21 December 2016

The Mellanby Centre for Bone Research was set up within the University of Sheffield 8 years ago and we held the annual research day at INOX Dine in December 2016. Richard Eastell is the Director of the Centre and he opened the meeting by explaining the strategic importance of the Centre as we prepare for the next REF. The Centre has been the basis of grant success, and recently had its 5-year review of the Centre for the Integration of Research into Musculoskeletal Ageing (CIMA) and renewal of the Experimental Cancer Treatment Centre. The opening speaker was Professor Phillipe Clezardin (Oncology and Metabolism, TUOS) and he explained the role of micro RNAs in cancer and how these can be targeted to reduce skeletal tumour burden. Professor Richard Eastell (Oncology and Metabolism, TUOS) update the Centre on the recent key findings with the drugs odanacatib and romozosumab developed for the treatment of osteoporosis. Professor Jon Tobias (University of Bristol) described the importance the importance of impact during exercise in order to obtain an osteogenic stimulus. Dr Jennie Walsh (Department of Oncology and Metabolism) explained the challenges in navigating the approvals for conducting clinical research and gave examples of ongoing projects at the Clinical Research Facility in Sheffield. Professor Martin Hewison (University of Birmingham) spoke about key aspects in the study of vitamin D, such as the role of the vitamin D binding protein and the differences between vitamins D2 and D3.

We held snap poster presentations for the second time as these are a popular format. They were one-minute presentations on why someone should attend the poster. We awarded a prize to Karan Shah for the best snap presentation. The best poster presentation was won by Darren Lath. The best oral presentation was won by Ryan Bishop; he described the role of IKK-epsilon and its contribution to bone metastases in breast cancer.