

Maryellen Giger, AAPM Liaison to AIMBE meeting March 25-27, 2023 in Washington DC

The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) is a non-profit organization representing the most accomplished individuals in the fields of medical and biological engineering. Such fields often overlap those of AAPM members. The mission of AIMBE includes providing education to the public and advancing public policy on medical and biological engineering for the benefit of society, promoting intersociety and multi-disciplinary cooperation within the medical and biological engineering community, and recognizing achievements to the field of medical and biological engineering.

After a delay of three years due to the COVID pandemic, the 2023 AIMBE annual event was held, Sunday, March 26 and Monday, March 27, 2023, at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel in Arlington Virginia. This year, the meeting focused on AIMBE's Grand Challenge of "restoring and preserving public trust in medical and biological engineering", with outstanding sessions on (1) Redesigning public health with technology led by Susan Blumenthal of New America, (2) Achieving equity and trust in medical & biological engineering led by Garth Gram of Google/YouTube, and (3) Effectively communicating about science, technology, and medical products led by Dietram Scheufele of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Each session included a presentation and associated panel discussion. [<https://annualevent.aimbe.org>]

AAPM members as AIMBE Fellows continue to grow. The 2023 meeting celebrated Fellows from 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The new 2023 Fellows included AAPM members Kristy Brock, Issam El Naqa, and David Jaffray. All new fellows learned about AIMBE through their new fellow orientation.

Note that AAPM is a member of AIMBE and thus, belongs to the AIMBE Council of Societies. As a member, AAPM benefits from AIMBE's mechanism to coordinate and enhance interaction among scientific organizations in medical and biological engineering. AIMBE fosters intersociety dialogue and provides a cohesive public representation, especially through Capitol Hill visits. Other AIMBE society members include the American Society of Biomechanics, the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Biomedical Engineering Society, the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society of IEEE, IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society, The International Society for Advancement of Cytometry, the Orthopedic Research Society, the Society for Biomaterials, and the TERMIS World Congress.

At the Council of Societies meeting, held during the AIMBE meeting, discussion was held on sharing best practices to build inclusive societies. A low-cost suggestion to show inclusiveness was having pronoun stickers at registration as a choice for attendees.

Another major topic of discussion was the handling of childcare when attending a society's meeting. Options included (a) hotel supplied childcare lists, (b) society-hosted family rooms, and (c) society-funded childcare grants to cover either at home care or on location at the society meeting. It was noted that society-hosted onsite childcare could be limited by liabilities. An easily implemented idea was to not require that a caregiver purchase a badge for the conference, allowing access to the conference to locate the parent. Discussion was also had regarding the need for applicants of childcare grants to clearly state that a financial need was present.

Yet another topic of discussion was on citation bias in the handling of awards and/or publications. We talked about blinded abstract reviews, which however, were then unblinded when scheduling oral presentations or posters, with a potential for less women or URM giving oral presentations.



Figure 1. AAPM members at the AIMBE Award Banquet including Paul Kinahan (AIMBE Class of Fellows 2022), Maryellen Giger (AIMBE Class of Fellows 2000), Kristy Brock (AIMBE Class of Fellows 2023), Jeff Siewerdsen (AIMBE Class of Fellows 2016), and David Jaffray (AIMBE Class of Fellows 2023).



Figure 2. New 2023 AIMBE Fellow David Jaffray indicating slide with Paul Kinahan (AIMBE Class of Fellows 2022).



Figure 3. New 2023 AIMBE Fellows from MD Anderson.