

Arthroscopy Reaffirms Its Commitment to Orthobiologics Research and Publication With Its Fourth Musculoskeletal Biologics Special Issue and Call for Papers

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Abstract: *Arthroscopy* aims to be the primary home for musculoskeletal biologics research. To this end, we introduce our Fourth Annual Musculoskeletal Biologics Special Issue with Guest Editor Brian Cole, M.D., whose team selected the top publications from the past year in the *Arthroscopy* Family of Journals. We reiterate our Call for Papers of clinically relevant and high-impact musculoskeletal biologics research. We further highlight our lead article and Expert Opinion from top authors outlining high-yield topics identified by the 2026 Biologic Research Think Tank with eager anticipation to publish future literature of nascent biologic substances harnessed to augment musculoskeletal treatment.

Arthroscopy. 2026;00:1-4

The term musculoskeletal (MSK) biologics, often used interchangeably with orthobiologics, has no single, formal definition, yet we all know how to recognize its application and impact in orthopaedics, sports medicine, and arthroscopic surgery. Given its inherent vagueness, orthobiologics has been more recently defined as:

“[A] field which focuses on the use of naturally occurring biological substances to enhance healing of injured or diseased tissues of the musculoskeletal system. These substances can be either autologous or allogeneic, cellular, or acellular. They can be derived from multiple sources including blood, bone marrow, adipose, synovium and amniotic material, and are manipulatable to varying degrees to bring about the desired therapeutic properties.”¹

Although this definition is inclusive, it is not exhaustive and may require alteration as the field evolves—hint, the term “manipulatable”—when further biologic material and vectors are processed or even fully created in a lab and materials outside our species, i.e., xenografts, are used to augment treatment. Further, the highly impactful orthopaedist and regenerative medicine researcher Scott A. Rodeo includes gene therapy and repurposed Food and Drug Administration-approved

drugs in addition to exosomes, extracellular vesicles, and extracellular matrix scaffolds in the orthobiologics realm.² Concisely, *orthobiologics encompass any biologic substance harnessed to augment MSK treatment to enhance healing*. Because our readers, authors, and researchers are dedicated to the profession of healing in the MSK milieu, *Arthroscopy* and its Family of Journals have been and will continue to be committed to supporting and publishing high-impact and clinically relevant research in MSK biologics. In this issue, we announce the selected authors and publications in the Fourth Annual Musculoskeletal Biologics Special Issue, submit a Call for orthobiologics papers, and express our continued commitment and support for a collective endeavor of future orthobiologics research from a recently convened and esteemed expert panel of researchers from multiple specialty societies.

ARTHROSCOPY'S FOURTH ANNUAL MUSCULOSKELETAL BIOLOGICS SPECIAL ISSUE

Congratulations to the authors whose research and publications have been selected for *Arthroscopy's* Fourth Annual Musculoskeletal Biologics Special Issue. This

online issue, as with all 3 previous issues,³⁻⁷ includes top authors and publications selected by fourth-time Guest Editor and prominent orthobiologics author Brian Cole, M.D., and his team and coauthors, Krish Sardesai, B.S., Lee Friedman, B.S., and Jason Jesse, B.S. Their editorial,⁸ "Orthobiologics Research Continues to Advance Modern Musculoskeletal Care of Patients," announces the repository of selected papers⁹⁻²⁶ chosen from the most recently published *Arthroscopy* Family of Journals (*Arthroscopy*; *Arthroscopy, Sports Medicine, and Rehabilitation*; and *Arthroscopy Techniques*) and synthesizes the content delivered from articles comprised of basic science, clinical research, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, and technical notes with video. Specifically, this special issue highlights biologic therapies and augmentations in the knee (osteoarthritis treatment, cartilage restoration, and ligament reconstruction), shoulder (rotator cuff and glenoid cartilage treatment), elbow (epicondylitis), hip (intra- and extra-articular management), ankle (cartilage treatment), and the preparation and delivery of orthobiologics. Readers should delve into their guest editorial to discover the "diverse set of biologic approaches whose value depends on indication, formulation, delivery, patient selection, outcome measurement, and regulatory context" and much more. The 4 consecutive Musculoskeletal Biologics Special Issues can be accessed with the following:

2026: [https://arthroscopyjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1526-3231.musculoskeletal-biologics](https://arthroscopyjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)1526-3231.musculoskeletal-biologics)

2025: [https://arthroscopyjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1526-3231.clinical-musculoskeletal-biologics-2025](https://arthroscopyjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)1526-3231.clinical-musculoskeletal-biologics-2025)

2024: [https://arthroscopyjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1526-3231.clinical-musculoskeletal-biologics-2024](https://arthroscopyjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)1526-3231.clinical-musculoskeletal-biologics-2024)

2023: [https://arthroscopyjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1526-3231.clinical-musculoskeletal-biologics-2023](https://arthroscopyjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)1526-3231.clinical-musculoskeletal-biologics-2023)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The *Arthroscopy* Family of Journals reiterates its Call for Papers (Figure 1) to all researchers and authors who are interested in publishing their work on our platform. We are honored to peer-review and ultimately present many of these high-impact biologic papers to our readership and beyond with the potential to be included in future Musculoskeletal Biologics Special Issues. Although the past and current Special Issues commemorate impactful orthobiologics research, we emphasize that the ever-changing field of MSK biologics requires continual iteration as the field matures and expands. Sardesai et al.,⁸

CALL FOR PAPERS

In recognition of our organizational commitment to the Biologics Association and the expanding interests of our readers, *Arthroscopy*; *Arthroscopy Techniques*; and *Arthroscopy, Sports Medicine, and Rehabilitation* wish to be "your home" for clinical musculoskeletal biologics research:

Biologics and injection therapies

-for osteoarthritis

-for soft tissue pathology (such as tendinopathy)

-as an adjunct to surgery (such as rotator cuff or cartilage repair)

Thus, we are inviting all authors to submit your clinical musculoskeletal biologics oriented scientific research and technical notes with video for peer review, consideration for publication, and possible selection for inclusion in upcoming special issues.

Submit your biologic paper:

www.editorialmanager.com/arth

www.editorialmanager.com/arthtechniques

www.editorialmanager.com/asmar

FIGURE 1 Call for Papers on Musculoskeletal Biologics for *Arthroscopy*; *Arthroscopy Techniques*; and *Arthroscopy, Sports Medicine, and Rehabilitation*.

in their guest editorial, forecast the future needs of “publishing high-quality, peer-reviewed research that helps clinicians translate biologic innovation responsibly, improve patient care, and identify the next questions worthy of rigorous investigation.” They also provide a fitting prelude to a recent collaborative of multiple societies and their experts with their charge to promote “a collective scientific effort to advance the field through meticulous basic science and clinical study.”

KUDOS TO THE 2026 BIOLOGICS RESEARCH THINK TANK

This month’s *Arthroscopy* issue also features its lead article and Level of Evidence V Expert Opinion²⁷ by authors Palafox-Castillo, Chahla, Cole, Kew, Rodeo, Sheean, Shapiro, Zhang, and the Biologics Research Think Tank Panel. The panel is composed of an insightful, collaborative group representing the combined societies of the Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA), the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, and the Biologic Association. The synergistic approach during the Biologics Research Think Tank by members of 3 societies convening during the AANA26 Annual Meeting in Phoenix in May 2026 resulted in a publication that summarizes not only an organizational outline of proposed topics but also “candidate research directions” to specifically tackle in the 3 arenas of MSK biologics: cell-based injectable orthobiologics, cell-free biologic therapies, and emerging techniques and intraoperative biologic adjuvants. Their Think Tank culminated in consideration of a collaborative request for proposals—a noble “thinking outside of the box” philosophy to achieve mutual goals in MSK biologics research. *Arthroscopy* applauds and supports this collaborative initiative of members of 3 powerful research societies: AANA, the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, and the Biologic Association. Finally, we thank the authors who “offer these proceedings, in the spirit of this Special Biologics Issue, as the foundation for that effort.”

We acknowledge that MSK biologics and their specific indications and preparations are yet to be fully determined and under continual development. Therefore, we again remind authors, researchers, and readers to adhere to regulations regarding the use and application of biologics in clinical and research realms as directed by their individual countries and specifically by the United States from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.²⁸

Congratulations to the authors of *Arthroscopy*’s Fourth Annual Musculoskeletal Biologics Special Issue. We continue our Call for Papers in Orthobiologics and wish authors to consider the *Arthroscopy* platform as their

repository for future submissions. Our call reaffirms our commitment to MSK biologics with our robust peer-review process by eliciting, supporting, strengthening, and then publishing high-quality, impactful research. We thank authors such as those who represent the 2026 Biologics Research Think Tank convened by members of AANA, the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, and the Biologic Association who think outside the box to pave the way forward on the ill-defined road of nascent biologic substances harnessed to augment MSK treatment and enhance healing for our patients.

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