

## **CMBE-SIG Council Statement for Riccardo Gottardi**

One of the first things I did after starting in my faculty position was to join the CMBE-SIG and that has proved over the years to be one of the best experiences in my career. The past and current CMBE leadership and council members have done an incredible job in creating an engaging and welcoming community of scientists and I want to lend my experience and time to continue supporting the growth of this community.

As a postdoc I served for two terms in the Media Relations & Communications Committee of the Orthopaedic Research Society where we worked on informing the ORS Twitter footprint, streamlining the process of identifying conference abstracts to be promoted with press releases, and initiating the picture and video competition to be showcased at the society's annual meeting. I was also involved in the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society, Americas Chapter (TERMIS AM) participating as the Student and Young Investigator Section (SYIS) representative in the Musculoskeletal Thematic Working Interest Group (TWIG) to shape the annual musculoskeletal conference programming. After becoming faculty, I served as vice-chair and chair of the Musculoskeletal Thematic Working Interest Group (TWIG). In 2020 I was elected to the TERMIS AM Council, where I have been chairing the External Affairs Committee that has the task of building connections with other societies to promote scientific collaborations and raise the profile of TERMIS and members' participation. I was also asked to revive the Respiratory, Urologic & Gastrointestinal TWIG, one of the thematically broader groups but one of the least participated. I am particularly proud that this year we have the richest complement of officers of all TWIGs with two co-chairs, two vice-chairs, a secretary, and two SYIS co-representatives and we have submitted four different session proposals for the annual conference when historically there has been only one.

I would love to lend my experience to the CMBE SIG. During the two most recent CMBE conferences, I particularly enjoyed giving back to this amazing community by highlighting on X (formerly known as Twitter) the impressive scientists presenting. I would be honored by the opportunity to continue giving back to CMBE as a Council member. Besides continuing building the CMBE media presence, I feel extremely committed on expanding participation and I care deeply for CMBE to be a leader in diversity in our scientific community. I have been actively participating and supporting other DEI efforts through the Society for Biomaterials DEI Committee and the Orthopaedic Research Society LGBTQ group, learning a lot in the process, and I am committed to help make CMBE an even more inclusive community.

**Bio:** Dr. Riccardo Gottardi is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Bioengineering at the University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He graduated in Applied Physics at the University of Pisa and obtained his PhD from the University of Genova (Italy) working on atomic force microscopy-based multiscale early diagnosis of osteoarthritis in knee cartilage. During his postdoc, Dr. Gottardi trained in the laboratories of Dr. Rocky S. Tuan and Dr. Steven R. Little focusing on engineering musculoskeletal repair, advanced organ-on-chip models of the human joint, and controlled delivery systems for directing stem cell fate. His current research combines translational tissue engineering, controlled drug delivery, and microbiome-mediated immunoengineering towards treatment and function restoration for children with otolaryngologic disorders. Dr. Gottardi runs an NIH funded program and has been the recipient of the *Cells Tissues Organs* Young Investigator Award (2020), *CMBE* Young Innovators Recognition (2023), *BMES-CMBE* Rising Star Award (2024).