

## Rose N. Sundin

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**From:** Bryan Guido Hassin [bryanguidohassin@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2008 1:55 AM  
**To:** Rose N. Sundin  
**Subject:** ARA Board Nomination for Kurt Kasper

Dear Rose,

I understand that Kurt Kasper has been nominated for consideration for the ARA Board of Directors. I worked with Kurt on the Graduate Alumni Committee and I give his nomination my full support. Kurt led the GAC through difficult times, stepping up at a time when he was really needed. His calm, collected demeanor and rational approach to problem-solving were great assets to those around him, especially when things were heated. Kurt is an excellent representative of the graduate-degreed alumni community and there is no doubt in my mind that he would be an outstanding contributor on the ARA Board.

Best regards,

Bryan

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Bryan Guido Hassin  
MBA Candidate 2008  
Mobile: +41 79 772 04 31  
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# RICE ALUMNI

## Alumni Information Sheet

**Areas of Volunteer Interest***(check all that apply)*

- ARA Board  
 ARA Committees  
 Homecoming/Reunion  
 Regional Groups

**CONTACT INFORMATION**Name: Fred Kurtis Kasper (Kurt Kasper)Address: 1928 North Boulevard, #1City/State/ZIP: Houston, Texas 77098Email: kasper@rice.edu**DEGREES EARNED**

Institution	Degree	Year
Rice University	Ph.D.	2006
Case Western Reserve University	B.S.	1999

Employer: Rice UniversityPosition: Postdoctoral Research FellowAddress: 6100 Main StreetCity/State/ZIP: Houston, TX 77005Phone Numbers: Home (832) 216-3519 Office (713) 348-3027 Fax (713) 348-5877Name of Spouse: *(if applicable)* Stephanie Kasper**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

Briefly describe your occupation or business:

I currently hold an appointment as Faculty Fellow in the Department of Bioengineering at Rice University. My research program focuses upon the development and characterization of novel therapies for bone and cartilage regeneration.

Tell us about your student activities at Rice:

During my time as a graduate student at Rice, I was involved in the founding of and participated in the Bioengineering Graduate Student Association and the Rice Graduate Apartment Council (Bissonnet Location). Additionally, I served as a graduate student representative in the Rice Biomedical Engineering Society Student Chapter. Outside of graduate student groups, I was active in residential college theater (3 musical theater productions at Sid Richardson College).

How have you been involved with Rice since graduation?

Since graduating from Rice, I have been actively involved with the Rice Graduate Degree Alumni Committee and served as the chair of the group. I also serve on the Alumni Recognition Committee at Rice (2006-2008). I also completed the Rice University Citizens' Police Academy (2006) and have volunteered in police training activities and in candidate officer assessments at Rice. Additionally, as I am presently on the faculty at Rice, I continue to engage in teaching and training students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Are you involved with other community or professional groups?

I involved with several professional societies associated with my academic field. Additionally, I am active in the leadership of my church and of a non-profit educational/fraternal organization.

**OPTIONAL PERSONAL STATEMENT** (*recommended for board candidates*)

I benefitted tremendously from my time as a graduate student at Rice University, and I seek as an alumnus to give back to the university through continued active service. I am specifically interested in serving as a representative voice of the graduate degree alumni community within the ARA and to explore ways in which the university as a whole and the ARA specifically can foster continued connections with the graduate degree alumni. There can be no doubt that Rice is uniquely situated as one of a select few top-tier research universities that places a tremendous emphasis on undergraduate education. The residential college system strongly supports this mission for personal and educational development of undergraduate students by uniting them together into familial groups. Consequently, undergraduate degree alumni readily identify with their respective residential colleges and their class and can remain involved with the university through these ties. Graduate degree alumni, however, stand as a significant and often overlooked group within the greater Rice Alumni community. Contrary to undergraduate degree alumni, graduate degree alumni generally associate with their departments rather than a residential college or their class. I seek to focus my energy and effort toward representing the graduate degree alumni population within the ARA and continuing to work to provide a community with which the graduate degree alumni may associate and through which they can continue to be engaged with the university. The realization of such a vision requires the active presence on the ARA Board of graduate degree alumni to facilitate communication between the ARA at large and the graduate degree alumni population.

Please return form by mail to:

Rose Sundin  
Associate Director  
Rice University  
Office of Alumni Affairs — MS 520  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston, TX 77251-1892

or by fax to: 713-348-5210

phone: 713-348-4678 or 800-742-3258  
email: sundin@rice.edu

For Office Use Only:

OCTOBER 2008

*date submitted*

BRYAN HASSIN

*nominator*

*Curriculum Vitae of*  
**F. KURTIS KASPER**  
kasper@rice.edu

**Campus Address**

Department of Bioengineering  
P.O. Box 1892, MS 142  
Houston, TX 77251-1892, USA  
(713) 348-3027

**Home Address**

1928 North Blvd., #1  
Houston, TX 77098, USA  
(832) 216-3519

**Education:**

**Rice University:** Houston, Texas  
Ph.D. in Bioengineering

August 1999 – Sept. 2005

**Case Western Reserve University:** Cleveland, Ohio  
Bachelor of Science, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Major: Biomedical Engineering  
Dean's High Honors

August 1996 – May 1999

**Phillips University:** Enid, Oklahoma  
Presidential Honors

August 1995 – May 1996

**Research**

**Experience:**

**Rice University:** Houston, Texas  
*Faculty Fellow*

July 2008 – Present

Developing and evaluating novel therapies for bone and cartilage regeneration

**Rice University:** Houston, Texas  
*Postdoctoral Research Fellow*

Sept. 2005 – June 2008

Advisor: Antonios G. Mikos, Ph.D.  
Applied a bioreactor system toward the characterization of stem cell biology for the purpose of generating hematopoietic bone *ex vivo* and supervising graduate student research projects

**Rice University:** Houston, Texas  
*Graduate Research Associate/Doctoral Student*

January 2000 – Sept. 2005

Advisors: Antonios G. Mikos, Ph.D. and Michael A. Barry, Ph.D.  
Developed an injectable, biodegradable hydrogel material for the controlled release of plasmid DNA engineered to stimulate bone tissue regeneration and characterized the kinetics of DNA release *in vitro* and *in vivo*, as well as the bone regeneration response to DNA released in a critical-sized rat calvarial defect model

**Institute for Frontier Medical Sciences,**

**Kyoto University:** Kyoto, Japan

May 2004 – August 2004

*Visiting Researcher*

Advisors: Yasuhiko Tabata, Ph.D., D.Med.Sc., D.Pharm. and Antonios G. Mikos, Ph.D.  
Conducted *in vivo* studies to characterize the kinetics of DNA release from composite hydrogels composed of synthetic and natural components

**The Cleveland Clinic Foundation:** Cleveland, Ohio

January 1998 – May 1999

*Student Researcher and Clinical Data Liaison*

Advisors: Ivan Vesely, Ph.D. and Brian Griffin, M.D.

Investigated the effects of pathologically induced physical changes in the mitral valve of the heart upon the mechanical properties of the valve tissue

**Honors:** Nanobiology Training Fellow, W.M. Keck Center for Interdisciplinary Bioscience Training, The Gulf Coast Consortia, 2007

Sallyport Award for University and Community Service, Rice University 2006

NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Trainee (IGERT), 2001-2003

Jose Ricardo Alcala Memorial Award for Biomedical Engineering Research, CWRU 1999

Golden Key National Honors Society, CWRU 1999

Whitaker Foundation Summer Research Fellowship, CWRU 1998

Alpha Lambda Delta National Honors Fraternity, Phillips University 1996

Distinguished Freshman Scholar, Phillips University 1996

CRC Press Freshman Chemistry Award, Phillips University 1996

United States Achievement Academy All-American Scholar, Phillips University 1996

**Publications:** **Kasper FK**, Tanahashi K, Fisher JP and Mikos AG. Synthesis of Poly(propylene fumarate). *Nature Protocols*, *submitted*, 2008.

Guo X, Park H, Young S, Kretlow JD, van den Beucken JJ, Baggett LS, Tabata Y, **Kasper FK**, Mikos AG, Jansen JA. Repair of Osteochondral Defects with Degradable

Hydrogel Composites Encapsulating Marrow Mesenchymal Stem Cells in a Rabbit Model. *Journal of Orthopaedic Research*, *submitted*, 2008.

Park H, Guo X, Temenoff JS, Tabata Y, Caplan AI, **Kasper FK** and Mikos AG. Effect of Swelling Ratio of Injectable Hydrogel Composites on Chondrogenic Differentiation of Encapsulated Rabbit Marrow Mesenchymal Stem Cells *In Vitro*. *Biomacromolecules*, *submitted*, 2008.

Saraf A, Lozier G, Haesslein A, **Kasper FK**, Raphael RM, Baggett LS and Mikos AG. Fabrication of Non-woven Coaxial Fiber Meshes by Electrospinning. *Tissue Engineering, Part C: Methods*, *submitted*, 2008.

Martins AM, Pham QP, Malafaya PB, Raphael RM, **Kasper FK**, Reis RL and Mikos AG. Natural Stimulus Responsive Scaffolds/Cells for Bone Tissue Engineering: Influence of Lysozyme upon Scaffold Degradation and Osteogenic Differentiation of Cultured Marrow Stromal Cells Induced by CaP Coatings. *Tissue Engineering*, *submitted*, 2008.

Martins AM, Pham QP, Malafaya PB, Sousa RA, Gomes ME, Raphael RM, **Kasper FK**, Reis RL and Mikos AG. The Role of Lipase and  $\alpha$ -amylase in both the Degradation of Starch/poly( $\epsilon$ -caprolactone) Fiber Meshes and the Osteogenic Differentiation of Cultured Marrow Stromal Cells. *Tissue Engineering*, *in press*, 2008 (DOI: 10.1089/ten.tea.2008.0025).

Pham QP, **Kasper FK**, Mistry AS, Sharma U, Yasko AW, Jansen JA and Mikos AG. Analysis of the Osteoinductive Capacity and Angiogenicity of an *In Vitro* Generated Extracellular Matrix. *Journal of Biomedical Materials Research: Part A*, *in press*, 2008 (DOI: 10.1002/jbm.a.31875).

**Kasper FK**, Liao J, Kretlow JD, Sikavitsas VI and Mikos AG. "Flow Perfusion Culture of Mesenchymal Stem Cells for Bone Tissue Engineering," in *StemBook: Tissue Engineering*, S Bhatia and J Polak, Eds., Harvard Stem Cell Institute, Cambridge, 2008.

Pham QP, **Kasper FK**, Baggett LS, Raphael RM, Jansen JA and Mikos AG. The Influence of the *In Vitro* Generated Bone-like Extracellular Matrix on Osteoblastic Gene Expression of Marrow Stromal Cells. *Biomaterials*, 29:2729-2739, 2008.

Temenoff JS, **Kasper FK** and Mikos AG. "Fumarate-based Macromers as Scaffolds for Tissue Engineering Applications," in *Topics in Tissue Engineering, Vol. 3*, N Ashammakhhi, RL Reis and E Chiellini, Eds., 2007.

**Kasper FK**, Jerkins E, Tanahashi K, Barry MA, Tabata Y and Mikos AG. Characterization of DNA Release from Composites of Oligo(poly(ethylene glycol) fumarate) and Cationized Gelatin Microspheres *In Vitro*. Journal of Biomedical Materials Research: Part A, 78(4):823-835, 2006.

**Kasper FK**, Young S, Tanahashi K, Barry MA, Tabata Y, Jansen JA and Mikos AG. Evaluation of Bone Regeneration by DNA Release from Composites of Oligo(poly(ethylene glycol) fumarate) and Cationized Gelatin Microspheres in a Critical-sized Calvarial Defect. Journal of Biomedical Materials Research: Part A, 78(2):335-342, 2006.

**Kasper FK**, Kushibiki T, Kimura Y, Mikos AG and Tabata Y. *In Vivo* Release of Plasmid DNA from Composites of Oligo(poly(ethylene glycol) fumarate) and Cationized Gelatin Microspheres. Journal of Controlled Release, 107:547-561, 2005.

**Kasper FK**, Seidlits SK, Tang A, Crowther RS, Carney DH, Barry MA and Mikos AG. *In Vitro* Release of Plasmid DNA from Oligo(poly(ethylene glycol) fumarate) Hydrogels. Journal of Controlled Release, 104:521-539, 2005.

**Kasper FK** and Mikos AG. "Biomaterials and Gene Therapy," in *Molecular and Cellular Foundations of Biomaterials*, NA Peppas and MV Sefton, Eds., Academic Press, San Diego, 2004.

Barber JE, **Kasper FK**, Ratliff NB, Cosgrove DM, Griffin BP and Vesely I. Mechanical Properties of Myxomatous Mitral Valves. Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, 122(5):955-62, 2001.

Mills WH, Skiles J, Barber JE, **Kasper K**, et al. Is Bileaflet Prolapse a More Severe Form of Myxomatous Disease than Unileaflet Prolapse?: An Echo and Biomechanical Study. Circulation, 100(18): 3444 Suppl. S, Nov 2 1999.

Barber JE, Vesely I, **Kasper K**, et al. Tensile Properties of Normal and Myxomatous Chordae. Circulation, 98(17): 4369 Suppl. S, Oct 27 1998.

**Presentations:** "Mineralized Extracellular Matrix Constructs Support the Osteogenic Differentiation of Mesenchymal Stem Cells *In Vitro*." 2008 AIChE Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (November 16-21, 2008) With **Kasper FK**, Thibault RA, and Mikos AG, accepted for oral presentation.

"Bioactive Extracellular Matrix Constructs for Osteogenic Differentiation of Marrow Stromal Cells." BioInterface 2008, Minneapolis, Minnesota. (October 27-29, 2008) With **Kasper FK** and Mikos AG, accepted for oral presentation.

"Growth Factor and Cell Delivery for Cartilage Tissue Engineering." 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Tissue Engineering, Rhodes, Greece. (September 21-26, 2008) With **Kasper FK**, Guo X, Park H, and Mikos AG.

"Extracellular Matrix Constructs Enhance the Osteogenic Differentiation of Marrow Stromal Cells *In Vitro*." 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Tissue Engineering, Rhodes, Greece. (September 21-26, 2008) With Thibault RA, **Kasper FK**, and Mikos AG.

"Mineralized Extracellular Matrix Constructs for Bone Tissue Engineering." *10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Biominerization*, Lianyungang, China. (August 31 - September 4, 2008) With **Kasper FK**, Thibault RA, and Mikos AG.

"Tissue Engineering and Its Future Perspective." *8<sup>th</sup> World Biomaterials Congress*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. (May 28 - June 1, 2008) With Mikos AG\* and **Kasper FK**.

"Electrospun Poly( $\epsilon$ -caprolactone) Microfiber Scaffolds for Cartilage Regeneration." *8<sup>th</sup> World Biomaterials Congress*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. (May 28 - June 1, 2008) With Liao J\*, Guo X, Pham QP, **Kasper FK**, and Mikos AG.

"The Role of Lipase and  $\alpha$ -amylase in both the Degradation of Starch/polycaprolactone Fiber Meshes and the Osteogenic Differentiation of Rat Marrow Stromal Cells Martins." *8<sup>th</sup> World Biomaterials Congress*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. (May 28 - June 1, 2008) With Martins AM\*, Pham QP, Malafaya PB, Sousa RA, Gomes ME, **Kasper FK**, Reis RL, and Mikos AG.

"Fabrication of Coaxial Fiber Meshes by Electrospinning." *5<sup>th</sup> Marie Curie Cutting-Edge InVENTS Conference on Synthesis and Applications of Self-assembling Materials at Nano-scale*, Madeira, Portugal. (April 15, 2008) With Saraf A\*, Lozier G, **Kasper FK**, Raphael RM, Baggett LS, and Mikos AG.

"Generation of Tissue Engineering Scaffolds with a Flow Perfusion Bioreactor." *8<sup>th</sup> International Bone Fluid Flow Workshop*, New York, New York. (September 14, 2007) With **Kasper FK**, Pham QP, and Mikos AG\*.

"Osteoinductive Capacity and Angiogenicity of an *In Vitro* Generated Extracellular Matrix" *3<sup>rd</sup> Marie Curie Cutting Edge InVENTS Conference on Biominerisation of Polymeric Materials, Bioactive Biomaterials and Biomimetic Methodologies*, Madeira, Portugal. (June 6, 2007) With Pham QP, **Kasper FK\***, Sharma U, Mistry AS, Yasko AW, Jansen JA, and Mikos AG.

"Biomimetic Strategies for Tissue Engineering of Bone." *3<sup>rd</sup> Marie Curie Cutting Edge InVENTS Conference on Biominerisation of Polymeric Materials, Bioactive Biomaterials and Biomimetic Methodologies*, Madeira, Portugal. (June 4, 2007) With **Kasper FK\*** and Mikos AG.

"Drug Delivery and Bioreactor Strategies in Tissue Engineering." *1<sup>st</sup> Summer School of the European Chapter of the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society: Key Elements of Tissue Engineering*, Madeira, Portugal. (June 3, 2007) With **Kasper FK\*** and Mikos AG.

"Evaluation of Bone Regeneration by DNA Release from Composites of Oligo(poly(ethylene glycol) fumarate) and Cationized Gelatin Microspheres in a Critical-sized Calvarial Defect." *33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Controlled Release Society*, Vienna, Austria. (2006) With **Kasper FK\***, Young S, Tanahashi K, Barry MA, Tabata Y, Jansen JA and Mikos AG.

"Characterization of DNA Release from Composites of Oligo(poly(ethylene glycol) fumarate) and Cationized Gelatin Microspheres *In Vitro*." *31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Biomaterials*, Pittsburgh, PA. (2006) With **Kasper FK\***, Jerkins E, Tanahashi K, Barry MA, Tabata Y and Mikos AG.

*"In Vivo Release of Plasmid DNA from Composites of Oligo(poly(ethylene glycol) fumarate) and Cationized Gelatin Microspheres."* 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Controlled Release Society, Miami, FL. (2005) With **Kasper FK\***, Kushibiki T, Kimura Y, Mikos AG and Tabata Y.

*"In Vitro Release of Plasmid DNA from Oligo(poly(ethylene glycol) fumarate) Hydrogels."* 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Controlled Release Society, Miami, FL. (2005) With **Kasper FK\***, Seidlits SK, Barry MA and Mikos AG.

*"Tissue Engineering Scaffolds: The Principles and the Practice."* 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cell-Based Therapies and Tissue Engineering Short Course, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH. (June 2, 2005) With **Kasper FK\*** and Mikos AG.

**Professional Service:**

Reviewer for *Biomacromolecules*, *Biomaterials*, *Biomedical Microdevices*, *Journal of Applied Polymer Science*, *Journal of Biomedical Materials Research*, *Journal of Controlled Release*, *Journal of Orthopaedic Research*, *Langmuir*, *Macromolecules* and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*

National Biomedical Engineering Society Annual Conference:  
Audio / Visual Technician, 1998 & 2002

**Teaching Experience:**

**Rice University:** Houston, Texas

*Co-Instructor: Biomaterials (BIOE 370)*

August – December 2008

- This undergraduate course introduced both basic materials science and biological concepts with an emphasis on application of these basic principles to understanding the interactions between materials and biological systems. Topics covered include chemical structure of biomaterials, physical, mechanical and surface properties of biomaterials, biomaterial degradation, and biomaterial processing. Additional topics include protein and cell interactions with biomaterials, biomaterial implantation and acute inflammation, wound healing and the presence of biomaterials, immune responses to biomaterials, biomaterials and thrombosis, as well as infection, tumorigenesis and calcification of biomaterials.

*Guest Lecturer*

January – April 2008

- Presented lectures on biomaterials and tissue engineering to non-science major undergraduate students and wrote associated exam questions (BIOS 122)  
- Presented lectures on biomaterials and on the societal and ethical implications of bioengineering to science major undergraduates (BIOE 202)  
- Presented an overview lecture regarding advanced approaches for orthopaedic tissue engineering to graduate students in bioengineering and the biosciences (BIOE 577)

*Textbook Contributor*

March 2006 – July 2007

- Composed text passages, chapter summaries, figures, and example problems in the preparation of the following undergraduate level biomaterials textbook:  
*Temenoff JS and Mikos AG. Biomaterials: The Intersection of Biology and Materials Science.* Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 2008.

*Undergraduate Research Advisor*

January 2002 – Present

- Directed research projects of four upper level undergraduate students  
- Trained students in research techniques and use of instrumentation

*Graduate Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate Teaching Lab*    January – December 2001  
Supervisor: Ann Saterbak, Ph.D.

- Designed and developed a senior bioengineering lab module
  - Wrote the accompanying text
  - Assisted students in comprehension and completion of the lab module

*NSF-IGERT High School Outreach Program* August 2001 – July 2003  
Supervisor: Diana Welch, Associate Director of Institute for Biosciences and  
Bioengineering, Rice University

- Coordinated outreach activities with local school teachers and administrators
  - Lectured students in area public schools on topics in science and engineering
  - Advised students on careers in science, medicine and engineering

**Case Western Reserve University: Cleveland, Ohio**  
*Teaching Assistant, Biomedical Instrumentation Lab*      January – May 1999

- Supervisor: Joe Izatt, Ph.D.

  - Managed and maintained lab equipment
  - Coordinated lab exercises with professors
  - Assisted students in understanding and completion of assignments

**Texas Governor's Honors Program:** Beaumont, Texas  
*Senior Counselor and Course Instructor* Summers 1994 – 1997

- Supervisor: Dorothy Sisk, Ed.D.**

  - Instructed courses on public speaking and musical theater
  - Served as a public relations officer at various community functions
  - Managed a group of twelve high school scholars

## **Professional Societies:**

- American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), 2008  
American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), 2008  
Tissue Engineering International and Regenerative Medicine Society (TERMIS), 2008  
Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES), 2008  
Society for Biomaterials (SFB), 2006-Present  
Controlled Release Society (CRS), 2003-Present  
Bioengineering Graduate Student Association Founding Committee  
Rice University, 2001

## **Community Involvement:**

- First Christian Church: Houston, Texas  
Chairman of the Deacons, 2003  
Vice Chairman of the Deacons, 2002  
Member of the Board, 2002-2003, 2005-2006  
Chancel Choir & Handbell Choir Member, 2001-2006

Holland Lodge #1, A.F. & A.M.: Houston, Texas

- Senior Warden, 2008-Present**  
Chairman of the Fundraising and Scholarship Committees, 2008-Present  
**Senior Deacon, 2007-2008**  
**Senior Steward, 2006-2007**

Houston Masonic Building Association: Houston, Texas  
Member of the Board of Directors, 2008-Present

Shriners Hospitals for Children: Houston, Texas  
Member of the Volunteer Drivers' Committee, 2008-Present  
Volunteer Driver, 2008-Present

Graduate Degree Alumni Committee: Rice University, 2006-Present  
Chair, 2008  
Growing Alumni Subcommittee Chair, 2007

Alumni Recognition Committee: Rice University, 2006-Present

Centennial Campaign Houston Regional Committee: Rice University, 2008-Present  
*Ex officio* member

Rice University Citizens' Police Academy: Rice University  
Cadet, 2006

Rice Graduate Apartment Council: Rice University  
Representative & Founding Committee Member, 1999-2001

University Judicial Board: Case Western Reserve University  
Member, 1998-1999

Michelson House Hall Council: Case Western Reserve University  
President, 1998-1999  
House Manager, 1996-1998

Camelot Social Service Club: Phillips University  
Knight, Life-Member [Active in 1996]

Undergraduate Student Government: Phillips University  
Freshman Senator, 1995-1996

International Thespian Society, Life-Member