An international group of experts on frailty and age-related muscle loss (sarcopenia) will convene in Barcelona, Spain, April 27 through 29, 2017 to explore the underlying mechanisms, possible interventions, and the development of tools to enable clinical trials for these disabling disorders of aging. The 2017 International Conference on Frailty and Sarcopenia Research (ICFSR2017), is co-sponsored by the Fundació Salut i Enveliment UAB, Barcelona, Spain; Toulouse Gérontopôle, Toulouse, France; and Tufts University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. The organizing committee included Professors Antoni Salva (Barcelona, Spain), Leocadio Rodríguez-Mañas and Alfonso Cruz-Jentoft (Madrid, Spain), Roger Fielding (Boston, MA, USA), Marco Pahor (Gainesville, FL, USA), and Matteo Cesari and Bruno Vellas (Toulouse, France).

As the population of the world ages, maintaining functional independence during old age has emerged as a major clinical and public health priority. Sarcopenia – the age-related loss of muscle mass and strength – is a common problem of aging and one component of the frailty syndrome, which leads to functional decline, increased vulnerability to a variety of stressors, and disability. In recent years, there has been a growing awareness about the role of sarcopenia and frailty in the elderly and the need to identify effective treatments to prevent functional loss and improving quality of life.

At ICFSR2017, recent progress in developing treatments for frailty and sarcopenia will be presented in 5 keynote addresses, 12 symposia, more than 50 additional oral presentations, and nearly 300 posters.

Highlights include:
- Professor Leocadio Rodríguez-Mañas, head of the Department of Geriatrics at the Hospital Universitario de Getafe in Madrid and principal investigator of several EU-funded projects on frailty will discuss the challenges and opportunities for clinicians dealing with frail patients (Thursday, 27th April, 9:00 am). His keynote address will be followed by two symposia focused on projects aimed at better characterizing patients with sarcopenia and frailty and understanding the prevalence of these conditions in the US and Europe.
- Stephen Donahue, MD, Executive Director of Clinical Sciences – Cardiovascular and Metabolism at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals will discuss one of the most promising drug treatments in development for sarcopenia – a monoclonal antibody that blocks myostatin, a protein that inhibits muscle growth (Thursday, 27th April, 12:00 pm). Following Dr. Donahue’s keynote address and throughout the 3-day conference, there will be other presentations on novel drug treatments in development.
- Marco Pahor, MD, director of the University of Florida Institute on Aging in Gainesville, Florida, will discuss clinical interventions to avert inflammation, sarcopenia, and frailty (Thursday, 27 April, 3:00 pm). Interventions that will be discussed by Dr. Pahor and other speakers throughout the conference include diet and physical activity.
- Tommy Cederholm, MD, PhD, head of Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism at Uppsala University, Sweden, will describe how proteins and other nutrients interact in frailty and sarcopenia (Saturday, 29 April, 9:00 am). The role of nutrition in the management of sarcopenia will also be the topic of a symposium on Friday afternoon.
- Alfonso Cruz-Jentoft, director of the Geriatric Department of the Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Madrid, Spain, will provide an overview of sarcopenia definitions, which are essential to the conduct of large, multi-center clinical trials (Saturday, 29 April, 11:00 am). Dr. Cruz-Jentoft is involved in several such large trials in Europe.

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