



“Orthopaedics – The Cutting Edge”

**A spotlight on recent advances at the interface between
surgeons and the Biomaterials Community**

“Orthopaedics – The Cutting Edge” symposium was held on Monday 16th March at The Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Dr Serena Best, chairman of the board at The Institution of Materials and Dr Mino Esat, Research Director at the Furlong Foundation were joint convenors as this was the first collaboration between the Furlong Research Foundation and the IOM³.

The event, which was by invitation only, was designed to create a forum for discussion between consultants, young orthopaedic surgeons, engineers, orthopaedic SPRs, academic professors and PhD students. The theme and focus was to horizon scan potential research areas for orthopaedic implants and to discuss novel materials and methodologies in orthopaedic practice.

The first presentation was given by Dr Geoffrey Andrews, CEO of Ranier Technology. The theme was the pioneering work that is currently being carried out using softer materials and in particular polyurethane and its role in spine reconstruction.

Mr John Edge, Worthing and Southlands NHS Trust, gave a fascinating presentation which evolved from his twenty years of surgical experience with ceramic on ceramic articulations.

Mr David Langton, Newcastle University talked about the recent studies into metal-on-metal hip articulation and this was followed by Mr John Dougall whose presentation was a view of current materials in knee replacements and the need for further research into novel materials. This lay the foundations for the next two presentations given by Dr Andrew Lynne, Orthomimetics Ltd., and Mr Tim Briggs, The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore.

Andrew described advances in regeneration medicine while Tim gave a most illuminating account of his exemplary research into cartilage repair.

The evening provided an excellent opportunity for networking and exchange of ideas and was found by all to be thoroughly informative and enjoyable.