Texas Biomaterials Day 2015 Report

1. **Purpose of the event**
The purpose of the 2015 Texas Biomaterials Day is to enhance networking between academic and industrial sectors and increase student exposure to exciting biomaterials research.

2. **Number and names of universities and industry partners participating**
We had participation from 20 institutions, including 14 academic institutions, 2 research institutions, 1 hospital, and 3 industry partners:
- Baylor College of Medicine
- Mississippi State University
- Rice University
- Sam Houston State University
- Texas A&M University
- Texas A&M Health Sciences Center
- Texas State University
- The University of Texas at Arlington
- The University of Texas at Austin
- The University of Texas at San Antonio
- University of Houston
- University of North Texas
- University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston
- University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- Houston Methodist Hospital Research Institute
- MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Texas Children’s Hospital
- Bose Corporation
- Houston Technology Center
- Malvern Instruments

3. **Event highlights**
- Excellent and extremely well-received keynote talk by Dr. Kristi Anseth, a member of the NAE, NAS and IOM.
- Inspiring talk by Dr. Billy Cohn, Heart Surgeon at the Texas Heart Institute, on the design and implementation of pulseless ventricular assist devices and artificial hearts.
- A perfect day with mild weather allowing for an outdoor lunch and interesting conversations.
- Great and thought-provoking discussion on the use of nanoparticles in imaging and therapies from Dr. Gang Bao.
- Excellent and insightful industry perspective on the design of bioreactors from Dr. Stephanie Biechler from Bose Corporation.
- Top quality posters. We had 64 posters presented.
- Professional and interesting “Rapid Fire” presentations by the authors of the top 7 graduate poster abstracts and the top 3 undergraduate abstracts. This was the first conference presentation by all undergraduate presenters and many of the graduate student presenters.
- This symposium was seamlessly tied in with the Gulf Coast Consortia Regenerative Medicine Symposium, held the next day in the same auditorium, and many attendees stayed for both events.

4. **Number of attendees**
We had 163 attendees.

5. **Names of sponsors**
6. **Names and contact information of organizers**

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7. **List of speakers**

Keynote Lecture: Kristi Anseth, University of Colorado at Boulder  
William Cohn, Texas Heart Institute  
Gang Bao, Rice University  
Tania Betancourt, Texas State University  
Matteo Pasquali, Rice University  
Ennio Tasciotti, Houston Methodist Hospital Research Institute  
Kytai Nguyen, University of Texas at Arlington  
Stefanie Biechler, Bose Corporation  
Chong Xie, University of Texas at Austin
8. **Names of any awardees (student speakers, poster sessions, etc.)**

Best Abstract, Graduate Student: John Clegg, University of Texas at Austin

Runner Up Best Abstract, Graduate Student: Charles Peak, Texas A&M University

Best Abstract, Undergraduate: Rebekah Rodriguez, University of Texas at San Antonio

People’s Choice Best Poster: Jiaxi Stephen Yan, Rice University