Riccardo Levato

Currently, I am Associate Professor of Translational Bioengineering and Biomaterials at the Department of Clinical Sciences (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University), and principal investigator at the Regenerative Medicine Center Utrecht, and at the Department of Orthopedics of the University Medical Center Utrecht. My research, combines engineering, materials science and stem cell biology, focusing on the development of novel biofabrication strategies and cell-instructive biomaterials to create bioprinted, lab-made tissue models and transplantable engineered grafts for both human and veterinary healthcare. Key applications include musculoskeletal and hematopoietic systems, as well as soft tissue engineering, specifically for liver and pancreas biofabrication. In 2020 I was awarded a Starting grant from the European Research Council for my work on volumetric bioprinting, and, since 2021, I am coordinator of a European consortium (ENLIGHT), aiming at developing biofabricated pancreas units to study new treatments for diabetes. An updated list of my publication and bibliometric indexes can be found through this hyperlink. To date, I have been supervising and co-supervising 19 PhD candidates and 6 postdocs. For my work in Biofabrication, I received several awards, including the 2016 Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine Young Investigator Award, the 2021 Jean Leray award (European Society for Biomaterials), and the 2022 Robert Brown award (Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society). Prior to my appointment in Utrecht, I also worked at 3Bs, University of Minho, (Portugal), BioMatLab, Technical University of Milan (Italy), Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC, Spain), and I hold a *cum laude* PhD in Biomedical Engineering (Technical University of Catalonia, Spain).

Since early in my research, I have been focusing on Biofabrication, Biomaterials and Regenerative Medicine, fields to which I am dedicating my career and my earnest passion for discovery. As biofabrication technologies evolve, we are narrowing the gap towards the achievement of printed organs and tissue for human and veterinary medicine, as well as for the establishment of humanized *in vitro* biological models for drug development. The efforts of ISBF and its members are a driving force in this innovation, and I find exciting the possibility to contribute to the work of our community and society.

I have been highly engaged to support and organize ISBF and biofabrication-themed activities, especially to further involve young scientists in our community. I look forward to work on supporting new opportunities to grow the involvement of early career investigators in our society. Moreover, since early on, I dedicated my efforts to improve the reach and exposure of our society in the broad tissue engineering, regenerative medicine, clinical translation and biomaterials international networks. These activities include the establishment of the ISBF webinar series in 2020 and the ISBF Twitter poster conference for young scientists (now a continuing endeavor), which helped connecting our community at the beginning of the covid pandemic, and in times of limited travel opportunities. At present, I am serving on the ISBF External Affairs committee. To date, I also contributed to establishing new collaborations with other scientific societies. For instance, I organized ISBF activities establishing for the first time links with the Student and Young Investigator Society of TERMIS (2018 world conference in Kyoto, 2019 European Chapter in Rhodes, including ISBF-SYIS TERMIS joint events). Since then, every year, I contributed to recurrent ISBF-endorsed symposia at TERMIS and biomaterials European and world conferences, and to the establishment of the ISBF-linked session at the first Microphysiological Systems (MPS) World Summit, as the impact of our community in the organ-on-a-chip and pharmacological model fields is increasingly important. I look forward to further serve the society, and help our community and members act in concert to connect with more clinician societies, regulatory agencies, and broader fields of technology. This includes creating links with new partners in the fields of biophotonics and synthetic biology, in which I am active, to promote new collaborations and the adoption of solutions developed by ISBF members into new areas of biotechnology and towards clinical applications.

Through the participation to the activities of the ISBF Board in the upcoming term, I would therefore be honored to count on your support, and to have the opportunity to continue to actively support our society and to contribute to the goals of ISBF, as well as to help establishing future opportunities for growth, and to further cultivate the friendly and intellectually stimulating environment within our community.