

## **POLY IAB Update**

It's been an exciting start to 2026 for IAB! We continue to have strong participation from our member companies, and we would also like to welcome Qnity and ADM to IAB membership!

The Spring ACS meeting in Atlanta featured several activities with strong IAB involvement. The conference kicked off with the Beyond the Bench workshop, organized by Sara Orski (NIST), Allan Guymon (U. Iowa), and IAB's own Hayley Brown (Dow). This workshop featured career perspectives from scientists outside of traditional research roles, a resume review workshop for graduate students & postdocs, and finally breakout sessions designed to stimulate discussion about different practical aspects of being an industry scientist. Part 2 of the workshop series will be held at the Fall meeting in Chicago: PIVOT, designed to highlight different career transitions that can happen in one's career.

The Industrial Innovations in Polymer Science symposium was organized by Kapil Dev Sayala (Seqens), Jacob Blankenship (Syensqo), and Jeff Ting (Nanite). This meeting, IIPS highlighted industrial advances in two major areas: Human Health & Environmental Stewardship, and Advances in Functional & Hybrid Polymer Materials. Thank you to Kapil, Jacob, and Jeff for once again organizing an outstanding symposium!

Our regular IAB Networking Social and the IAB business meeting were well attended. Funny enough, we had a last-minute venue change for the networking social, as the original venue had the opportunity to shoot a movie on-site the day of our event. We later found out they were shooting a scene set in a Mexican restaurant for Scary Movie 6 — so if you end up seeing the movie, know that IAB was ever so tangentially involved in it!

I also want to highlight is the upcoming “Celebrating 150 Years of Industry–Academia Collaborations in Polymeric and Inorganic Materials for Societal Needs” symposium at the Fall meeting in Chicago, co-organized by Jeff Ting. This symposium has received significant funding from ACS and is sure to be a highlight of POLY's programming! IAB will also be co-hosting a joint reception for this symposium in lieu of our normal networking social, so mark your calendars!

Finally, this year we have dedicated a portion of our budget for ad hoc support of events like workshops and local symposia. In February, we supported the FSU POLY/PMSE Student Symposium and in return received an invitation to give a featured industry talk. I would like to encourage all IAB members to keep an eye out for these types of opportunities that could also increase your visibility in your local/regional scientific community!

As always, we greatly appreciate your membership in IAB, and please reach out to me and Kapil if there is anything we can do to make it more valuable to you and your company!

Mike



Photo: IAB Networking Social at Max Lagers Wood-Fired Grill

- IAB co-organized and contributed to several events at ACS Atlanta designed to highlight industrial science and industry–academia relations. We invite all of our member companies to look for opportunities in their local areas for IAB to sponsor small events throughout the year!