am excited about the very recent finding, in press in Advanced Science, that discovered the three-way communications between meniscus, fat, and synovium, playing essential roles in meniscus degeneration and healing, contingent to exogenous stimulations such as inflammation and mechanical loading.

Tell us about a student, postdoctoral researcher, or fellow in your lab, including their research focus and what they are currently working on.

Joel (Meng) Feng, our postdoc research science, is a physician-scientist who led our recently published project to develop a potential regenerative therapeutic for meniscus injury. Joel received the prestigious NIRA at the 2026 ORS Annual Meeting. He is currently working on a very exciting new project investigating roles of sensory neurons, and pain, in meniscus healing.

Funding Opportunities

GRANT PROGRAM	GRANT AMOUNT	APPLICATION DEADLINE
DoD/CDMRP FY26 Orthopaedic Research Program, Applied Research Award	Up to $950,000 total costs/3 years	November 18, 2026 (invited full application)
DoD/CDMRP FY26 Orthopaedic Research Program, Clinical Research Award	Level 1: up to $2.0M Level 2: up to $3.2M (total costs/4 years)	November 18, 2026 (invited full application)
NIAMS Clinical Observational Studies in Musculoskeletal, Rheumatic & Skin Diseases (R01; PAR-24-280)	Up to $475,000 direct costs/4 years; max $250,000 in any year	November 2, 2026
FRRB Bio-Reentry, Grant for Returning Researchers (Italy)	Up to €1.5M / 60 months	December 1, 2026 12:00 PM



Recent Publications

The Meniscus Section Communications and Networking Committee is excited to share the latest publications by members. Check out this key benefit for members to stay well-informed and engaged with current research and developments.

Share Your Work

Connect with us on **X** and **LinkedIn**. Please follow us, share our posts with your connections, invite others, and tag us when you have good information to share. Be sure to use #MeniscusMonday when sharing your latest work! In addition, reach out with any questions and/or suggestions.

Interested in being featured as a Member Spotlight? Please contact our Networking Committee.

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