

Dear BIOT Members:

Welcome to ACS BIOT's second virtual conference! We have learned a lot over the past year about what a good virtual conference looks like and we tried to incorporate as many of these features as possible.

This year's technical program will be available on the ACS website with links to all of the BIOT content in our Guidebook app. Most talks will be delivered live over Zoom, with a few that are pre-recorded due to scheduling conflicts. We opted for more concentrated areas this year so the program has nine smaller areas, plus posters. To the four traditional areas of Biomedical Technologies, Biomolecular and Biophysical Processes, Downstream Processes, Upstream Processes, we added Big Data, Cell and Gene Therapy, COVID Vaccine, Therapies, and Diagnostics, Integrated and Continuous Processing, and Protein Engineering. Keynote talks are dispersed throughout the program and can be found in the Theme section of the Guidebook app. We are also looking forward to a rich poster session on Wednesday evening.

BIOT is also sponsoring several events during the week of August 22-26 which will require BIOT membership and can be found in the Guidebook app and on the BIOT website ([www.acsbiot.org](http://www.acsbiot.org)). All times are PM EDT except where note:

- Award talks from 1:20-2:00 Sunday through Tuesday
- BIOT Tank (Shark Tank-like event) from 7-8 Monday
- Student networking event from 7-8:30 Thursday
- Lunch and Learns from 12:30-1:15 and Breakfast of Champions from 9:30-10:25 AM Monday through Thursday
- Workshop on Combating Implicit Bias (1:20-2:00) Thursday
- Joint BIOT/ESBES Design Competition and Networking

The Sunday reception (7-9pm on 8/22) will be hosted through Gatherly, an online networking platform. We hope you enjoy exploring all that it has to offer. We will have a keynote talk by the Perlman awardee, Dr. Peter Marks from FDA CBER. We will have a virtual escape room and other fun activities to help bring our vibrant community together. The evening will rap up with a raffle of prizes and a sign up for some great BIOT swag. Come join the fun!

We are extremely grateful for the support and assistance of numerous individuals and sponsors. Program planning would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of an excellent team of area coordinators, session chairs, executive committee members, and ACS and BIOT support staff, particularly Brandi Rubino. Financial support from corporate sponsors was also critical to our ability to host a first-rate meeting packed with keynotes, award lectures, networking and other events. These individuals and sponsors are highlighted in greater detail in the acknowledgment pages and throughout the program book, as well as in the Guidebook app and in introduction slides for the technical sessions.

We trust you will enjoy all that this year's program has to offer. We thank you for entrusting the event to our leadership and look forward to connecting with you during the meeting.

Best regards,  
Caryn Heldt, Michigan Technological University  
Aaron Noyes, Codiak BioSciences  
Co-chairs ACS BIOT 2021