American Institute for Medical
And Biological Engineering

1701 K Street NW Suite 510 Washington, DC 20006
Phone 202.496.9660 www.aimbe.org

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Contact Information
Sarah Mandell
Director, Research and Programming
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
(202) 496-9661
smandell@aimbe.org

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AIMBE Announces 2015-2016 FDA Scholars

The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) announces the 2015-2016 Scholars selected for participation in 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, Office of the Center Director.

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

The 2015-2016 AIMBE Scholars placed at FDA include Robert A. Allen, Allen L. Chen, and Douglas M. Dumont. Dr. Dumont hails from a postdoctoral research position at Vanderbilt University, while Dr. Allen and Dr. Chen recently completed their Ph.D.'s in Bioengineering from The University of Pittsburgh and Rice University, respectively.

The AIMBE Scholars Program is a highly competitive program, consisting of one-year immersion experiences 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. They learn how to apply their experiences from the lab bench to inform regulatory policy decisions.

In turn, Scholars share their knowledge of the latest cutting-edge research and technological innovations with the FDA.

AIMBE Scholars 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.

AIMBE facilitates the Scholars' experiences throughout the program-year and provides continuing professional development training and seminars to supplement their appointment. AIMBE holds a 2-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 goals of the AIMBE Scholars Program are twofold:

1. To advance regulatory science at the FDA and strengthen the connections between bioengineering and the scientific enterprise, industry, and the regulatory processes that governs the medical device sector; and
2. As a training program for rising leaders in the field to learn first-hand about the regulatory processes that encompass the medical device total product life cycle.

The AIMBE Scholars Program is made possible with generous support from Medtronic, St. Jude Medical, 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/.