

Texas Biomaterials Day 2015 Report

1. Purpose of the event

The purpose of the 2015 Texas Biomaterials Day is 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 20 institutions, including 14 academic institutions, 2 research institutions, 1 hospital, and 3 industry partners:

Baylor College of Medicine
Mississippi State University
Rice University
Sam Houston State University
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M Health Sciences Center
Texas State University
The University of Texas at Arlington
The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Texas at San Antonio
University of Houston
University of North Texas
University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston
University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
Houston Methodist Hospital Research Institute
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Texas Children's Hospital
Bose Corporation
Houston Technology Center
Malvern Instruments

3. Event highlights

- Excellent and extremely well-received keynote talk by Dr. Kristi Anseth, a member of the NAE, NAS and IOM.
- Inspiring talk by Dr. Billy Cohn, Heart Surgeon at the Texas Heart Institute, on the design and implementation of pulseless ventricular assist devices and artificial hearts.
- A perfect day with mild weather allowing for an outdoor lunch and interesting conversations.
- Great and thought-provoking discussion on the use of nanoparticles in imaging and therapies from Dr. Gang Bao.
- Excellent and insightful industry perspective on the design of bioreactors from Dr. Stephanie Biechler from Bose Corporation.
- Top quality posters. We had 64 posters presented.
- Professional and interesting "Rapid Fire" presentations by the authors of the top 7 graduate poster abstracts and the top 3 undergraduate abstracts. This was the first conference presentation by all undergraduate presenters and many of the graduate student presenters.
- This symposium was seamlessly tied in with the Gulf Coast Consortia Regenerative Medicine Symposium, held the next day in the same auditorium, and many attendees stayed for both events.

4. Number of attendees

We had 163 attendees.

5. Names of sponsors

Society for Biomaterials
Bose Corporation
Malvern Instruments
Texas Children's Hospital

6. Names and contact information of organizers

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7. List of speakers

Keynote Lecture: Kristi Anseth, University of Colorado at Boulder
William Cohn, Texas Heart Institute
Gang Bao, Rice University
Tania Betancourt, Texas State University
Matteo Pasquali, Rice University
Ennio Tasciotti, Houston Methodist Hospital Research Institute
Kytai Nguyen, University of Texas at Arlington
Stefanie Biechler, Bose Corporation
Chong Xie, University of Texas at Austin

Sergey Shevkoplyas, University of Houston

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

Best Abstract, Graduate Student: John Clegg, University of Texas at Austin

Runner Up Best Abstract, Graduate Student: Charles Peak, Texas A&M Universtiy

Best Abstract, Undergraduate: Rebekah Rodriguez, University of Texas at San Antonio

People's Choice Best Poster: Jiayi Stephen Yan, Rice University