

University of Florida
Biomaterials Day - March 16, 2012

The student chapter of Society for Biomaterials held its inaugural Biomaterials Day entitled “Translational Research in Biomaterials” on March 16, 2012. The one-day symposium consisted of keynote address, speaker presentations, and poster sessions featuring work of graduate and undergraduate students.

The purpose of our event was to create a regional network in the field of biomaterials that has a focus on translation research technologies. Our event achieved this goal by bringing people from academia and industry together to discuss advances in biomaterials and translational research under the format of a one-day symposium and welcome reception.

The majority of attendees were from the University of Florida and included attendees from the following departments: Materials Science and Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Chemistry, Molecular Genetics & Microbiology, University of Florida College of Dentistry, and the University of Florida College of Medicine. In addition, presentations were made by representatives from Florida State University and the University of Georgia. Representatives from the University of Florida’s Office of Research also attended the conference. Industry representatives included participants from Bose-Electroforce, Kimberly-Clark, AxoGen Inc., Spinode Consulting, Boston Scientific, and NovaBone Products LLC. Including all the speakers and poster presenters, there were a total of 119 attendees.

In addition to the grant received from the Society For Biomaterials, financial support was received from the University of Florida Office of Research, University of Florida Graduate School and Office of Graduate Minority Programs, Materials Science and Engineering department, J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering, and Bose- Electroforce.

A welcome reception was held the evening before for all of our speakers and sponsors. This was a casual reception where student organizers, faculty, industry representatives, and guests met one another to discuss the events of the following day. The theme of the day was “Translational Research in Biomaterials.” The symposium was kicked off by a welcome address given by Dr. Bernie Machen, President of the University of Florida. The day consisted of four keynote addresses, three main sessions, and two student poster sessions. The four keynote addresses were entitled “Entrepreneurship in Biomaterials,” “Biomaterial and Medical Device Innovation Challenges in the New Economy,” “The Beginnings of Biomaterials: The Good, The Bad, and The Funny!” and “Translation of University-Industry Research into New Biomedical Technologies.” The three main sessions were entitled “Successful Implementation of Commercial Biomaterials,” “Pioneering Advancements in Biomaterials Research,” and “Pioneering Advancements in Biomedical Engineering.”

The following speakers gave presentations during Biomaterials Day:

- Mr. Jamie Grooms, Chairman and Co-Founder of AxoGen Inc.
- Dr. James Schumacher, Project Leader-Medical Devices at Kimberly Clark and current Society For Biomaterials member
- Dr. James Talton, President and CEO of Nanotherapeutics and current Society for Biomaterials member
- Dr. Antonio Webb, Assistant Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at the University of Georgia and current Society For Biomaterials member
- Dr. John Sheets, AIMBE fellow, Senior Vice President of Corporate Research at Boston Scientific, current Society For Biomaterials member
- Dr. Anthony Brennan, Margaret A. Ross Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Florida, current Society for Biomaterials Member
- Dr. Thomas Angelini, Assistant Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of Florida
- Dr. Christopher Batich, Grodsky Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Florida, current Society For Biomaterials member
- Dr. Larry Hench, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Florida, inventor of Bioglass, the first man-made material to bond to living tissues
- Dr. David Greenspan, President of Spinode Consulting, current Society For Biomaterials member
- Dr. Buddy Clark, Professor of the University of Florida's College of Dentistry
- Dr. Eugene Goldberg, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Florida, current Society For Biomaterials member
- Dr. Benjamin Keselowsky, Associate Professor of the J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Florida, current Society For Biomaterials member
- Dr. Jon Dobson, Assistant Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and the J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Florida
- Dr. Peter McFetridge, Associate Professor of the J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Florida, current Society For Biomaterials member

There were two poster presentations where students were split into graduate and undergraduate categories for judging. There were a total of 23 students who presented their work, 13 graduate students and 10 undergraduates. Matthew Carstens, a graduate student in the Biomedical Engineering Department, and Stefany Holguin, an undergraduate student in the Materials Science and Engineering department won for best posters.

The biggest highlight of our event was having Dr. Bernie Machen, the President of the University of Florida, give the welcome address. President Machen emphasized the importance of the biomaterials program here at the University of Florida and how it has

grown significantly to impact our region, our state, and the nation. He highlighted biomaterials success stories that included Bioglass®, leaders in technology such as Jamie Grooms, co-founder and chairman of AxoGen Inc., as well as Dr. John Sheets, AIMBE fellow and Senior Vice President of Corporate Research at Boston Scientific. President Machen also focused on the importance of biomaterials for start-up companies such as Sharklet Technologies, Inc.

We believe we were very successful with our inaugural Biomaterials Day at the University of Florida, attracting over 100 participants for this first time. A post-event survey showed that overall, most people were extremely satisfied with the event and said that they looked forward to future Biomaterials Days at the University of Florida. Several faculty members and industry personnel commented on how impressed they were that such a large-scale event was organized primarily by students. Although we had several participants, we feel that in the future we can do a better job of advertising. We are planning for next year with a more formal roll-out advertising campaign starting at least three months in advance. We will use Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and the university homepage to advertise the event.

The following people were involved in the planning of Biomaterials Day:

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