

Report on Event: Georgia Institute of Technology Biomaterials Day 2016

On October 14th, 2016, Georgia Tech hosted its second biomaterials day. The event was organized with the collaboration of Clemson University. The purpose of this event was to feature the forefront of biomaterials research being conducted by students and esteemed faculty at Georgia Tech and other universities around the Southeast, as well as to facilitate discussion and collaboration between faculty, students, and trainees in industry and academia. While Georgia Tech hosted the event, 8 other universities also participated: Clemson University, Emory University, Mercer University, University of Florida, Vanderbilt University, Auburn University, North Carolina State University and University of Georgia. We also had industry representatives from 5 different companies attend: Medshape, MiMedx, Keystone Strategy, Exponent, and Dexcom.

The event highlights included two plenary speakers, faculty speakers, full student talks, rapid fire student talks, an industry panel and working lunch, and a poster session/awards presentation/celebration dinner. We had 154 attendees register for the event.

The two plenary speakers for the event were Dr. Cherie Stabler from the University of Florida and Dr. Jordan Green from Johns Hopkins University, while faculty speakers included Dr. Julie Champion from Georgia Tech, Dr. James Dahlman from Georgia Tech, and Dr. Jeoung Soo Lee from Clemson. Additionally, we had a working lunch with Industry panelists: Dr. Kenneth Dupont (Medshape), Dr. Anna Fallon (MiMedx), Dr. Julia Henkels (Keystone Strategy), Dr. Stacy Imler (Exponent), Dr. Ted Lee (Dexcom), and Dawn E. Ridz (Dexcom).

Four trainees were awarded full presentations: Roxanne Glazier from Emory University, Taylor Kavanaugh from Vanderbilt University, Liane Tellier from Georgia Tech and Rikhav Gala from Mercer University. Additionally, 12 trainees were awarded rapid fire talks: Kirsten Parratt, Christopher Macks, Michelle Gaines, Bryan Dollinger, Jessica Petree, Thomas Werfel, Joshua Walters, Elda Trevino, Myles McCrary, Christopher Johnson, Matthew Lawler, Alexandra Tsoras; and over 60 students were awarded posters. A poster competition, judged by a panel of Georgia Tech and Clemson faculty members, was also held. First place (and \$300) was

awarded to Chris Johnson from Georgia Tech, second place (and \$200) went to Jessica Weaver from Georgia Tech and third place (and \$100) went to Thomas Werfel from Vanderbilt. Additionally, three student research awards were presented by the SFB Drug Delivery SIG. The winners were Liane Tellier from Georgia Tech who presented her work "Localized SDF-1 Delivery Promotes Endogenous Cell Recruitment to the Supraspinatus Muscle after Severe Rotator Cuff Injury", Thomas Werfel from Vanderbilt University, who gave a rapid fire presentation on "Optimizing Architecture and Hydrophobic Content of RNAi Polyplexes Enables Selective mTORC2 Therapy in vivo", and Jessica Petree from Emory University who also gave a rapid fire presentation on "Building a Nanozyme for RNA Gene Therapy".

Organizers

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