



**Canadian Biomaterials Society**  
**Soci t  Canadienne des Biomat riaux**

**Quarterly Newsletter**



**Letter from our Current President**

Dear CBS Members,

Summer is knocking on the door, together with this Newsletter. Thanks to our communication team, Stephanie, Todd, Maud, Lauren, and Isabelle.

Students have always been the focus of the Canadian Biomaterials Society, and we have been trying our best to support student-initiated activities. With the newly established Montreal Student Chapter, we now have three student chapters across the nation. This newsletter features their recent activities.

Many of you may have noticed new functions introduced to the CBS website [www.biomaterials.ca](http://www.biomaterials.ca). Thanks to Isabelle, Todd, Roz and our web developer Jason, from now on we can directly manage our CBS annual meetings, from abstract submission to registration, through the society's own website. I am sure our Ottawa meeting will prove this to be a good investment.

Talking about Ottawa, don't forget to register for the 30<sup>th</sup> CBS Annual Meeting before April 30<sup>th</sup> for early bird discounts and book your accommodation now to make sure you get a room! We will also hold our CBS Annual General Meeting there to shape our future.

Hope to see you all soon!

Rizhi Wang

**Letter from our Incoming President**

Dear CBS members,

The upcoming year for the Canadian Biomaterials Society should be an exciting time for us as a community. With the web infrastructure now in place, we have a vital communications platform that provides a user friendly medium for us to draw upon for information about the society's efforts and focus. It only seems appropriate that the society utilize this platform to further connections within the society membership, as well as have a presence that future members and industrial partners can access. This year

will also see important updates to our constitution, as required by the government so that we may maintain our 'not-for-profit' status. Although not a glamorous job, updating our constitution will also force us to formally address some of the minor and major issues that generally affect our society. To this end, I'd like to thank Roz Labow and Mark Filiaggi for directly supporting me in this endeavour, and to the Board of Directors and membership for their valued input when the time comes to discuss any changes that may be done. Building upon this year's conference in Ottawa (<http://www.biomaterials.ca/#!/conference>), the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Canadian Biomaterials Society meeting in Halifax represents a 'full-circle' for me personally. Even though I have been involved with the society since 2000, it was the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in Halifax (2001) that I gave my first presentation as a Ph.D. candidate. Please consider providing more than moral support to Mark Filiaggi as he (and I'm sure a few of his associates) is now starting to prepare for this conference. Finally, although in 2016, it is my hope that all of the synergy that the society has been actively fostering can be used to support the organizing committee of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Biomaterials Congress (May 18-22, 2016) that is being held in Montreal (<http://wbc2016.org/>).

Larry Unsworth

**Top 5 Reasons to Attend the 30th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Biomaterials Society**

**By Stephanie Willerth**

The 30th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Biomaterials Society (CBS) is fast approaching (May 29-June 1) and will be held at the University of Ottawa. Here are the top five reasons why you should attend:

5. See our seven, distinguished invited speakers discuss the future of biomaterials. More details on these speakers can be found at the end of this section.
4. Connect with other students, professors and industry representatives during the dedicated networking workshop. Also, members of our local student chapters can share their experiences in case you are interested in starting your own local CBS student chapter.

3. Participate in the Annual General Meeting of the Society. We even have a student board member who influences the activities of our society.

2. Attend the awesome social event held at the Canadian Museum of Nature, which includes dinner and drinks, and entrance to the amazing blue water gallery!

1. Present your research through talks and posters to your colleagues to demonstrate the exciting biomaterials research being conducted all over Canada.

Register at <http://biomaterials.ca/#/cbs2013>

The “Program at a Glance” can be found at:

<http://biomaterials.ca/attachments/CBS2013ProgramataGlance.pdf>

### **The distinguished speaker lineup includes:**

**Kristi Anseth, Ph.D.** (Distinguished Professor, University of Colorado) investigates how biomaterial scaffolds can function in 4-D (including temporal behavior) and her achievements include being a National Academy of Engineering Member and Howard Hughes Medical Investigator.

**John Brash, Ph.D.** (Professor Emeritus, McMaster University) works in the area of blood contacting biomaterials. He has received numerous awards for his contributions and is a member of the Royal Society of Canada.

**Lyndon Jones, Ph.D.** (Professor and Clinician, University of Waterloo) serves as the Director of the Centre for Contact Lens Research. He has been the recipient of a number of awards, including the 2006 American Optometric Foundation’s “Michael Harris Award for Excellence in Optometric Education”.

**Tony Mikos, Ph.D.** (Louis Calder Professor, Rice University) serves as the Director of the J.W. Cox Laboratory for Biomedical Engineering and the Director of the Center for Excellence in Tissue Engineering at Rice University. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering.

**Claude Rieker, Ph.D.** (Director Scientific Affairs, Zimmer) coordinates scientific support for the marketing of new technologies and products produced by Zimmer. He also serves as a Board member of the International Society of Technology in Arthroplasty.

**Marc Ruel, M.D. and M.P.H.** (University of Ottawa Heart Institute) performs dual roles as both a Chief of the Division of Cardiac Surgery and the Cardiac Surgery Research Chair. He is also a member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

**William R. Wagner, Ph.D.** (Professor, University of Pittsburgh) serves as the Director of the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine. Dr. Wagner is a past President of the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs and is a Fellow of the International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering.

## **Welcoming our new Montreal CBS Student Chapter!**

### **By Montreal Student Chapter Board Members**

**The Montreal Student Chapter** of the CBS (CBS-MC) was established on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012 to support and enhance student research and interest in the field of biomaterials while meeting the mandates and objectives of the CBS. A general assembly was held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012. Professor Sophie Lerouge from École de Technologie Supérieure, holder of a Canada Research Chair in Biomaterials and Endovascular Implants, serves as the faculty mentor for this chapter. The following six executive members were elected in the general assembly by the votes of active members of the CBS:

### **Montreal Student Chapter Board Members**

**President:** Houman Savojsi, École Polytechnique de Montréal

**Vice President (Internal):** Yinan Zhan, Concordia University

**Vice President (External):** David Fong, École Polytechnique de Montréal

**Treasurer:** Mark Sven Jämes-Bhasin, McGill University

**Secretary:** Frédéric Murschel, École Polytechnique de Montréal

**Conference Representative:** Charles Fortier, École Polytechnique de Montréal

**Information Technology officer:** Samantha Noël, École Polytechnique de Montréal

The Montreal Student Chapter is governed by the CBS by-laws and further by its own by-laws. The operation of its first year will include three events

related to biomaterial sciences. Two activities will be of a social nature (May and September 2013) to build a momentum and facilitate the recognition of the Montreal Chapter by graduate and undergraduate students in the Montreal area. The third activity will be a full-day symposium of scientific content relevant to students and researchers, held at the end of September 2013. The symposium will involve keynote speakers, workshops and a networking session.

The executive members are greatly pleased and highly enthusiastic for the formation of this local chapter, as it will promote the growth of an important scientific community that is eager to share knowledge about the latest advances in the field of biomaterial science and engineering. Here are the respective links for the Montreal Student Chapter website, forum and LinkedIn profile:

<http://cbsmontrealchapter.wordpress.com/>  
<http://mc-cbs.boards.net/>  
<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Montreal-Chapter-Canadian-Biomaterials-Society-4731654>

We would greatly like to invite all undergraduate and graduate students and postdocs to take part in this chapter and to promote its activities. Please contact us by visiting the above-mentioned websites and ask to join CBS-MC chapter.

## Update from the Alberta Chapter

By Maryam Kabiri



Picture taken in January 2013 of the Silver Nanotechnology Keynote Speaker: Dr. Robert Burrell (Departments of Chemical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Alberta).

On January 16<sup>th</sup> 2013, the Alberta Chapter hosted the event 'Silver Nanotechnology', which was geared towards entrepreneurship in the world of biomaterials. Dr. Burrell, the creator of Acticoate™, told the story of how this technology grew from his

lab into a world-wide market. Dr. Burrell's talk gave the audience unique insight into the journey of a biomaterial from the bench to the bedside. This event was well attended with more than 80 people in the audience.

Also, the 2013-2014 executive team was elected on January 30<sup>th</sup> and will take office starting May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## U of A board members

**President:** Kyle Koss (Ph.D. Candidate, UofA)  
**Vice President:** Theodore Ng (M.Sc. Student, UofA)  
**Treasurer:** Shyam Garg (Ph.D. Candidate, UofA)  
**Secretary:** David Dinh (M.Sc. Student, UofA)

## Update from the British Columbia Chapter

By Azadeh Goudarzi

The BC Student Chapter is now two years old, thanks to the dedicated team and ongoing support of the CBS. The Chapter has held several biomaterial-related workshops, seminars and networking events since its initiation. The latest event was the workshop held at Simon Fraser University (SFU) and was organized in association with the Engineering Science Student Society at SFU on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The workshop consisted of two remarkable scientific presentations by Dr. Rizhi Wang (UBC) and Dr. Carolyn Sparrey (Simon Fraser University), along with networking opportunities sponsored by VWR International as well as a poster session and competition. Congratulations to the winner of the poster session, Marjan Shayegan, and thanks to the judges. The poster session transformed the students from a passive audience to active participants. They were listening to the research presented and freely asking questions.



The above picture was taken during the poster session.

Also, the BC Chapter is currently organizing its second student based stem cells workshop for July 5<sup>th</sup> at the University of Victoria. This workshop, consisting of scientific lectures and lab rotations, aims to increase the interaction between students working in the biomaterial, biomedical and engineering fields.

### **BC Student Chapter Board Members**

**President:** Malihe Poormasjedi (UBC)  
**Vice-President (internal):** Soheil Hajimohammadi (UBC)  
**Vice-President (external):** Felipe Eltite (UBC)  
**Past-president:** Azadeh Goudarzi (UBC)  
**Treasurer:** Seyedmohammad Baradaran Ghavami (UBC)  
**Secretary:** Rouhollah Mousavizadeh (UBC)  
**University of Victoria Representative:** Nima Khadem Mohtaram

Here is the links to the BC Student Chapter website:

<http://www.bcstudentchapter.ca/home/>.

#### ***CBS Newsletter editorial board***

Lauren Flynn  
Maud Gorbet  
Todd Hoare  
Stephanie Willerth

Please contact [mgorbet@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mgorbet@uwaterloo.ca) if you would like to contribute to our Fall 2013 CBS Newsletter.



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