AIMBE
1400 I ST NW, Suite 235
Washington, DC 20005

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Contact Information
Sarah Mandell
Director of Research and Programming
(202) 496-9661
smandell@aimbe.org

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AIMBE Partners with FDA for 2016-2017 Scholars Program

The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) announces the 2016-2017 Scholars selected for participation in 9-month and one-year appointments with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

AIMBE has partnered with the FDA to offer regulatory science and 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 at the agency

The AIMBE Scholars Program infuses the FDA with the latest innovative science tools and techniques that medical and biological engineering have to offer.

The 2016-2017 AIMBE Scholars placed at FDA include Brittany Caldwell, Ph.D., Christine Cezar, Ph.D., and Chelsea L. Gregg, Ph.D. Their appointments at the agency begin on October 1.

The AIMBE Scholars Program enables distinguished postdoctorates in the medical and biomedical engineering fields to serve as expert advisors to policy makers at the FDA. Scholars learn how to apply their experiences from the lab bench to inform regulatory policy decisions. Scholars receive training about regulatory science and policy and build relationships with key government stakeholders.

In turn, Scholars share their knowledge of the latest cutting-edge research and technological innovations with the FDA. They extend the capacity of the FDA and work toward streamlining regulatory processes at the agency through a variety of projects. They may be involved in standards development and the development of metrics to evaluate and inform agency programs and decision-making.

The AIMBE Scholars Program is made possible with generous support from Medtronic, St. Jude Medical Foundation, BD, and C.R. Bard. Each of these companies is represented in AIMBE's Industry Council and works to advance medical and biological engineering innovation.

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

2016-2017 AIMBE FDA Scholars

Brittany Caldwell, Ph.D.
Dr. Caldwell is an AIMBE Scholar at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Brittany completed her Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at Vanderbilt University. Her graduate research investigated the regulation of insulin secretion in the pancreas by dopamine and the development of a device to analyze soft tissue tumor margins within the operating room. While in graduate school, Brittany co-founded the Society of Women Engineers Nashville Professional Section where she served in multiple leadership roles and led workshops to introduce STEM fields to local students. Brittany's active involvement in the National Science Policy Group and Life Science Tennessee enhanced her interest in science and healthcare policy. As an AIMBE scholar, Brittany is excited to help in the development of new regulatory processes to improve healthcare treatment while insuring public safety. Brittany's long term career goals are to enhance the transition of new medical technologies from benchtop to market by combining her experiences with healthcare regulatory process and device development.

Christine A. Cezar, Ph.D.
Dr. Cezar is an AIMBE Scholar at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Christine completed her Ph.D. in Bioengineering at Harvard University. Her doctoral research focused on the design and development of new devices for skeletal muscle regeneration. Specifically, she created an implantable magnetically-responsive biomaterial that can be remotely triggered for ondemand drug and cell delivery in preclinical models of severe muscle injury. Her postdoctoral research focused on the design and testing of a new external pressure-cuff device that supplies therapeutic mechanical forces to injured tissues to improve healing. Beyond the laboratory, Christine worked as a VentureLabs Fellow at Flagship Ventures in Cambridge, MA where she gained hands-on experience in innovation and company conception. Through the VentureLabs entrepreneurial process, she worked to formulate and test venture hypotheses around new technological platforms and significant market opportunities. As an AIMBE Scholar, Christine plans to use her biomedical expertise and passion for life-science entrepreneurship to create policy that protects public health and promotes scientific innovation. Ultimately, Christine plans to use her background in translational research and device regulation to foster the development of new biomedical technologies that safely and effectively improve patient care.

Chelsea L. Gregg, Ph.D.
Dr. Gregg is an AIMBE Scholar at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. She completed her Ph.D. in biomedical engineering at Cornell University with minors in applied/engineering physics and developmental biology. Dr. Gregg's research focused on the development of new and

adaptation of current imaging approaches for 3D quantitative analysis of live embryonic morphogenesis using micro-computed tomography. During her tenure at Cornell, Dr. Gregg served as the Vice-President, President, and Past President Advisor of the Biomedical Engineering Society student chapter where she focused on the development and implementation of youth science and engineering outreach efforts. Dr. Gregg founded the Advancing Science and Policy (ASAP) organization, a student-run effort that fosters student involvement in science policy. As President of ASAP, she led semi-monthly roundtable discussions about science policy topics, facilitated science communication efforts, and organized yearly trips to Washington, DC to engage with Congress. As an AIMBE Scholar, Dr. Gregg is excited to be at the forefront of the latest innovative medical technologies and regulatory science. Her goal is to advise in the regulatory needs and strengthen communication between the FDA, industry, and general public for translating novel medical technologies safely into the clinic.