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AIMBE Launches FDA Scholars Program

The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) announces the launch of a new program that infuses the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the latest innovative science tools and techniques that medical and biological engineering have to offer.

AIMBE has partnered with the FDA to offer one-year public policy appointments to post doctoral scholars with advanced training in medical and biological engineering. Scholars work side-by-side with influential decision makers in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Office of the Center Director.

"This is truly a unique opportunity for scientists with doctorates in bioengineering to learn first-hand about the regulatory process," says Ravi Bellamkonda, AIMBE President and the Wallace H. Coulter Professor and Chair of the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology/Emory School of Medicine. "The Scholars, in turn, provide important contributions to the FDA through their advanced training and background. The medical device sector in particular is one where our nation is a clear world leader, and we expect this program will create a cadre of well-trained engineers with a first hand experience at the FDA to help sustain this innovation edge."

The 2014-2015 AIMBE Scholars placed at FDA include Sonja Brooks Fulmer, Christopher J. Medberry, and Maria Elisabeth Murray. Dr. Fulmer hails from a doctoral program in Chemical and Physical Biology from Vanderbilt University, while Dr. Medberry and Dr. Murray earned their Ph.D.'s in Bioengineering from The University of Pittsburgh and The University of Pennsylvania, respectively. [Learn more about their backgrounds here.](#)

The AIMBE Scholars Program is a highly competitive program, consisting of one-year immersion experiences from September 1 to August 31 with placements within the FDA. The program enables distinguished post doctorates in the medical and biomedical engineering fields to serve as expert advisors to policymakers. Scholars receive training about the federal policy process (including budget, regulatory, and grant processes) and build relationships with key government stakeholders. In turn, they share their knowledge of the latest cutting-edge research and technological innovations with the FDA.

AIMBE facilitates the Scholars' experiences throughout the program-year and provides continuing professional development training and seminars to supplement their appointment. AIMBE holds a 3-

day Public Policy Institute to orient the Scholars to the health policy landscape, which includes presentations from public policy experts, industry leaders, and science advocates.

The AIMBE Scholars Program is made possible with generous support from Medtronic, Stryker, and Becton Dickinson. Each of these companies is represented in AIMBE's Industry Council and works to advance medical and biological engineering innovation. "The Scholars Program aims to train the next generation of bioengineers in how medical devices are reviewed and approved for market, which is critical knowledge for a successful career in translational medicine," says Walt Baxter, AIMBE Industry Council Chair and Principal Scientist at Medtronic.

AIMBE is an honorific society of the top 2% of the most elite medical and biological engineers responsible for medical discovery and innovation. For more details please visit us at www.aimbe.org.