

Biomaterials Day 2012 Report

1. Purpose of the event

The purpose of the 2012 Texas Biomaterials Day was to enhance networking between academic and industrial sectors and increase student exposure to exciting biomaterials research.

2. Number and names of universities and industry partners participating

We had participation from 29 institutions, including 19 academic institutions, 2 research institutions, 2 hospitals, and 6 industry partners:

Texas Children's Hospital
Rice University
Texas A&M University
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Pearland High School
University of Texas, San Antonio
University of Texas El Paso
University of Houston
University of Texas Austen
Auburn University
Rochel Industries
US Army Institute for Surgical Research
Duke University
University of Texas School of Dentistry
Twister Biotech
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Texas Heart Institute
Baylor College of Medicine
Clemson University
Kinetic Concepts, Inc. (KCI)
Southwest Research Institute
Sam Houston State University
University of Minnesota
SpineSmith USA
Prairie View A&M University
University of Texas Health Sciences Center
Florida Atlantic University
Bose Corporation
CorMatrix, Inc.

3. Event highlights

- Excellent and extremely well-received keynote talk by Dr. Nicholas Peppas on his research and a history of Biomaterials research.
- Inspiring and insightful talks from industry partners on biomaterials-based devices that have been successfully tested and marketed, including talks from Dr. Joe Salamone of Rochal Industries, Dr. Braden Leung of Kinetic Concepts, Inc. (KCI) and Dr. Richard Suzuki of SpineSmith Partners LLP.
- A perfect day with mild weather allowing for an outdoor lunch and interesting conversations.
- Fascinating talks on the latest in biomedical research from Dr. Doris Taylor (Texas Heart Institute), Dr. Thomas Boland (University of Texas El Paso), Dr. Chengzhi Cai (University of Houston), Dr. Jane Grande-Allen (Rice University), Dr. Jian Ling (Southwest Research Institute) and Dr. Ananth Annapragada (Texas Children's Hospital).
- Very delicious food throughout the day catered by The French Connection.

- Excellent posters on very interesting science presented by undergraduates, graduate students and postdocs. There were 43 posters presented, and judging was extremely close for the top prizes for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Great participation by graduate students, undergraduates and even two high school students, who all stayed the entire day, chatted with the speakers and other attendees, and asked questions during the sessions.

4. **Number of attendees**

We had 116 attendees.

5. **Names of sponsors**

The Society of Biomaterials
 CorMatrix, Inc.
 Texas Children's Hospital
 Bose Corporation

6. **Names and contact information of organizers**

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7. **List of speakers**

Keynote Lecture: Nicholas A. Peppas, Sc.D., University of Texas at Austin
 Joseph C. Salamone, Ph.D., Rochal Industries and University of Texas at San Antonio
 Doris Taylor, Ph.D., FAHA, FACC. Texas Heart Institute
 Thomas Boland, Ph.D. University of Texas, El Paso

Chengzhi Cai, Ph.D. University of Houston
Robert Christy, Ph.D. U.S. Army Institute for Surgical Research
Jane Grande-Allen, Ph.D. Rice University
Braden K. Leung, Ph.D. Kinetic Concepts, Inc. (KCI)
Jian Ling, Ph.D. Southwest Research Institute (SwRI)
Ananth Annapragada, Ph.D. Texas Children's Hospital
Richard Suzuki, Ph.D. SpineSmith Partners LP

8. Names of any awardees (student speakers, poster sessions, etc.)

Grad Student Poster Contest:

1st: Jennifer Holm (Texas A&M): \$150
2nd: William Liechty (University of Texas at Austin): \$100
3rd: Melissa Hawkins (Texas A&M): \$75

Undergrad Poster Contest (with a shared 1st place):

1st: Lindsay Nail (Texas A&M): \$125
1st: John Gruetzner (Texas A&M): \$125
3rd: Grace Fletcher (University of Texas at Austin): \$75

Award for organizing all student volunteers for Biomaterials Day, taking the leadership in the coordination of the day's events, and keeping everything running smoothly:
Liezl Balaoing, Rice University