



Jennifer (Jen) J. Westendorf, Ph.D.

Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Orthopedics



Jennifer (Jen) Westendorf, Ph.D., is the *Margaret Amini Professor of Orthopedic Regenerative Medicine Research* and serves as the Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Dr. Westendorf directs the Skeletal Development and Regeneration Research Laboratory in Rochester, MN and is enterprise chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, with faculty in Rochester, MN, Jacksonville, FL and Scottsdale, AZ.

Dr. Westendorf's research interests focus on molecular mechanisms regulating skeletal development, regeneration and repair and aims to improve the care of individuals with skeletal problems such as osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, and musculoskeletal cancers. Her federal funded research is currently focusing on how Phlpp enzymes and other proteins that control skeletal growth, and repair of joint injuries that lead to osteoarthritis.

Dr. Westendorf has directed a NIH-funded training grant (T32) in musculoskeletal research at Mayo Clinic for the last 15 years. She is proud of that any of the trainees on this program, as well as trainees in her laboratory have earned individual fellowship awards (F31, F32, K01) and research grants from the NIH (R01, P01) and other entities. Former trainees are now professors at universities, scientific editors, industry scientists and experts.

Dr. Westendorf is presently the President-Elect of ASBMR and will assume the role of President after the annual meeting in September 2024. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the ORS and the International Federation of Musculoskeletal Research Societies (IFMRS). She has also served on the Advisory Committee (Council) of the National Institute of Arthritis Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) and as Deputy Editor of the *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research (JBMR)*.

More background:

Dr. Westendorf received B.A. degrees in biology and chemistry from the University of Minnesota, Morris and a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences-immunology from Mayo Clinic. She received postdoctoral training in tumor biology and biochemistry/molecular biology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. She was an Associate Professor of Orthopedics at the University of Minnesota from 2000-2006 and joined the Mayo Clinic faculty in 2007.

In recognition of her work, Dr. Westendorf has received many honors and awards, including the V Scholar Award from the V Foundation for Cancer Research, the Fuller Albright Award from American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR), the Orthopedic Research Society (ORS) Women's Leadership Forum Award, and the Dean's Recognition Award from the Mayo Graduate School. She is Fellow of the ASBMR.