

## Maryellen Giger liaison report for attending AIMBE 2017 in Washington DC

AIMBE was held Sunday, March 19 and Monday, March 20, 2017 in Washington DC. The focus of the AIMBE meeting this year included the research priorities and future directions of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Academy of Medicine, with the Presidents of all three academies presenting at the AIMBE meeting.

I also attended the AIMBE Women Committee Meeting at which Richard Nakamura, Director of NIH CSR and Noni Byrnes, Division Director, NIH CSR presented. There are around 90,000 applications to NIH per year. Byrnes showed that 30% of submitted NIH applications are from females and that 30% of awards go to females. Also, 30% of all CSR reviewers are females, and 38% of only chartered study section members are females. That is, success rates for men and women track similarly. However, there is a difference in NIH funding between whites and African Americans by roughly half, and he suggested all to take the implicit bias test.

Attendees also were able to attend events on learning tips for Capitol Hill visits.

At the Council of Societies meeting, the CEO of AIMBE Milan Yager reviewed some of the benefits of society membership, including the monthly mailing of the FLASH newsletter from which AAPM can resend to members or extract relevant information for its members. AAPM members could also help with Capitol Hill visits through AIMBE. I note that I represented both AAPM and SPIE at AIMBE (and split the expenses between the two societies), having obtained approval from both AAPM and SPIE to do so. Note that most societies don't have dedicated staff in Washington DC to help efforts and thus AIMBE fulfills that need. Discussions also touched on the travel ban, the difficulty that



Photo includes Fellows Maryellen Giger, Ehsan Samei, and Jeff Siewerdsen at the Einstein statue outside of the National Academy of Sciences building in Washington, DC.

some government employees have obtaining permission to attend conferences, the non-reproducibility of biomedical results and that communication of such to Congress, the education of Congress on scientific findings that came about through NIH funding (such as having the public appreciate that although CT come from GE or Siemens, the development initially came from NIH funding), and the Cancer Moonshot. Then the societies in attendance were asked for concerns and these included funding for STEM education, funding for TORT reform, and cuts in NIH budget. AIMBE also attends the AAAS breakfast club. AIMBE belongs to Research America from which it obtains much data.

Fellows were inducted, including Thomas Grist, M.D., Dmitry Goldgof, Ph.D., Brian Pogue, Ph.D., and Ehsan Samei, Ph.D.