

Davos, February 2019.

Dear ESB Members,

Ever since I started my career in Biomaterials, ESB has always been enormously important for me. The annual conference has been the place to learn about science, get to know colleagues and immerse into the world of biomaterials. The ESB meetings have been the place where I could go asking a student at a poster session about experimental details about unfamiliar techniques, and the place where I could approach Giants in our field asking philosophical questions and for their views on the next big directions in Science.



After having so fruitfully benefited from ESB and its events, now I feel that the time is ripe for me to actively contribute to ESB through the council.

Besides my personal gratitude to ESB, I have strong institutional ties binding me to the Society. Our former Institute vice Director, Prof. Dr. Berton Rahn was one of the ESB fathers and he helped to organise the fourth ESB meeting in Davos, back in 1984 and also in Davos in 1993, when our current Institute director Geoff Richards first attended the ESB. Therefore, with my application to the ESB council I would like to connect the past and future of the Society.

In the last few years ESB has undertaken giant steps in several aspects, including a much better visibility and web platform, a very active section of young scientists, and a stronger accent on diversity and gender balance, which I fully support. It is my intention to continue in this direction sustaining and consolidating these positive changes, but I feel I can bring more to the Society. I would like ESB to be the place where industry can find scientists, and the place where scientists can find industry. Specifically, I would like to propose the implementation of a platform for facilitating the transition from Academia to industry especially for the young scientists.

My career path has been singular, with education in a subject quite far away from biomaterials science, the absence of a real post-doctoral training, with most time spent in industry and translational research. If elected, I believe that this unconventional experience will bring to the council different areas of expertise and a different perspective and overall enrichment. I think I can say that I am an open person with the ability to manage conflicting opinions in a rational and diplomatic manner, and I would like to use these abilities for the benefit of the Society which has been fundamental for making me a better biomaterials scientist, and for its members.

For all these reasons I would like you to give me the chance to be part of the ESB council.

Your Sincerely,

Matteo D'Este

Handwritten signature of Matteo D'Este in blue ink.

CV of Matteo D'Este

Matteo's approach to Biomaterials Science has been unconventional.

He graduated with a MSc in **Physical Chemistry** in 2002 and he earned his PhD in Chemical Sciences at the University of Padova (Italy) with a research project in **Theoretical Chemistry**, completing his academic education without even knowing what PubMed was.

After the PhD graduation this changed though, since Matteo started working **as researcher in pharmaceutical industry** being involved among other things in developing a hydrogel-based class III medical device from scratch. For this product he has been developing the chemistry of the production process, filed the patent application (now granted), contributed to the development of analytical methods and quality aspects, regulatory dossier with achievement of CE mark. Additionally, he gained experience in engineering/industrial aspects related to GMP production scale-up, GMP production of pilot-scale batches for clinical trials, process validation and in project management.

After almost 5 years in industry, since March 2011 he joined the **AO Research Institute Davos**, Switzerland where now he is employed as Senior Research Scientist. This move gave him the opportunity to start his path in Biomaterials Science working in an international and stimulating environment and living in tight contact with pristine nature and beautiful outdoors.

Between 2017 and 2018, Matteo spent more than half a year as **Visiting Scholar** at the Department of Bioengineering of the **University of Pennsylvania**, Polymeric Biomaterials Laboratory Prof **Jason Burdick**.

Matteo's core competencies include biopolymers modification, **3D printing**/bioprinting, electrospinning of hydrogel-based stimuli-responsive nanofibers, tissue engineering of the musculoskeletal system for fundamental and translational research; musculoskeletal infection and drug delivery, medical devices **development**; planning, administrating, budgeting and reporting of **research projects** to EU, Swiss National Science Foundation, and to his employer for intramural projects (externally peer-reviewed). Matteo is personally tasked by the Institute director with development of gels with full consideration for translation to the clinics, as opposed to pure scientific publishing.

After the industry experience, he has been supervising around 20 students and guest scientists at AO.

Matteo is author of 5 patents and more than 30 papers. He is member of the Swiss Society for Biomaterials and Regenerative Medicine, of the European Society for Biomaterials and of the Society for Biohydrogels, and he is reviewer for major journals in the field of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering and for European national funding agencies.

Other Interests:

Finding the recipe to double the duration of the day. Jokes aside, he enjoys staying physically active spending some time in the nature, baking pizza and making risotto. Matteo is genuinely passionate about jazz and he plays saxophone.

Matteo D'Este

