

Dear Iris Cantor- UCLA Women's Health Center,

Attending the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) Conference was an invaluable experience that has significantly advanced both my research and career aspirations in orthopaedic surgery. This conference brought together leading experts in bone science, encompassing a diverse range of topics from basic research to clinical applications. The opportunity to engage with such a breadth of knowledge was both inspiring and illuminating.

One of the highlights of my experience was meeting internationally recognized figures in the field, including the inventor of the FRAX tool. This interaction underscored the importance of bone epidemiology in my future practice as an orthopaedic surgeon. Understanding the risk factors associated with fractures is crucial for delivering comprehensive patient care, especially in the context of post-fracture management. The insights gained from these discussions will directly inform my clinical practice and enhance my ability to care for patients more effectively.

Networking was another critical component of my conference experience. I had the privilege of connecting with Dr. Wright, a physician whose work on the impact of race and ethnicity on mortality following major osteoporotic fractures (MOF) has deeply influenced my research. After my oral presentation, she expressed interest in collaborating on a paper that explores how social determinants of health affect mortality rates following MOF. This collaboration not only enriches my research portfolio but also aligns with my commitment to addressing health disparities in my future practice.

Overall, the ASBMR Conference has equipped me with new insights, connections, and a strengthened resolve to explore the intersection of bone health and social determinants. These experiences will undoubtedly enhance my contributions to the field of orthopaedic surgery and empower me to advocate for better patient outcomes in the future. I am excited to apply what I have learned and to continue fostering relationships that will support my career development and research initiatives.

Best,
Michaela Juels