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16th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium
School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences

May 10, 2017

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The Virginia Tech – Wake Forest University Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) Student Chapter hosts an annual Graduate Student Research Symposium to provide students with the opportunity to interact and exchange research ideas with colleagues and industry leaders. This symposium promotes research collaboration between the two campuses and cutting edge facilities, such as the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the Comprehensive Cancer Center of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, the Virginia – Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute.

This event is 100% dependent on corporate sponsorship. Through a corporate sponsorship of the Symposium you will have the unique opportunity to support and attend this collaborative event and contribute to the development of future leaders in the biomedical engineering community. Please consider the enclosed information about the Symposium and the benefits of each sponsorship level.

We look forward to confirming your attendance at this exciting meeting this Spring.

Sincerely,

The VT-WFU Biomedical Engineering Society Executive Officers

Alex Hyler
Jamie Gaewsky
Marc Thompson
Kelli Simms
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For more information about the VT-WFU BMES Student Chapter, please visit us at www.sbes.vt.edu/bmes/

Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University
School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences

Graduate Student Research Symposium

May 10, 2017
We invite you to consider sponsorship of the 2017 Graduate Student Research Symposium. Sponsorship opportunities and benefits are listed below:

**Presenting Sponsor***

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* Largest commitment secures the Named Student Symposium

**Sponsors**

$2,000 - $4,999
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**Contributors**

Up to $1,999
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**Instructions for Donations:**

Donations in the form of checks may be sent to the address noted below. Please make checks payable to “VT-WFU BMES Student Chapter”. We ask that you place a note on the memo line of the check to read “SBES Symposium”. Mail to:

VT-WFU BMES Student Chapter  
Attn: Joel Stitzel  
575 N. Patterson Ave, Suite 120  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

For any questions, please contact:  
Dr. Ashley Weaver (336-716-0944, asweaver@wakehealth.edu)  
or Dr. Scott Verbridge (540-231-6908, sverb@vt.edu)

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We extend our sincere thanks with regards to your consideration.

Graduate Student Research Symposium  
May 10, 2017
Rebekah Less is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Virginia Tech-Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences and working under the mentorship of Dr. Padmavathy Rajagopalan. She was awarded the Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) graduate fellowship from the Department of Defense in 2014. The scholarship is extremely competitive, awarded to only 6 percent of total applicants, and aims to increase the number of civilian scientists and engineers working in Department of Defense laboratories. Awardees receive a full scholarship, a stipend, and guaranteed employment after they complete their degrees, as well as summer internships at sponsoring facilities throughout the course of their doctoral studies.

Ms. Less’s research involves the development of an integrated in vitro cellular gastrointestinal tract and liver model to study drug metabolism and toxicity. Her current focus is integrating primary intestinal explants with 3D organotypic liver models developed in the Rajagopalan group. This will expose cells to signaling molecules, flow, and transport. Together, these approaches will make significant strides in predicting drug absorption and metabolism.
125 students and faculty in attendance at the symposium
20 oral presentations from graduating Ph.D. and M.S. students
70 poster presentations from non-graduating students

Topics include injury and musculoskeletal biomechanics, biomedical imaging, cell and tissue engineering, and nanotechnology for medical applications.

“The SBES Symposium is a great opportunity to not only present your work, but also to learn more about other projects in the department. The poster sessions are a great opportunity to see diverse and interesting insight related to several specialties of biomedical research.”

-Jared Mitchell
WF Biomechanics and Innovations

“Symposium is always a great opportunity for the VT and WFU students to reconnect. I’ve found the poster session and luncheon to be a great opportunity to talk with faculty, and initiate project collaborations. The symposium also offers a chance to network with industry about our future career paths.”

-Megan Cox
VT Translational Cancer Engineering

The quality of the research presentations and poster sessions rivals that of any other conference I have attended in graduate school. Presenting at the SBES Symposium each year has helped me develop professionally. This event has been a highlight of each year of graduate school for me.

-Naeim Bahrami
WF Medical Imaging