Report on Event : Georgia Institute of Technology Biomaterials Day 2014

On October 10th, 2014, the SFB student chapter at Georgia Tech hosted its first biomaterials day. The purpose of this event was to highlight cutting edge biomaterials research being conducted at Georgia Tech and other universities around the Southeast, as well as to provide an avenue for communication and collaboration between faculty, students, and trainees in industry and academia throughout the Southeast. While Georgia Tech hosted the event, 9 other universities also participated: Clemson University, Emory University, University of Louisville, Auburn University, Mercer University, Duke University, University of Memphis, University of Florida, Morehouse College. We also had industry representatives from 4 different companies attend: W.L. Gore & Associates, Bose Electroforce, 3M, and Biospherix.

The event highlights included two plenary speakers, presentations by faculty and staff on their research, rapid fire talks and discussions from students and trainees, an industry panel and working lunch, a presentation on commercialization of biomaterials by a representative from W.L. Gore, and a poster session/awards presentation/celebration dinner.

We had 164 attendees register for the event, though we had requests for more registration spots we were limited by the fire codes on the facilities used. Of those 164, 148 actually attended the conference.

We had 4 industry sponsors for the event – Bose Electroforce and BioSpherix participated as Gold level sponsors, while 3M Healthcare and W.L. Gore participated at Bronze level sponsors. We also received funding from the Georgia Institute of Technology Biomedical Engineering Department, the Georgia Institute of Technology Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience, and the Georgia Tech GT-FIRE Program.

The two plenary speakers for the event were Dr. Pat Stayton from the University of Washington, and Dr. Kevin Healy from the University of California-Berkley, while faculty speakers included Dr. Ravi Bellamkonda, Dr. Andres Garcia, Dr. Todd McDevitt from Georgia Tech, Dr. Karen Burg from Clemson, and Dr. Sean Coyer from W.L. Gore.

Four trainees were awarded full presentations, while another 12 trainees were awarded rapid fire talks and over 70 students were awarded posters. A poster competition, judged by a panel of Georgia Tech and Clemson faculty members, was also held. First place (and $100) was awarded to Chris Johnson from GT, second place (and $75) went to Marian Hettiaratchi from GT, while outstanding poster awards (and $50) went to Shantanu Pradhan and Petra Kerscher from Auburn University and Amy Clark from GT.

**Organizers**

Georgia Tech SFB Student Chapter

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