

Biomaterials Day 2022 Report

On October 10th, 2022, the Arizona State University Chapter of the Society for Biomaterials hosted the Southwest Biomaterials Day Conference. The purpose of the conference was twofold: showcase the use of biomaterials in industrial, clinical and research settings and give local students the opportunity to present their own research.

The conference was split into three sessions which started with a presentation by Dr. Layla Khalifehzadeh, an Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering at Arizona State University. This was followed by Dr. Hakan Ceylan, an Assistant Professor at the Mayo Clinic and the student rapid fire talk competition. The first session was then concluded with a presentation by the first keynote speaker, Dr. Kaitlyn Sadtler, an Investigator and Chief of the Section on Immunoengineering at the National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, of the National Institutes of Health.

Following a short break for lunch, the second session was started with a talk by the second keynote speaker, Dr. Edward Botchwey, a College of Engineering Dean's Professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University. This was followed by a talk by Dr. Shang Song, an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering at University of Arizona. The second session was then concluded with a final presentation by Dr. Abhinav Acharya, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Arizona State University.

The third session began with talks from the final keynote speaker, Dr. Cole DeForest, a Weyerhaeuser Endowed Associate Professor in the Departments of Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering, as well as a core faculty member of the Institute for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine at the University of Washington. Afterwards, a student poster session was hosted where students had the opportunity to discuss their most recent work. The aim of the poster session was for students to receive invaluable feedback on their work from other students as well as faculty members that were attending the conference. Afterwards, an interactive workshop by Dr. Karen Thiebes from Simplified Science Publishing on how to make scientific figures concluded the entire event.

A total of 16 abstracts were submitted for rapid-fire student presentations and for the student poster session. We gave out awards to the top three rapid-fire presentations and top three posters, totaling \$378.00 in student prizes.

To begin preparation for next year's conference, we have already submitted funding applications for national SFB funding and ABRC funding. The question and answer sessions demonstrated the biomaterials community's willingness to share information and better our science. The success of this year's event opens up opportunities for increased industry and faculty presence in the future. We also hope to expand this event by reaching out to other SFB chapters in the future.

Funding for the event was received through both ABRC and from the national chapter of the Society for Biomaterials. Leftover Society for Biomaterials funds from 2021 totaled \$976.53, while funds for 2022 were \$2,500.00. Combined with ABRC funding of \$5,000.00 gave us our total operating budget of \$8,476.53. Speaker honorariums totaling \$4,212.00 and student prizes of \$378.00 were paid through ABRC funding while the \$1,538.81 cost for food and catering for the event was funded through SFB funding.