



Jennifer J. Westendorf, Ph.D.

Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology & Orthopedics



Jennifer J. Westendorf, Ph.D., is a consultant in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Division of Orthopedic Research at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. She holds a joint appointment in and serves as vice chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Dr. Westendorf holds the academic ranks of professor of orthopedics and professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. She is recognized with the distinction of a named professorship, the Margaret Amini Professorship in Orthopedic Regenerative Medicine Research Honoring Bernard F. Morrey, M.D. She joined the staff of Mayo Clinic in 2007.

Dr. Westendorf earned B.A. degrees in biology and chemistry at University of Minnesota, Morris. She completed her Ph.D. degree in biomedical sciences and immunology at Mayo Clinic. She continued her training as a postdoctoral fellow in tumor biology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and in molecular biology at Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Westendorf's research focuses on molecular, cellular and epigenetic mechanisms that regulate skeletal development and regeneration. She is also interested in primary and metastatic tumors of the skeleton. She currently focuses on several proteins and enzymes that regulate bone and cartilage formation and could be therapeutic targets for multiple musculoskeletal diseases, including osteoarthritis and osteoporosis. Dr. Westendorf consistently publishes in high-impact scientific journals and holds editorial and reviewer responsibilities for several prominent publications. She is frequently invited to give presentations on her research both domestically and internationally and has authored numerous journal articles, abstracts and other written publications.

In recognition of her work, Dr. Westendorf has received many awards and honors, including the Individual National Research Service Award, conferred by National Institutes of Health; the V Scholar award, conferred by The V Foundation for Cancer Research; and the Fuller Albright Award, conferred by the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research.

In addition to her research activities, Dr. Westendorf is active in education and mentoring. She holds full faculty privileges in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Mayo Graduate School, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.

Dr. Westendorf holds memberships and leadership roles with numerous professional organizations, including the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research and the Orthopedic Research Society.