

**Texas A&M University**  
**Biomaterials Day – May 16, 2011**

The aim of this event was to enhance networking between academic, industrial, and clinical sectors and increase student exposure to exciting biomaterials research. The program included a keynote lecture and two invited talks by a top biomaterial scientist and a clinician. Oral presentations from leading institutions and biomedical companies in Texas showcased ongoing research in the region. Finally, abstracts were solicited for an afternoon poster session that provided a venue for student research presentations and networking. Judges selected poster award recipients in each student category (Undergraduate, Graduate).

There was active student involvement in the meeting. The program was designed to provide students with an excellent overview of biomaterial research and an industrial perspective on biomaterial education. This year's planning included social activities the day before the conference to encourage informal communication among students from different universities. Through these introductions, collaborations between students and SFB chapters were established which will increase communication between chapters in the future.

The poster session during the conference was dedicated to showcasing student research and poster awards were selected by a panel of judges from regional institutions. Abstracts for student poster presentations were solicited from regional institutions with a deadline of 30 days prior to the meeting. The format mirrored the required elements of SFB meeting abstracts to prepare students for future submission to the annual meeting. Abstracts were judged on similar criteria as SFB abstracts to select poster award finalists.

A panel of student volunteers from TAMU was in charge of assembling the program book, which included bios from the speakers and a list of the student posters. This book was handed out at registration and serves as a resource for students in selecting graduate school advisors and mentors.

There were 104 attendees at the Biomaterials Day symposium from 14 universities and four biomedical companies.