

Here's a brief (and fun) introduction of our SIG officers. As you will see, we belong to a mix of institutions involved in research – academia and government, with personal and professional factors driving that initial spark which got us interested in the field of biomaterials.



Nathan Gallant, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, University of Southern Florida
Chair

What made you interested in the field of biomaterials?

As a mechanical engineer I appreciated the importance of selecting the correct material for a specific application. But when I was introduced to the concept that synthetic materials could be used to regulate biology and treat injuries and diseases, I was hooked

How long and in what capacity have you been associated with the Society For Biomaterials?

I attended my first SFB meeting in 2001 as a student and have attended most meetings since then. After a 2 year term as the Vice Chair, I was elected Chair of PCI SIG in 2013.



Pranav Soman, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Syracuse University
Vice-Chair

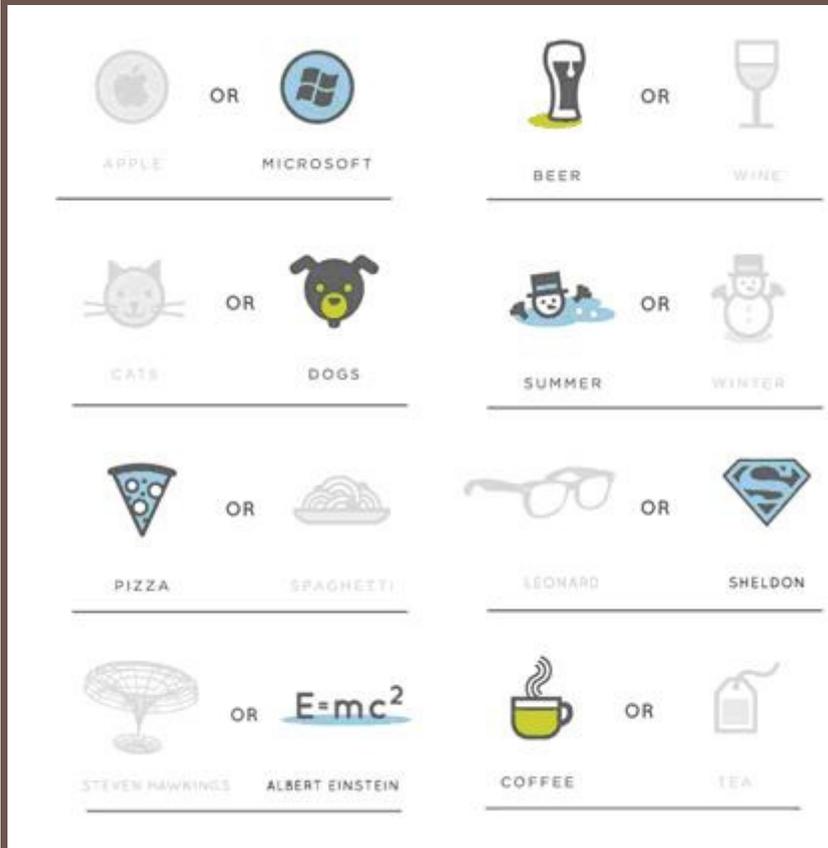
What made you interested in the field of biomaterials?

My background is in Mechanical/Manufacturing engineering. The exciting prospect of printing biological materials including cells using

computer aided design and manufacturing principles drew me towards the biomaterials field.

How long and in what capacity have you been associated with the Society For Biomaterials?

Currently, I serve as a Vice-Chair of the Protein and Cells at Interfaces (PCI) Special Interest Group (SIG). Before that I served as the Treasurer for the PCI SIG for two years.



Christopher Bettinger, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Carnegie Mellon University
Program Chair

What made you interested in the field of biomaterials?

The idea of bridging devices with humans was always very

interesting to me. I worked in a few different areas over the years, but I think the idea of bridging the abiotic-biotic interface is very cool. This is one thing that we are trying to accomplish with our recent efforts in edible electronics.

How long and in what capacity have you been associated with the Society For Biomaterials?

I am a relatively new member to SFB, having gone to my first conference in 2008. However, I have an active member of the biomaterials communities within other organizations including the Materials Research Society.

The graphic consists of 12 pairs of icons, each with an 'OR' between them, arranged in a grid. Below each pair is a text response. The pairs and their responses are:

- APPLE** (with a large 'X' over it) OR **MICROSOFT** (with a large 'X' over it). Response: **DISLIKE:** Both, but dislike Apple more because of their controlling nature. Software and information should be as open as possible to let engineers innovate rapidly.
- BEER** OR **WINE**. Response: (None)
- CATS** OR **DOGS**. Response: (None)
- SUMMER** (with a snowman icon) OR **WINTER** (with a snowman icon). Response: (None)
- PIZZA** OR **SPAGHETTI**. Response: (None)
- LEONARD** (with glasses icon) OR **SHELDON** (with Superman logo icon). Response: (None)
- STEVEN HAWKINGS** (with a wireframe globe icon) OR **ALBERT EINSTEIN** (with the equation $E=mc^2$). Response: I like inventors more...people like Arnold Beckman, Edison (historical figures) and more recent inventors such as Bob Metcalfe (3Com).
- COFFEE** OR **TEA**. Response: (None)



Jeffrey Capadona, Ph.D.

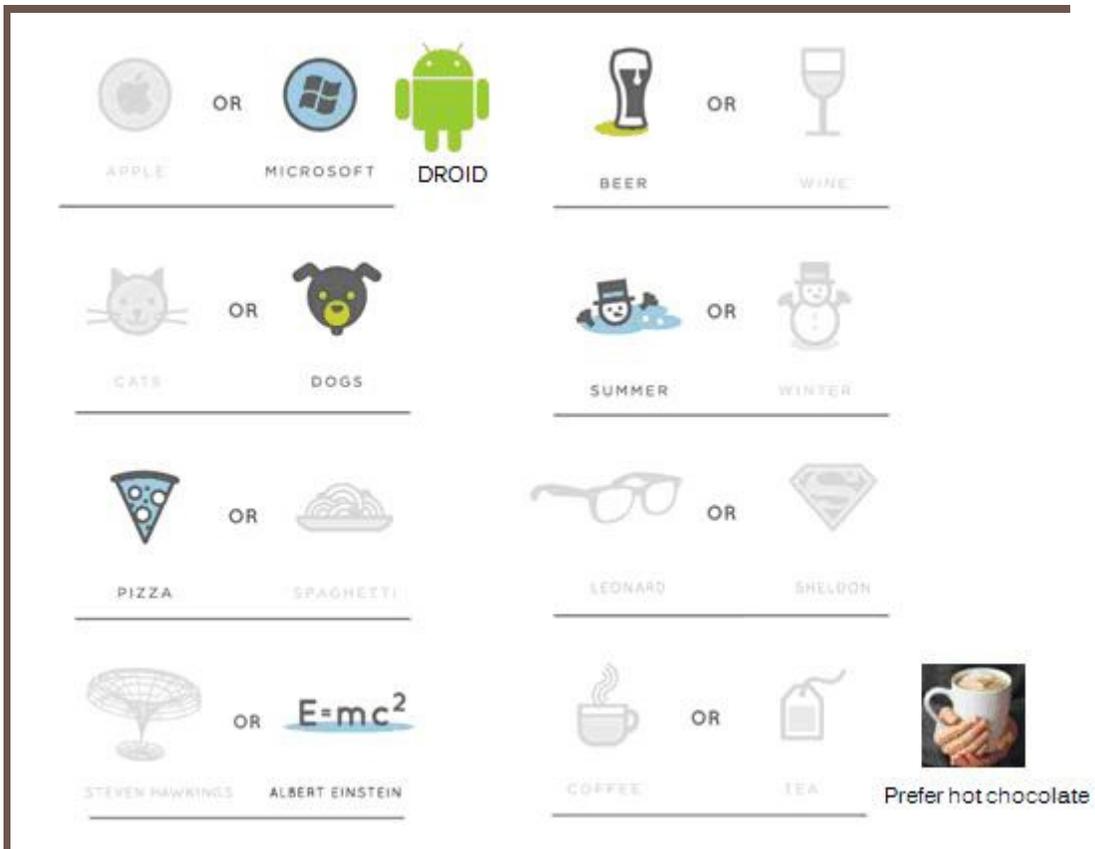
Assistant Professor, Case Western Reserve University
Secretary/Treasurer

What made you interested in the field of biomaterials?

I first became interested in biomaterials as a means to learn how to develop a solution to a personal sports injury.

How long and in what capacity have you been associated with the Society For Biomaterials?

I became a member as a graduate student at Georgia Tech. I have always been in the PCI SIG, and have just recently become involved in the leadership.



Alice Cheng

Ph.D. candidate, Georgia Institute of Technology/Emory University
Student Representative

What made you interested in the field of biomaterials?

I really enjoyed my biomaterials course at Penn State, and asked the professor to join his lab. Since then, I have always been interested in the human body's interaction with materials. There are so many questions still unanswered!

How long and in what capacity have you been associated with the Society For Biomaterials?

I joined SFB this year after attending the annual conference in Boston. I am currently serving as student representative for the

Protein and Cells at Interfaces SIG. I am very excited to contribute to building a stronger SIG and increasing student involvement in the organization.

 APPLE	OR	 MICROSOFT	 BEER	OR	 WINE
 CATS	OR	 DOGS	 SUMMER	OR	 WINTER
 PIZZA	OR	 SPAGHETTI	 LEONARD	OR	 SHELDON
 Bread! Me and Italian cooking don't work well...			Neither! These are both such stereotypical characteristics of scientists or engineers, and we need to change this perception! I have met so many intelligent, funny, outgoing & generally awesome people in my field and I certainly would like to think I am one of them as well.		
 STEVEN HAWKINGS	OR	$E=mc^2$ ALBERT EINSTEIN	 COFFEE	OR	 TEA



Sumona Sarkar, Ph.D.
NRC Post-Doctoral Fellow, NIST
Biomaterials Forum Reporter

What made you interested in the field of biomaterials?

As a biomedical engineer, I am always seeking ways to contribute to the tool box of medicine. Every tool we develop will interface with the biological world at some point, and the materials at that interface and how we utilize them, will define the success of that interaction. That is why I've focused my research on biomaterials and their interactions with biological systems

How long and in what capacity have you been associated with the Society for Biomaterials?

I have been associated with the Society for Biomaterials since I was an undergraduate student, in 2003.





Balakrishnan Sivaraman, Ph.D.
Research Associate, Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Web Representative

What made you interested in the field of biomaterials?

As an undergraduate student in chemical engineering back in India at the turn of the century (yes, that makes it feel like it was so long ago), I was excited by the developments in the field of tissue engineering and drug delivery. I got an MS degree at UC-Irvine (in modeling chemotherapeutic delivery) and ended up at Clemson for my Ph.D. Clemson is the "home" of biomaterials engineering and SFB, and that's how I got interested in the field of biomaterials and SFB.

How long and in what capacity have you been associated with the Society For Biomaterials?

I have been associated with the Society For Biomaterials since 2005. I have served as the student representative for the Surface Characterization and Modification SIG from 2009-2011, and now serve as the Web Representative for the PCI-SIG.

 APPLE	OR	 MICROSOFT	 BEER	OR	 WINE	 Nothing beats a glass of sweetened ice tea!
 CATS	OR	 DOGS	 SUMMER	OR	 WINTER	
 PIZZA	OR	 SPAGHETTI	 LEONARD	OR	 SHELDON	
 STEVEN HAWKINGS	OR	$E=mc^2$ ALBERT EINSTEIN	 COFFEE	OR	 TEA	

Acknowledgements: The template for this questionnaire was adapted from Prof. Mariah Hahn's (SFB Member & Officer) website, <http://www.hahntissuelab.com/the-superstars/>