

**Purdue University / Case Western Reserve University / University of Kentucky
Biomaterials Day – October 29, 2011**

This meeting was highlighted cutting edge research and the work done by students at various institutions in the Midwest region. The final attendance included 98 people from 12 universities and 5 companies. Additional funding to support the symposium came from the Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering at Purdue, Biomet, Cook Biotech, and the School of Chemical Engineering at Purdue.

The keynote address was given by Dr. William Murphy from the University of Wisconsin speaking on “Biomaterials that Mimic and Harness Biological Signals.” Each session started with an invited faculty speaker (newer investigators). Our industrial luncheon featured speakers who gave brief talks about their careers and then participated in a panel discussion.

An important function of the symposium was to support the professional development of students. In particular, graduate students played a key role in organizing the symposium by putting together the program booklet, coordinating the food, and volunteering to staff the registration table. Sessions were co-chaired by graduate students and the invited faculty speakers; the invited faculty speakers were asked to co-chair the sessions and mentor graduate students in this role. Oral presentations were evaluated by everyone attending the talk; this method allowed a large number of students to participate in judging the quality of talks. All students who presented an oral presentation were asked to serve as judges for the poster sessions. In this way, students were encouraged to interact and those who gave oral presentations (generally, senior students) were given the opportunity to evaluate their peers. The luncheon focused on giving students an opportunity to learn about working in industry and allowed students to ask questions regarding career development.