

Dear Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Post-Docs, and Faculty,

We cordially invite you to the first annual **Mid-Atlantic Biomaterials Day** sponsored by the Society for Biomaterials! This year, we will be convening at City College of New York on February 24th, and the theme is “Biomaterial Frontiers: Emerging Challenges Creating New Opportunities”

Graduate and Undergraduate Students from Johns Hopkins University, City College of New York, Columbia University, University of Rochester, and Rutgers University are creating this event to foster Biomaterials education, help students build careers in biomedical science and engineering, and encourage the growth of new Society for Biomaterials Chapters at regional universities. Your participation would greatly contribute to our goals. We know this event will spark new and innovating ideas in the minds of students.

Our event will highlight current cutting edge research in Biomaterials. Dr. Liisa Kuhn of the University of Connecticut, president-elect for the Society for Biomaterials will be our keynote speaker. Plenary sessions will be led by invited faculty speakers on various topics such as drug delivery, biomaterials fabrication, and cell and tissue-materials engineering. The highlight of the event, however, will be student research. Students will present their research during rapid-fire talks within each plenary session and during a poster session. Career development for students will also be highlighted via a career panel, including representatives from faculty, industry and government research facilities. Industry representatives will exhibit their companies for student information and recruiting. We also invite your faculty to attend, in the hope that they will use this as an opportunity to recruit some of the best and brightest students as graduate and post-doctoral researchers based on the research presented that day.

We are inviting both graduate and undergraduate students to submit abstracts for the poster session. Outstanding abstracts will be invited to deliver 5 minute rapid fire podium presentations in addition to their poster presentations. Awards will be given for best rapid fire presentation and best poster. Specifics for abstract format and submission can be found on our event website (<http://www.midatlantic-biomaterialsday2017.org/>). As one of the goals of the Biomaterials Day is to promote communication within our region, we encourage students to submit recent work to this Symposium, including work that may have been submitted to other meetings.

If you would distribute this letter along with the attached flier to your department, we would greatly appreciate it. We look forward to hosting you all in New York in February!

Sincerely,

The Mid-Atlantic Biomaterials Day Planning Committee