Alfred University to host statewide biomedical engineering conference
10/28/03

As part of the state-funded "Conversations in the Disciplines" program sponsored by the State University of New York, Alfred University will host a three-day Biomedical Engineering in New York conference, Oct. 31-Nov. 2."Our theme is bringing bioengineers, clinicians, and representatives of the biomedical industry together," said Dr. Subrata Saha, conference organizer and professor of biomedical materials engineering science in the School of Engineering at Alfred University.The conference provides the AU School of Engineering an opportunity to showcase its newest academic program. One of his goals in organizing the conference, according to Saha, is to form the Bioengineering Alliance of New York, bringing together industrial and academic interests to advance the industry in New York Sate. Registration opens at 5 p.m. Friday in the F.W. Olin College of Business Building on the AU campus.Dr. Charles Edmondson, president of Alfred University, and Dr. Alastair Cormack, interim dean of the School of Engineering, will open the formal sessions at 9 a.m. Saturday with a welcome to participants. Among the keynote speakers at the conference will be Dr. Russell Bessette, who will deliver a talk on "The Future of Biomedical Engineering and the Empire State" at 9:15 a.m. Saturday. Bessette, who received an honorary degree from Alfred University, is director of the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR).Delivering the banquet address at 6 p.m. Saturday will be Alfred University alumnus Dr. Samuel Hulbert, president of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and considered to be among the pioneers in biomaterials research. At 10 a.m., Saturday, representatives of biomedical engineering programs at New York State schools will describe each institution's programs, facilities and faculty interests. Speaking will be Dr. Alan Goldstein, director of Alfred University's Biomedical Materials Engineering Science program; Dr. Richard Waugh, University of Rochester; Dr. Robert Baier, University of Buffalo; Dr. Morris Benjaminson, Touro College; and Dr. Jeremy Gilbert, Syracuse University.Discussing "The Future of Biomedical Engineering: Industrial Perspective," will be Dr. Cheryl Blanchard of Zimmer, Inc; Mike Weiner of Biophan; Dr. Krishna Gupta, Porous Materials, Inc.; and Dr. J.M. Baust, BioLife Solutions, Inc.Saturday afternoon sessions include presentation of research papers, with the 1:30 p.m. session focusing on Tissue/Cellular Engineering. The 4 p.m. session will be on Biophysical Modeling. Dr. Lisa Flick, assistant professor of biology at Alfred University, and her students will present two papers during the first session, including "TNFa and RANKL Signaling Blockade Reduces Osteoclastogenesis and Osteoclast Activity," with J.J. Goater and E.M. Schwartz; and "RANKL Signaling Blockade Prevents Osteoclastogenesis But Not Facture Healing," with AU students R.J. O'Keefe, J.E. Puzas and E.M. Schwartz.Biomaterials is the topic for the 8:30 a.m. Sunday session. AU Alumna Dr. Cheryl Blanchard, vice president of corporate research at Zimmer, Inc., in Warsaw, IN, will present a paper on "Highly Crosslinked Polyethylene in Orthapaedic Implants;" Saha, in conjunction with R.V.C. Mahan of the R.W. Christensen Biomaterials Laboratory, will outline "History of Temporomandibular Joint Implants." Dr. Jinghong Fan, associate professor of mechanical engineering at AU, and B. Chen of the Research Center of Materials Mechanics at Chongqing University, People's Republic of China, co-authored a paper on "Biominetics Design," and Saha, Christensen and Gary Del Regno of AU's biomedical engineering programs will present "Determination Methodologies for Solubilities of Calcium Phosphates."The concluding session will be on bioengineering education, with Saha among the presenters.