Annual Meeting Highlights

PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS
Angela Throm, PhD, Distinguished Scientist, Medtronic
Susan Thomas, PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology

2026 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dawn Beraud, PhD | AIMBE

Dawn Beraud, Ph.D., serves as the Executive Director of AIMBE. As a science policy leader with senior government experience and a keen understanding of Capitol Hill processes, Dr. Beraud brings to AIMBE her passion for helping scientists join the conversation and influence policy decisions. She directs AIMBE's strategic planning and partners with Fellows to provide advocacy leadership in medical and biological engineering. Dr. Beraud joins AIMBE from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) at NIH, where she led congressional relations and external outreach for almost a decade. Prior to joining the NIA, Dr. Beraud worked on autism spectrum disorder (ASD) research policy at the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Beraud received a B.S. in psychology from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Georgetown University

Kim Chaffin, P.E., PhD | Medtronic

Dr. Kim Chaffin is a Vice President, Bakken Fellow, and Technical Fellow at Medtronic, where she leads the development of next-generation technologies across the company's global businesses. An expert in material thermodynamics, polymer science, and structure-property relationships, her work has significantly advanced industry understanding of long-term biostability and biocompatibility in medical devices. She is an inventor on more than twenty issued patents, a widely published researcher, and a respected industry voice who regularly advises policymakers at the state and federal levels. A gifted speaker known for making complex scientific and regulatory topics accessible and engaging, Dr. Chaffin holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota and master's and bachelor's degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Minnesota.

Dr. Chaffin contributes to STEM advancement through her service on the Science Museum of Minnesota's Board of Trustees and her advisory roles in academia. She returned to Minneapolis in late 2016 after a four-year international assignment in Switzerland. Dr. Chaffin and her husband, Paul, President of Molex's Medical and Pharmaceutical Solutions business, have two children: Cole, a Mechanical Engineer at Boston Scientific, and Julia, a senior studying Chemical Engineering at the University of Michigan.

2026 PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Daniel Alge, PhD|Rebecca Carrier, PhD|Leslie Chan, PhD|Lauren Costella, PhD|Erika Cyphert, PhD|Cole DeForest, PhD|Marian Hetterachi, PhD|Adam Jakus, PhD|Edward Phelps, PhD|Qingqing Qu, PhD|Shreya Raghavan, PhD|Janet Zoldan, PhD|Nicole Racca

Staff Liaisons
Dan Lemyre, CAE, IOM | Joel Colon | Jessica Goodone | Tara Locantore

2026 AWARD WINNERS

Founders Award
Martine LaBerge, Clemson University
Awardee Address: Thursday, March 26, 2026 | Plenary Session 1 | 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Mid-Career Award
Katelyn Swindle-Reilly, PhD, The Ohio State University
Awardee Address: Thursday, March 26, 2026, Plenary Session I, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Technology, Innovation and Development Award
Saochen Chen, Ph.D, UC San Diego
Awardee Address: Thursday, March 26, 2026 | Plenary Session I | 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Young Investigator Award
Claudia Loebel, M.D. PH.D, University of Pennsylvania
Awardee Address: Thursday, March 26, 2026 | Plenary Session I | 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Clemson Award for Applied Research
Jordan Green, Ph.D, Johns Hopkins University
Awardee Address: Friday, March 27, 2026 | Pleanry Session III | 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Clemson Award for Basic Research
Omid Veiseh, Ph.D, Rice University
Awardee Address: Friday, March 27, 2026 | Pleanry Session III | 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Clemson Award for Contributions to Literature
Jian Yang, Ph.D, Westlake University
Awardee Address: Friday, March 27, 2026 | Plenary Session III | 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

2026 AWARD WINNERS

CONTINUED

Society for Biomaterials Award for Service

David Kohn, Ph.D, University of Michigan

Award Recognition: Friday, March 27, 2026 | Annual Buisness Meeting | 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

C. William Hall Award

Vincent Ling, Ph.D, Morphocell

Award Recognition: Friday, March 27, 2026 | Annual Business Meeting | 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Outstanding Research by a Hospital Fellow Award

Rameshwar Rao, Seattle Children's Research Institute

Award Recognition: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 | Opening Ceremony | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Acta Biomaterialia Gold Medal

Molly Shoichet, University of Toronto

Awardee Address: Thursday, March 26, 2026, Plenary Session II, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Acta Biomaterialia Silver Medal

Daniel Benoit, PhD, University of Oregon

Awardee Address: Thursday, March 26, 2026, Plenary Session II, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Student Award for Outstanding Research

PhD Candidate Category

Thalma Orado, Texas A&M University

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 11:45 AM - 12:00 PM | "Mechanochromic Smart Materials for Infection Surveillance in Chronic Wounds"

Katherine Meinhold, University of Washington

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 8:45 AM | "Non-Ionic Surfactant Modifies Electrospun Fiber Properties for In Vitro Fibrous Connective Tissue Models"

Undergraduate Category | Student Award for Outstanding Research

Aiden Walter, Rose Hulman Institute of Technology

Thursday, March 26, 2026 | 8:15 AM - 8:30 AM | "Effects of Poly(β-amino ester) Networks on Macrophage Response In Vitro"

C. William Hall Scholarship

Zhiyuan Chen, Purdue University

Poster #PS3614 | Friday, March 27, 2026 | 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM | Development of Degradable Granular Hydrogels for Tissue Engineering Applications

Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD - Undergraduate Travel Fellowship

Isaiah Williams, University of Connecticut

Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD - Undergraduate Travel Fellowship

Joshua Wilkins, North Carolina A&T State University | Friday, March 27, 2026 | 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM | PS3565 | Comparative Evaluation of Ultrasound-Triggered Controlled Release of Curcumin from Electrospun Nanofibrous Mesh for Wound Healing Applications