

University of Memphis
Biomaterials Day – January 28, 2011

This event provided a biomaterials forum for local and regional undergraduate and graduate students, university faculty and biomedical company professionals. It also sought to educate students and professionals about the potential of biomaterials in the medical field, and to facilitate collaborations between universities and companies by fostering networking and professional development.

The keynote address was given by Dr. Steven Peckham, Director of Product Development at Medtronic, Inc. and a graduate of the joint biomedical engineering program at the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. His address highlighted his career in a biomedical company and the many interesting biomaterials-related projects that he has worked on over the past 12 years while at Medtronic, Inc.

The first oral session discussed roadmaps for a successful career in the biomaterials industry. Students asked questions of industry representatives about topics ranging from product development to regulatory affairs, and received helpful tips on professional development and resume writing.

The process of evolving an idea into a company was the subject of the second oral session. Attendees were given overviews on patenting, launching a start-up company, working in a start-up company, and the evolution of a successful start-up company to a mature company. This session was followed by a networking luncheon.

The final oral session for the day was run by a panel of two clinicians and an industry representative who talked about the grand challenges in the field of biomaterials today from a dental and orthopaedic surgeon's perspective.

The event concluded with a poster presentation session and closing reception.