



# WELCOME TO THE SOCIETY FOR BIOMATERIALS

## 2018 ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

We would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Society For Biomaterials 2018 Annual Meeting & Exposition: Exploring the Nexus of Research and Application.

Since its founding in 1837 at the end of the Georgia railroad, Atlanta has been a hub of commerce and transportation, known for bringing together diverse people and ideas. Similarly, the Society has a long history of being the hub for multidisciplinary materials research and applied solutions for healthcare. Atlanta thus provides an ideal backdrop for the 2018 Society for Biomaterials Annual Meeting, which we hope will act as a “nexus” to further opportunities for collaboration across diverse scientific disciplines, from biology and material science, to chemistry, physics, medicine and engineering.

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 the success of last year’s **“Thought Leader Symposia”** that allow leaders from across the diverse disciplines represented in the Society to share their perspectives on key questions and future directions in the field.

New this year, we have emphasized a **“Career Catalysis”** set of sessions that is geared towards professional development for trainees and professionals, and 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 (and perhaps a few whale sharks, beluga whales and manta rays!) at the beautiful Georgia Aquarium during the Bash on Friday night.

We would like to particularly thank the members of the Program Committee — Joel Bumgardner, Rebecca Carrier, Suping Lyu, Gopinath Mani, William Murphy, Sarah Stabenfeldt, Eric Sussman, and SFB President David Kohn — 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 2018 Annual Meeting & Exposition! You are the “nexus” of this meeting and we sincerely hope that you find that the program inspires further connections to enable your own future directions.

*Bob Hastings, MS, PE*  
2018 Program Co-Chair  
DePuy Synthes, Johnson & Johnson

*Johnna Temenoff, PhD*  
2018 Program Co-Chair  
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