

WELCOME TO THE SOCIETY FOR BIOMATERIALS 2019 ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

We would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Society For Biomaterials 2019 Annual Meeting & Exposition: The Pinnacle of Biomaterials Innovation and Excellence!

Seattle has always been a high spot for global health, medical innovations, and cutting-edge biomedical research. Similarly, the Society has been the core hub for excellence in biomaterials by bringing together an international community of academic researchers, industry scientists, clinicians, regulatory professionals, and entrepreneurs to share knowledge and to learn recent developments in basic and applied biomaterials research. Seattle thus provides an excellent setting for the 2019 Society For Biomaterials Annual Meeting, which will be a “pinnacle” of biomaterials innovation and excellence to educate, learn, and collaborate across various scientific disciplines including materials science, biology, engineering and medicine for improving human health.

This year, there are sessions/panels with a focus on **“Biomaterials Technology in Industry”** in the program. These sessions promote greater participation from industry while taking into account the need to maintain the integrity of proprietary information. In addition, SFB is building on last year’s success with “Thought Leader Symposia” that allow leaders from across the diverse disciplines represented in the Society to share their perspectives on unsolved questions and emerging future directions in the field.

We have emphasized a **“Career Catalysis”** set of sessions that is geared towards professional development for trainees and professionals. We are particularly excited about the addition of a session block dedicated to **“Rapid Fire”** presenters on the first day of the conference to further highlight the breadth and quality of the abstracts received this year. Finally, we invite you to take a break from the scientific sessions to connect with other attendees at the Seattle Art Museum during the Bash on Friday night.

We would like to particularly thank the members of the Program Committee — Rebecca Carrier, James M. Curtis, Robert Hastings, Floyd Karp, Kurtis Kasper, David H. Kohn, Ankur Singh, Sarah E. Stabenfeldt, Johnna Temenoff, and SFB President Andres J. Garcia— for all their efforts and guidance in creating an engaging conference program this year. We are also grateful to the numerous individuals who have worked to create each session, workshop, and panel, as well as those who dedicated time to reviewing abstracts. It is through this process that we are best able to highlight the most exciting scientific findings each year and we are therefore truly grateful for your efforts. Of course, we are especially appreciative of our generous sponsors and exhibitors, without whom this meeting would not be possible.

Finally, we would like to give our thanks to you, the attendees of the 2019 Annual Meeting & Exposition! You are the “pinnacle” of this meeting and we sincerely hope that you find that the program inspires further connections to enable your own future directions.

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