



CANADIAN BIOMATERIALS SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES BIOMATÉRIAUX

2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Meeting place: **In-person: Biosciences Complex, Room 1102, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada**
Virtual: Zoom link sent to membership
Agenda, AGM 2024 minutes, & invitation distributed by email to membership.

Date: **Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

Time: **4:30 PM to 6:00 PM EST**

Board Members Present	Regrets
Vahid Adibnia (Board member) Isabelle Catelas (President) Marta Cerruti (Past President) Patricia Comeau (Secretary) Lindsay Fitzpatrick (President-elect) Marc-André Fortin (Board member) Simon Matoori (Board member; attended virtually) Jean-Philippe St-Pierre (Board member) Mahdiah Heydarigoojani (Student member) Laura Wells (Board member)	

General Membership Attendance: ~ 50 in-person and 1 via Zoom

- 1) Call to Order & Approval of the Agenda (Isabelle Catelas)
 - Isabelle brought meeting to order at 4:44pm (recording started).
 - Isabelle: Thank you to this past year BoD for their efforts.
 - Isabelle called for approval of this year’s AGM agenda
 - Approved by Lindsay Fitzpatrick.
 - Seconded by Tom Willett.
- 2) Approval of the Minutes from the 2024 AGM (Isabelle Catelas)
 - Approved by Malcolm Xing.
 - Seconded by Kim Woodhouse.
- 3) President’s Report (Isabelle Catelas)
 - Isabelle introduced the different committees and the CBS board members on each
 - Administration

- Awards
 - Communication
 - Clinical and Industry Engagement (New)
 - EDI (New)
 - Finance
 - Student Engagement
 - Website (Temporary based on current need)
- Isabelle presented work done by CBS board this year on ongoing initiatives from prior years
 - Website update is ongoing. More information will be provided later in this AGM.
 - Preparation of documents (e.g., MOU) to help support organizers of future CBS meetings.
 - Updating and/or preparation of transition manuals for the board committees.
 - Support of student chapters (this year we supported 5 chapters with \$1000; there are also 3 other chapters of which 1 is dormant (no president) and 2 did not need money this year).
 - Note that a student chapter needs to be region-based and not based on a single university.
 - Isabelle presented work done by CBS board on new initiatives of this past year
 - Continuing Medical Education (CME) to encourage more clinical engagement in CBS activities and meetings
 - We have pursued this with prior meetings (CBS 2013, 2014, and 2015), though not since the WBC 2016.
 - Isabelle has been in contact with the University of Ottawa Office of Continuing Professional Development, and they are able to assist in CME accreditation for a CBS meeting held anywhere in Canada.
 - Additional information on how to process and contact information of the office at the University of Ottawa has been included in the transition manual of the Clinical and Industry Engagement (C&IE) committee.
 - Sponsorship to improve fiscal sustainability of the CBS
 - Thankful to the sponsors we obtain for each year's annual CBS meeting. The interest this year was in looking at such engagement for CBS activities all year long. This was one of the tasks of the C&IE committee (chair: Vahid, Marc-André, and Isabelle). A document describing 3 types of sponsorship was written by the committee and presented to the board.
 - First sponsorship approach – Main sponsors: engage industry sponsors to organize online workshops (present their products), training for our students, presence on website.
 - Second approach – Graduate student excellence award: engage industry and give the award the industry sponsor name (done in collaboration with Award committee).

- Third approach – Medical and Dental professional travel award: linked to the CME; sponsored by industry to encourage clinician attendance at our CBS meetings.
 - Thank you Vahid and Marc-André for your work on these sponsorship tiers. BoD has approved these.
- In the works and something for next year’s board and President (Lindsay) to take on is the re-organizing of membership levels
 - Vahid (C&IE committee) has developed a two-tier membership strategy. To be discussed more at board level and with membership at a later time.
- Promote more collaboration with other societies of complimentary interest
 - Has happened in the past (e.g., CBS 2015 overlapping with CSPS, CBS symposium at the Canadian Orthopaedic Research Society (CORS) meeting in 2022).
 - Still of ongoing interest.
 - The BoD has approved a joint conference with CSPS next year (2026) in Vancouver. More details will be presented on this joint conference later in today’s AGM.

4) Financial Report (Emilio Alarcon)

- Emilio took on the treasurer role this year from Tom Willett (prior CBS treasurer).
- Emilio presented slides containing financial data pertaining to CBS activities and investments
 - Shared Accountant’s Report: Income (55k), Surplus (3k), Total Assets (472k), Total Liabilities and Net Asset (471k), and Total Projected Expenses (47k).
 - Account Balances – May 2024: Chequing (43k) and Legacy Travel Awards (8k); Estimated funds available (51k).
 - Account Balances – May 2025: Chequing (12k), Paypal (17k), Cheque to CBS 2025 (15k); Estimated Funds available (44k).
 - Investments: WBC 2016 Legacy Travel Awards (216k in 2024 and 238k in 2025), WBC 2016 Legacy Postdoctoral Experience Award (54k in 2024 and 60k in 2025), and WBC 1996 (149k in 2024 and 167k in 2025).
- Question from CBS member: Are you going to transfer money from investment accounts this year?
 - Emilio: We need to wait for some bills to come in and then may need to.
- Question from Vahid: Why are we using this investment model?
 - Emilio: Not sure, based on prior board.
 - Paul Santerre: These were chosen carefully so they remain in the “plus”. We know we only need to make a ‘big splurge’ every 4 years (with the WBC). If the investment strategy is revisited, the board should look at the history back to 1996 when the current model was first put in place.
 - Emilio: The point is to be mindful and strategic. Our income is primarily from membership and conference surplus (we are not set up to make profit).

- Comment from Paul Santerre: We should look at front-end task, which for us is membership, instead of trying to change investment strategy. For example, why is membership so low?
 - Lindsay: The 131-membership number presented with financial report was a snapshot. Meeting registration for this 2025 meeting was actually 231.
 - Question from Sophie Lerouge: Wasn't the plan for the investments to be used in 10 years (or a given period)?
 - Isabelle: Yes, however, accounts are very restricted and we are using them as outlined.
- 5) Vote on Requirement for a Review Engagement (Isabelle Catelas)
- Isabelle noted that we are a not-for-profit organization and as such, are required to do a review of the budget by a second accountant. However, we are able to vote at each year's AGM to waive this (expensive) second budgetary review, especially given that our budget is pretty simple.
 - Isabelle made a motion to the membership to waive this second budgetary review.
 - Approved by Tom Willett
 - Seconded by Marta Ceruti
 - Motion passed.
- 6) Update on Awards (Lindsay Fitzpatrick)
- Lindsay noted that CBS provided: 16 WBC 2016 Legacy Travel awards (total 13.6k), 35 CBS Merit and Travel awards (total 10.65k), and 1 CBS visiting scholar award this year.
 - Lindsay noted that we have an ongoing difficulty of receiving interest (i.e., applications) for the WBC 2016 Legacy Postdoctoral Experience Award.
 - Lindsay asked the membership to advertise this award with postdoctoral fellows.
 - Question from CBS member: How was the amount of each award decided upon?
 - Lindsay: Eligibility for Merit and Travel awards based on abstract scores. Award amounts presented to BoD based on budget provided at the start of the year.
 - Isabelle: Travel award amounts are linked to travel distance to attend annual meeting.
- 7) Update on Website (Jean-Philippe St-Pierre)
- JP presented the ongoing issues with current website provider: (1) communication with CrookedBush, (2) Registration does not re-direct member to profile page and provide guidance on how to sign-in to account, and (3) current website has out-dated features.
 - JP noted that before this year the website taskforce had contacted companies with a wish list for a new site, but more recently has been trimming the list to make it more actionable (and cost-feasible).
 - JP shared that we currently have 2 quotes and are waiting for a third to come in. In June the BoD will be presented with the quotes and one will be approved to move forward with.
 - Emilio: There is a lot of personal information on the current website (such as when signing up for membership). Are we restricting website provider to within Canada?
 - JP: Yes, we are.
 - Question from CBS member: Is there a timeline and expected date for when the website will go "live"?

- JP: March 2026 was proposed with one of the provided quotes, although noted that the plan for this proposal was more complex and extensive. The goal would be by spring 2026, with the hope for by January 2026 (to accommodate 2026 meeting needs).
- Marc- André: How the data is managed by the website system needs to be considered from the start of website build. To keep this functionality but apply more security features makes the build (and costing) process more complex.
- Vahid: Is having a separate profile page for each member necessary? Is this contributing to making the website build more complex?
- JP: Possibly. We may review the need for individual profile pages.

8) Update on Webinars (Simon Matoori, presented virtually)

- Simon noted that last summer webinar was not well attended. To improve attendance and further encourage student involvement, the student engagement committee decided to motivate student chapters to organize the webinars. CBS provided funds towards these webinars with local student chapters hosting talk in person and making it accessible “live” online for other chapters to present to their membership.
- The Montreal student chapter hosted a talk at McGill with Darcy W.
- The Alberta student chapter hosted a talk at UBC with Jay K.
- The two-student-chapter-organized talks/webinars were very well attended. This a model we should pursue going forward.

9) Report from IUSBSE Representatives (Todd Hoare)

- Todd shared plans by IUSBSE for their own financial sustainability.
 - \$5 from WBC 2028 registration will go to IUSBSE according to MOU 2028.
 - \$2,000 from Korea (WBC 2024) went to IUSBSE.
 - This income will help support the IUSBSE website and promote science where not as visible yet.
- Todd noted that there is an overall push from IUSBSE towards internalizing newer biomaterials societies.
 - Have in-person international meeting in countries with less established biomaterial groups. Brazil is hosting this August and Mumbai in 2026.
 - Desire to send delegation to Ghana to set up an African Society.
 - A book is planned to focus on international perspectives on biomaterials.
- Todd also reported that WBC 2032 proposals are due in June and decision will be made by the end of this August.
- Todd noted that there are currently concerns about holding the WBC 2028 meeting in Washington, DC.
- Paul Santerre: A book chapter authored by CBS is a good opportunity.
- Todd: If any CBS member is interested in assisting with this book chapter, please contact him (Todd).
- Question from CBS member: Could the Washington WBC 2028 meeting be moved to Canada?
- Todd: Not likely at this time.
- Comment from CBS member: A number of other conferences have moved from the US. Perhaps we (CBS) could offer to help organize the WBC 2028 meeting at ground level, even if it is just a satellite meeting on the Canada side.

- Todd: Satellite meetings/conferences have been offered in some instances for other conferences recently.

10) Reports from Student Chapters (Presidents of Chapters)

- A representative from the following student chapters presented brief highlights of the activities/work done this past year: BC, Kingston, Montreal, Quebec City, SouthWestern Ontario (SWO), and Toronto (Alberta did not present)
- Lindsay presented for the Kingston Student Chapter.
- Isabelle presented for the SWO Chapter.

11) Update on CBS 2026 (Joel Finbloom)

- Joel, as one of the organizers, presented some current plans for the joint meeting with CSPS next Spring 2026
 - Dates: June 9 – 12th
 - Where: Vancouver, UBC campus
 - Tentative meeting format was discussed with joint and separate sessions.

12) Transition to New president (Isabelle Catelas to Lindsay Fitzpatrick)

- Isabelle thanked again all Board members, acknowledged those leaving the Board, and welcomed Lindsay to the role of CBS President for 2025/2026 term.
- Lindsay thanked Isabelle for her service as CBS President for 2024/2025 term. Isabelle will now serve as “Past President” on the BoD of CBS.

13) Overview of the Objectives for 2025-2026 (Lindsay Fitzpatrick)

- Lindsay introduced her objectives as CBS President for the coming year:
 - Support website committee to complete new CBS website build.
 - Support CBS 2026 joint meeting with CSPS
 - This will include building and maintaining database on prior meetings.
 - Also include supporting coordination between meeting organizers and CBS BoD.
 - Work with student chapters to support their initiatives and activities.
 - Encourage applicants for all awards, particularly WBC 2016 Legacy PDF experience award.
 - Continue working on Clinical and Industry engagement, including CME accreditation and sponsorship.
 - Continue working on fiscal and organizational sustainability, including liability insurance review.

14) CBS 2027 (Lindsay Fitzpatrick)

- Lindsay noted that there were two proposals received for hosting our CBS 2027 meeting.
- Lindsay invited Marc-André to present on behalf of the proposed hosting by Laval University (Quebec City).
 - Marc-André noted that a CBS meeting was last held in Quebec City in 2019, that there would be many returning organizing committee members, and that they would use this opportunity to expand on the clinical training available at CBS meetings.

- Lindsay invited Malcolm Xing to present on behalf of the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Manitoba).
 - Malcolm noted that a CBS meeting was last held in Winnipeg in 2017 and that 10 years later there has been a 4X increase in the number of research groups pursuing biomaterials research.
- Lindsay shared with the membership that there will be a virtual vote for the 2027 meeting host in the coming month.

15) Nominations and Elections (Lindsay Fitzpatrick)

- Lindsay noted that there are 2 senior Board member positions available to be filled for 2025-2027, 1 student representative position for 2025-2026, and the President-elect for 2025-2026. If a current board member is elected as President, then 1 additional senior Board member position will need to be filled.
- Lindsay shared that there were 5 nominations for senior Board members ahead of AGM. Names listed as “Nominee (Nominator, Seconder)
 - Nominations include: Maryam Badv (Laura Wells, Lindsay Fitzpatrick), Lock Davenport Huyer (Lindsay Fitzpatrick, Laura Wells), Chris Moraes (Lindsay Fitzpatrick, Laura Wells), Leila Guidolin (Isabelle Catelas, Lindsay Fitzpatrick), and Marcelo Munoz (Emilio Alarcon, Simon Matoori).
 - Lindsay invited additional nominations from the membership at the meeting. No further nominations were made.
 - Each nominee will be asked to share a 250-word description about themselves and what their goals would be as a senior Board member of CBS.
- Lindsay shared that there was only 1 nomination for student representative ahead of AGM.
 - This nomination was for Kathryn Jalink (Lindsay Fitzpatrick, Laura Wells).
 - Lindsay invited additional nominations from the membership at the meeting.
 - Sophie Lerouge nominated Baptiste Marin (Seconded by Lauren Flynn).
 - Each nominee will be asked to share a 250-word description about themselves and what their goals would be as a student representative of CBS.
- Lindsay shared that there was only 1 nomination for President-elect ahead of AGM.
 - This nomination was for Marc-André (Isabelle Catelas, Lindsay Fitzpatrick).
 - Lindsay invited additional nominations from the membership at the meeting.
 - No other nominations were made.
 - Marc- André was elected President-elect for 2025-2026 by acclamation.

16) Adjournment (Lindsay Fitzpatrick)

- Meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.
 - Tom Willett approved adjournment.
 - Kim Woodhouse seconded this adjournment.

Meeting minutes prepared by Patricia Comeau and reviewed by Lindsay Fitzpatrick and Isabelle Catelas.