**Clemson and Georgia Tech Southeast Biomaterials Day – 2015 – Report on Event**

**September 26, 2015**

The student chapter for the Society for Biomaterials at Clemson University and the Georgian Institute of Technology hosted the first joint Biomaterials Day between the two schools. The event was hosted on September 26th, 2015 at the Madren Center in Clemson, SC. The one day symposium hosted two keynote speakers, concurrently run speaker sessions from both professors and students, an industry panel discussion, and a student poster session featuring the work of the graduate and undergraduate students.

**Purpose of the Event**: There were several purposes for this event. The theme for the event was Partnerships in Research, and offered a unique collaboration opportunity for those involved in the multidisciplinary field of biomaterials. This conference put focus on providing a forum for students, leading researchers, and industry representatives to meet and exchange ideas, in order to cultivate collaboration among academia and entrepreneurial professionals. Our aims were to provide a great opportunity for scientific discussion between all of the attendees, while also incorporating an industry component for the second half of the symposium. The event also sought to expand the biomaterials and industry networks from all of those from visiting universities and representatives from biomedical companies.

**Participants**: The Southeast Biomaterials Symposium 2015 hosted 130 participants from industry and academia. Visiting institutions included Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Georgia, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Medical University of South Carolina, University of South Carolina, and Alabama State University. We had two keynote speakers. The first keynote, Dr. Thomas Webster was from Northeastern University and our second speaker, Kara Elkin, is the Professional Relations Analyst from DePuy Synthes.

**Event Highlights:** The symposium was opened by Dr. Webster who addressed the audience with a talk centering on his research at Northeaster University and the importance of the Society of Biomaterials. After the keynote address, two concurrent sessions were run, the first concentrating on biomechanics and the second on tissue engineering in biomaterials. During these sessions we had several rapid-fire talks from students, sandwiched by faculty presentations. After lunch, the symposium focused on industry. We had a keynote speaker, Kara Elkin, speak on her experience at DePuy Synthes and the importance of making partnerships in research. After the second keynote, we had several talks from industry representatives focusing on entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and industry from the clinicians’ perspective. This was followed by a industry panel discussion with the audience. The day ended with a large networking session between all the attendees and speakers. This session was also run along a student poster session.

We served breakfast, lunch, and snack breaks to all registered guests. All attendees received bags containing giveaways from the event and information of upcoming SFB events as well as the SFB newsletter.

**Speaker List and Schedule:**

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| **Registration/Breakfast Provided – 8:30 – 9:00am** |
| **Dr. Thomas Webster – 9:00 – 10:00am** |
| **Break – 10:00-10:10am** |
| **Mechanics of Biomaterials** | **Regenerative Tissue Engineering** |
| Short talk 1 – 10:10-10:20AM | Mike DiBalsi | Short talk 1 – 10:10-10:20AM | Liane Tellier |
| Short talk 2 – 10:20-10:30AM | Christopher Johnson | Short talk 2 – 10:20-10:30AM | Jhilmil Dhulekar |
| Short talk 3 – 10:30-10:40AM | Martin Alejos | Short talk 3 – 10:30-10:40AM | Sarah Cisewski |
| Faculty talk 10:40-11:10AM | Dr. Melinda Harman | Faculty talk 10:40-11:10AM | Dr. Julia Babensee |
| Short talk 4 – 11:30-11:40AM | Kyle Snethen | Short talk 4 – 11:30-11:40AM | Elizabeth Marr |
| Short talk 5 – 11:40-11:50AM | Shima Ziaei | Short talk 5 – 11:40-11:50AM | Christian Macks |
| Short talk 6 – 11:50-12:00PM | Carson Brewer | Short talk 6 – 11:50-12:00PM | Kathleen Steckbeck |
| Faculty talk 12:00-12:30PM | Dr. Robert Guldberg | Faculty talk 12:00-12:30PM | Dr. Naren Vyavahare |
| **Lunch** |
| **Industry Session Begins** |
| Entrepreneurship Talk  | 2:45 -3:00PM | John Warner |
| Translational Talk | 3:00 – 3:15PM | Rachael Hagan |
| Partnerships in Research | 3:15 – 3:30PM | Dr. David Cull |
| **Industry Panel Discussion** |
| **Session Activity (Networking Bingo)** |
| **Poster Session** |

**Success Story:** Overall we felt the biggest success of symposium was the diversity we provided from a research and industry perspective. We had a much larger array of different universities in the region that we’ve had previously. We also had several key industry leaders in several different aspects of industry. Also, our networking activity at the end of the day really encouraged others to not only meet, but to get to know multiple people outside of their networks. Our goal for upcoming events is to eventually hit 200 participants and to continue to grow not only the number of universities present, but to definitely have more participants from each of those institutions.

**Sponsors**: Society for Biomaterials, Department of Bioengineering (Clemson University), Department of Biomedical Engineering (Georgia Institute of Technology)

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