



2022 SIMB Election for Board of Directors

The SIMB Election for positions on the Board of Directors will commence March 1, 2022. The election will close at noon EDT on March 31, 2022 and members must join/renew by noon EDT, March 30, 2022 to be eligible to vote.

Current members for 2022 will receive login instructions for accessing the voting module.

The first step in the election process is the identification of the Nominations Committee (NC) consisting of the chair and least two members. The committee members are approved by the Board and serve only for the current year and cannot be reappointed within a three-year period. The NC proposes a slate of candidates (usually at least two candidates for each position) with input from the membership. The candidates must be current SIMB members with a demonstrated interest and involvement in SIMB. Upon acceptance of the nomination, the NC informs the candidates of the duties and responsibilities required by each position. In addition to the NC, candidates can be identified via Article 5, Section 4 in the SIMB Constitution using a petition process.

The final slate of candidates is due to the president by the first board meeting during the annual meeting. Candidates must submit a biography and photograph by October 15 for publication in the October-December issue of *SIMB News* and for posting on the website. After voting ends, the Election Committee, consisting of a minimum of two SIMB members, receives access to the voting module and certifies counts from online voting, as well as any paper ballots previously requested and postmarked no later than the deadline date for electronic voting ballots, and delivers the results to the SIMB President and SIMB Secretary for announcement.

The election process and ballots are available for inspection for at least 30 days following the annual meeting. Ballots and records are destroyed six months after the election (unless otherwise directed by the Board) and final tabulation of the votes is preserved.

Candidate for President-Elect

Michael Resch



"I earned my PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology from Colorado State University working on protein-DNA interactions in chromatin. I began my professional career at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in 2008 working on projects funded by industrial partnerships and the Department of Energy. My research focus now spans from lignocellulosic feedstock processing and conversion, CO₂ conversion into fuels and chemicals, low carbon ammonia production and other technologies to enable technologies for a circular carbon economy. At NREL I also contribute to Business Development activities across technologies to engage industrial collaborations from bench to pilot scale.

"I have been a member of SIMB since 2008, a member of American Chemical Society and have served on the Journal of Biological Chemistry Editorial Board since 2012. I have enjoyed contributing to the Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals and SIMB Annual Meetings as a session convener/chair, an invited speaker, a member of the SIMB Annual Meeting Biocatalysts Program and membership committee and from 2017 to 2020 I served as a member of the SIMB Board of Directors.

"As an SIMB Board Member, we worked to improve the conference experience for sponsors, organizers, and attendees by updating the online registration system and initiating a more user-friendly smart phone program viewer. We also organized the meeting structures for consistency into annual meetings and specialty meetings.

"As President of SIMB, I will be dedicated to keeping SIMB meetings and publications subscribed by high impact academic and industrial science. I would also like to keep the meetings programs fun and flexible to allow meeting organizers to integrate novel scientific topics and encourage young investigators to organize sessions alongside scientific pioneers. As President I will also work to keep the fiscal viability of the society strong. All of this is in the hope to enable an atmosphere where international, academic, industrial and government stakeholders can develop a well-rounded SIMB with diverse viewpoints."

Candidate for President-Elect

Yi Tang



Yi Tang received his undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering and Material Science from Penn State University. He received his PhD in Chemical Engineering from California Institute of Technology under the guidance of Prof. David A. Tirrell, where he worked the incorporation of unnatural amino acids into proteins for biomaterials applications. After NIH postdoctoral training in Chemical Biology from Prof. Chaitan Khosla at Stanford University, he started his independent career at University of California Los Angeles in 2004. He is currently the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation Chair in Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

at UCLA, and holds joint appointments in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry; and Department of Bioengineering. The Tang research lab aims to mine new bioactive natural products using synthetic biology approaches; to understand the fundamental enzymology of biosynthetic enzymes; and to discover new enzymes for applications in biocatalysis and green chemistry.

His notable awards include the ACS Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award (2012), the EPA Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award (2012), NIH DP1 Director Pioneer Award (2012) and the ACS Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry (2014). He has also received both the Young Investigator Award (2010) and the Charles Thom Award from the Society of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology (SIMB) (2019).

Yi Tang is actively involved with the programming and publication of SIMB since the start of his independent career. He is currently serving as an associated editor for the *Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology (JIMB)*. He was involved in the recruitment and editing of special issues on natural products for *JIMB*. Tang served as the programming chair of the Natural Products track for the Annual Meeting, and has chaired many sessions throughout his continuing attendance of the meeting. He was a co-organizer of the 2020 SIMB Natural Product Conference held in San Diego and will do so again for the 2023 meeting.

Vision statement:

“As President-Elect and President of SIMB, I will modernize and expand SIMB outreach to the broader scientific and biotechnology community. I will achieve this in three ways: 1) to dramatically expand SIMB membership by reaching out to researchers at the start of their scientific careers. This can be accomplished by incentivizing membership enrollment, increasing online presence and emphasizing SIMB’s relevance to current societal challenges; 2) to elevate the scientific rigor and broader impact of the annual meeting and SIMB conferences, starting with the reorganization, renaming and addition of new tracks and specialty workshops. This can promote cross-track participation that is lacking under the current format; and 3) to work closely with Prof. Gonzalez and other *JIMB* editors to elevate the quality and impact of the society journal.”

Candidate for Board of Directors

Adam Guss



"I am a Genetic and Metabolic Engineer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. I earned my PhD at the University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign in the lab of Bill Metcalf, followed by postdoctoral positions at Harvard University with Colleen Cavanaugh and Dartmouth College with Lee Lynd. I have been at ORNL for 11 years, and my research group focuses on the development of genetic tools for non-model microbes and the application of those tools for metabolic engineering to produce fuels and chemicals from renewable (lignocellulose) or waste (plastics) feedstocks. I am passionate about academic/government/industry collaborations to develop technologies that bring a positive impact to society.

"I have been involved in SIMB conferences for over a decade, including as a speaker, session convener, and as part of the Program Committee for the Biocatalysis track (2015) and the Metabolic Engineering track (2016-2018). In 2020, I was scheduled to be the Program Chair for the SIMB Annual Meeting, which was cancelled due to the pandemic, and I returned the next year to organize the 2021 Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas.

"As a member of the Board of Directors, my goal will first be to help the Society maintain our excellent reputation for promoting applied science and bringing together the industrial microbiology community. Extending this, I would like to see the Society do more to facilitate collaborations and knowledge transfer between academia and industry. I am also an advocate for increasing diversity, equity and inclusion within the Society. A critical component of this will be increasing participation in SIMB by early career researchers, including undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers and facilitating networking and career mentoring, helping to create the next generation of industrial microbiologists. SIMB plays a critical role in industrial microbiology, and I am excited for the opportunity to serve our community."

Candidate for Board of Directors

Brian Pflieger



Brian Pflieger is the Jay and Cynthia Ihlenfeld Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a courtesy appointment in the Microbiology Doctoral Training Program. Brian received his bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University and earned his PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of California-Berkeley. At UW-Madison, Brian teaches two biochemical engineering courses (lecture and lab) and has trained over 150 undergraduate and high-school researchers with the basics of industrial biotechnology. Many of these individuals have gone onto graduate school and/or careers in biotechnology. Brian's

research group uses systems and synthetic biology approaches to develop biocatalysts for production of small molecules, especially oleochemicals. Brian's group studies common microbes (*E. coli* and *S. cerevisiae*) and has helped domesticate non-model microbes (cyanobacteria, *P. putida*, *Y. lipolytica*) for use as industrial biocatalysts. Brian's group has partnered with industrial microbiology companies, including Corteva and LanzaTech, on research projects. His group is a part of the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center and the Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation, DOE-funded bioenergy research centers. Brian's research has been recognized with young investigator awards from the Society of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology, 3M, NSF (CAREER), DOE (Early Career), the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR-YIP), Biotechnology and Bioengineering (Daniel IC Wang Award), the American Chemical Society BIOT Division (2018 YI Award), and Purdue University (Mellichamp lectureship). Brian also received the Benjamin Smith Reynolds teaching award from the UW-Madison College of Engineering for his efforts to introduce undergraduates to biotechnology.

Brian has been active in SIMB since he was a graduate student. The Society is a personal favorite because of its ability to blend metabolic engineering, natural product, and biocatalysis (Brian's scientific interests) research all in one place. Brian appreciates meetings organized by SIMB for the high quality of research talks, interactions with younger scientists at poster sessions, and opportunities to network with industry leaders and vendors. Brian has served SIMB as a speaker, poster presenter, poster judge, session chair, and member of the Metabolic Engineering Steering Committee (chaired in 2014). Brian is excited by the chance to provide additional leadership to the society in order to ensure SIMB continues to provide a leading forum for developing careers and disseminating new knowledge in the fields of industrial microbiology and biotechnology.

Candidate for Board of Directors

Andreas Schirmer



Andreas Schirmer is an Industrial Microbiologist. After graduating from the Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany, he was a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School before he joined industry. He has worked in the Biotechnology Industry for over 20 years with Kosan Biosciences, LS9, REG Life Sciences and Genomatica, where he currently is a Research Fellow. He has in-depth knowledge of microbial fatty acid, hydrocarbon, polyketide and polyhydroxyalkanoate metabolism, which he has applied extensively to engineer microbes to produce natural products or fatty-acid derived fuels & chemicals. He is an inventor on over 200 patents & patent applications worldwide.

His motivation is to guide innovative science from ideation all the way to commercial readiness.

“After having heard good things about SIMB from my colleagues for several years, I finally attended my first Annual SIMB Meeting in San Francisco in 2010, and it instantly became my favorite conference to go to. Since then, I have been an active member of the society. Between 2011 and 2017 I convened six sessions on fuels & chemicals or on microbiomes, which I enjoyed very much and gave me the opportunity to meet many great people inside and outside of SIMB. From 2016-2019, as a member of the Annual Program Committee for Metabolic Engineering, I helped organize the annual meetings. Around that time, I noticed that corporate sponsorships of the SIMB meetings were lagging, so I volunteered to fundraise and contributed to revitalizing the SIMB Corporate Outreach Committee, becoming its Co-chair from 2017-2020.

I am still part of the Corporate Outreach Committee because I think SIMB needs to be on a strong financial foundation to fulfill its mission and industry has the capacity to help. As a member of the board of directors I intend to continue my outreach work and intend to collaborate with my fellow directors to strengthen SIMB as the preeminent organization for networking & career development in Industrial biotechnology. In addition, I would like to help SIMB become a stronger vehicle and visionary of connecting industry, academia & government labs to solve the many challenges that society face today. If we work together, our field is poised to make major contributions to some of these challenges, for example the transition from a fossil-based to a more sustainable economy, securing food supply for a growing population or developing novel materials. I think SIMB can foster these developments by further improving its meeting platform and by emphasizing on relevant & applied science in microbiology & biotechnology.”