



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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PRESS RELEASE CONTACT:  
Charlie Kim, Director of Membership Services  
ckim@aimbe.org | 202-496-9662

## **Gracie Vargas Inducted into Medical and Biological Engineering Elite**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) has announced the induction of Gracie Vargas, Ph.D., Professor and Cecil H. and Ida M. Green Chair in Neuroscience and Cell Biology Fellow, Neuroscience Cell Biology and Anatomy / Biomedical Engineering and Imaging Sciences Group, The University of Texas Medical Branch to its College of Fellows.

Election to the AIMBE College of Fellows is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to a medical and biological engineer. The College of Fellows is comprised of the top two percent of medical and biological engineers. College membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to "engineering and medicine research, practice, or education" and to "the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of medical and biological engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to bioengineering education."

Dr. Vargas was nominated, reviewed, and elected by peers and members of the College of Fellows for "*innovations in tissue optical clearing and optical biopsy.*"

As a result of health concerns, AIMBE's annual meeting and induction ceremony scheduled for March 29-30, 2020, was cancelled. Under special procedures, Dr. Vargas was remotely inducted along with 156 colleagues who make up the AIMBE College of Fellows Class of 2020.

While most AIMBE Fellows hail from the United States, the College of Fellows has inducted Fellows representing 34 countries. AIMBE Fellows are employed in academia, industry, clinical practice and government.

AIMBE Fellows are among the most distinguished medical and biological engineers including 3 Nobel Prize laureates, 18 Fellows having received the Presidential Medal of Science and/or Technology and Innovation, and 173 also inducted to the National Academy of Engineering, 84 inducted to the National Academy of Medicine and 37 inducted to the National Academy of Sciences.

### **About AIMBE**

AIMBE is the authoritative voice and advocate for the value of medical and biological engineering to society. AIMBE's mission is to recognize excellence, advance the public understanding, and accelerate medical and biological innovation. No other organization can bring together academic, industry, government, and scientific societies to form a highly influential community advancing medical and biological engineering. AIMBE's mission drives advocacy initiatives into action on Capitol Hill and beyond.