



Letter from the board

Dear ScSB members,

The Scandinavian spring has sneaked up on my again this year: one moment you are cursing the snow that makes your daily bike ride to work into a proper workout, and then all of a sudden, you are passing the exact same spot on the road and notice the first spring flowers already popping their heads above the muddy ground. And you realise it is time to get ready to the annual ScSB meeting! I am just hoping that Martin, Mats and Furqan in the ScSB 2026 organising committee have been at least a tiny bit more organised than I have been this spring and we have an awesome conference to look forward to!

But ScSB 2026 is not the only big event to look forward to this year. Our parent society ESB is celebrating 50 years of existence and we at ScSB hope that many of you will join the party at ESB 2026 in Antwerp with us. While our society cannot boast with a full half a century's worth of history, we have a big milestone to celebrate this year too. Come May, our society is already reaching adulthood and becomes old enough to legally drive a car and drink a glass of wine (only in that order though!). Over the past 18 years of existence, we have established ourselves as a common meeting ground for all biomaterials scientists from the north, absorbing first both Iceland and the Baltic states which lacked their own societies for biomaterials, and then in 2016 completing the royal flush of the Nordic countries with the Finnish Society of Biomaterials calling it quits and joining our merry band of biomaterials enthusiasts. And we were more than glad to welcome all our Nordic and Baltic friends amongst our midst. The more the merrier, as they say!

Another sign of time in a society's life is the steady cycle of board member tenures. This spring, three of our board members are coming to the end of their term on the board. Luckily for us, both Pablo and Natalia are willing to continue their work on the board have nominated themselves for re-election. Our trustworthy social media officer Miina Björninen, on the other hand, deserves a bit of rest after organising last year's ScSB highlight event in Hämeenlinna and is stepping down from her seat on the ScSB board. But worry not, we have found a worthy candidate who hopes to fill up her seat. Read a bit further in this newsletter to find out more about our three candidate for the three vacant seats on the board.

We are still on the look out for a student representative to take the baton over from Enrique once he grows out of his PhD shoes. So, all you eager PhD students out there, this is your chance to have an impact on the adult decisions we make as a society and to ensure the student voice keeps being heard when those decisions are made. If you are at ScSB 2026, come and tuck my sleeve and let me know that you are up for the task!

As for the rest of you, I hope you are as excited to head to Gullmarsstrand for ScSB 2026 as I am. See you all there!

Hanna,

On behalf of the ScSB board

Our president



Hanna Tiainen
Associate Professor
University of Oslo, Norway



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ESB 
2027

UPPSALA, SWEDEN
Chair: Prof. Cecilia Persson
Co-chairs: Prof. Anders Palmquist, Prof. Anna Finne Wistrand

6-10 SEPTEMBER 2027
36th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR BIOMATERIALS

 European Society for Biomaterials  Scandinavian Society for Biomaterials  UPPSALA UNIVERSITET  KTH  UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG





Welcome to ScSB 2026



With “**From Discovery to Device**” as this year's theme, we highlight how breakthroughs in biomaterials research are translated into technologies that shape healthcare and society. The program brings together leading researchers who will share new perspectives across this spectrum, creating space for dialogue, exchange of ideas, and new collaborations.

Complementing the scientific program, we invite you to join a range of social activities offering opportunities to connect with colleagues from Scandinavia and beyond in an informal yet engaging atmosphere.

We look forward to welcoming you to an inspiring meeting!

– *The ScSB 2026 team*

Keynote speakers

- Prof. Serena Best, University of Cambridge, UK
- Prof. Hanna Isaksson, Lund University, Sweden
- Prof. Ralph Müller, ETH Zürich, Switzerland
- Prof. Rickard Brånemark, MIT, USA and University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- Prof. Michael Gelinsky, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany
- Prof. Maria Asplund, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden
- Prof. Már Másson, University of Iceland, Iceland
- Prof. Lars Kölby, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

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Candidates for the ScSB board

Janne Koivisto

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Tampere University, Finland*



I am Janne Koivisto, a postdoctoral researcher at Tampere University in Finland. I have background in engineering, majoring in biomaterials and tissue engineering, and have focused on doing research on hydrogels since my doctoral studies. More specifically, my current research focuses on development of novel physical characterization method for materials science of hydrogels. I am also heavily involved in development of 3D *in vitro* disease models using human iPSCs.

Besides my research work, I have always been very active in academic societies: I was part of the organizing committee for ScSB 2025 in Hämeenlinna, Finland, and I have been the ESB Young Scientist Forum representative for Finland since 2020, in which role I have participated in the ScSB-YSF monthly webinar series for young researcher career development. In addition, I was also the auditor for ScSB board in 2020-2024. Beside these roles, I am also one of the founding members of Tampere University Materials Science Alumni Association and have been secretary of this association twice.

Now as I am getting too old for the YSF and the latest conference organizing is done, I am looking for further ways to contribute to the fine community of ScSB, and I believe being a board member would be a great next opportunity for me. As part of the board, I would wish to deepen my connections within the Nordics and Baltics and help making our society even stronger together, also facilitating further joint research projects.

Natalia Ferraz

*Associate Professor
Uppsala University, Sweden*



I am pleased to stand for re-election as a board member for ScSB. Since joining the board in 2023 and serving as treasurer, I have enjoyed contributing to ScSB's work in strengthening our Nordic biomaterials community.

I am an Associate Professor at Uppsala University, where my research focuses on nanostructured materials for biomedical applications, with a particular emphasis on biocompatibility and nanosafety. Through this work, I am continuously engaged with the interdisciplinary challenges and opportunities that drive innovation in the biomaterials field. I believe that biomaterials research plays a key role in addressing major healthcare challenges, and that our Nordic scientific network has a unique opportunity to make a meaningful international impact. Over the past years, I have greatly appreciated the collaborative and interdisciplinary spirit of ScSB, and I would be happy to continue supporting its growth and development as a member of the board.

Pablo Pennisi

*Associate Professor
Aalborg University, Denmark*



My field of work is at the interface of engineering and biology, with a focus on understanding cell-biomaterial interactions and mechanobiology. I joined the Board in 2023 and have since been actively involved in the Society's activities, including promoting its online presence and supporting the organization of the annual conference and other activities. I am pleased to stand for re-election, as I believe I can further contribute to the Society's mission. I look forward to the opportunity to continue on the Board to help promote the Nordic scientific exchanges and strengthen members' cooperation.

Current board members and roles

Assoc. Prof. Hanna Tiainen, *University of Oslo, Norway*, President

Assoc. Prof. Natalia Ferraz, *Uppsala University, Sweden*, Board Member, Treasurer

Assoc. Prof. Pablo Pennisi, *Aalborg University, Denmark*, Board Member

Dr Miina Björninen, *Tampere University, Finland*, Board Member, Social Media responsible

Prof. Dagnija Loča, *Riga Technical University, Latvia*, Board Member

Assoc. Prof. Furqan A. Shah, *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*, Board Member

Asst. Prof Bergþóra Sigríður Snorradóttir, *University of Iceland*, Board Member

Enrique Oreja Remartínez, *University of Oslo, Norway*, Student representative, Secretary





Not statistically significant, but does that also mean biologically irrelevant?

“Not statistically significant” is too often treated as a disposal label. It is often a practical decision, but it can also encourage a quiet kind of waste. Other investigators end up repeating the same work and arrive at the same dead ends, because earlier attempts never made it into the record. The deeper issue is interpretation. A statistically significant outcome (e.g., “ $p < 0.05$ ”) is not a verdict on biology. Equally, a non-significant p-value or a low R^2 are not verdicts on biological irrelevance. They describe what the experimental design and sample size can resolve, and how well the chosen model captured the relationship.

In biomaterials, tissue engineering, and regenerative medicine, the problem is familiar. Complex stimuli are compressed into a single number. In cell culture, the stimulus might be chemical (ions, cytokines, supplements), material-derived (extracts, conditioned media, micro- and nanoparticles), or mechanical (cyclic strain, shear). The workflow looks simple. Seed a number of cells, apply the stimulus, measure at 48 or 72 hours. But the delivered stimulus is rarely the same as the nominal stimulus. Extract chemistry evolves with time. Micro- and nanoparticles can sediment and concentrate at the bottom of the well, so cells may experience a different effective exposure than the nominal concentration suggests. Mechanical stimulation also depends on the loading setup and operating conditions, and on how forces are transmitted to cells via adhesion, confinement within a matrix, or fluid flow. Uniform exposure across all cells should not be assumed.

As the field moves from 2D monolayers to 3D cell culture, organoids, and scaffold-based systems, the same issue becomes more pronounced. Local oxygen tension, nutrient diffusion, waste accumulation, and cell density can vary within a construct. A growth factor or ion may bind to the matrix, be consumed at the periphery, or never reach the core. If an effect is not detected in a bulk endpoint, it does not automatically follow that the biology is absent. It may mean the model contains multiple microenvironments, and the reported value is an average that obscures heterogeneity.

It is easy to underestimate how much of “biology” is measurement. Cell counting illustrates this. Intrinsic sampling noise means counting around 100 cells yields a coefficient of variation of $\sim 10\%$, while counting closer to 10,000 cells can reduce it to $\sim 2\%$. This constrains the smallest effect size that can be detected. In vivo, a problem arises when a single 2D section or endpoint measurement is treated as representative of a much larger site-of-interest. A non-significant outcome can reflect inadequate sample size. In that case, the result is limited by power. If the experiment was not designed to detect the minimum biologically relevant effect, “no significance” is unsurprising rather than a conclusion about irrelevance. We recognise that scientific resources are finite. Results that prevent redundant work can be as useful as those that show an effect. Reporting non-significant findings with conditions reduces duplication and helps the field converge.

Questions worth asking before discarding non-significant data as biologically irrelevant:

- 1. What is the biological dose or exposure?** What actually reached the cells or the tissue over time, rather than what was prepared, diluted, implanted, injected, or programmed?
- 2. Is the model capable of expressing change in the chosen endpoint?** Were conditions suitable for the effect to emerge, or did the model and endpoint limit detectability in the chosen setup?
- 3. Is time the missing variable?** Would a different schedule, duration, stimulus application regimen, or a different loading routine change the outcome and the interpretation?
- 4. Was the experiment designed to detect the minimum biologically relevant effect?** Was sample size chosen to detect that effect size given the expected variability, or chosen by convenience?

If “no effect” is real, it can save others from repeating the same work. If “no effect” is an artefact, it indicates what needs to be fixed. Either way, it is worth reporting.

Furqan A. Shah

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Would you like to submit a column contribution?

We would like to invite anyone among our members to propose their contribution to this new column for the ScSB newsletter. Our goal is to enrich our community with expert opinions and angles from our diverse members. So, if you are brimming with exciting research, interesting viewpoints, or cool commentaries, we will be happy to take a look at it!

Feel free to [email](#) your piece for our review.



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design



Unlimited
materials



Ease of
Use



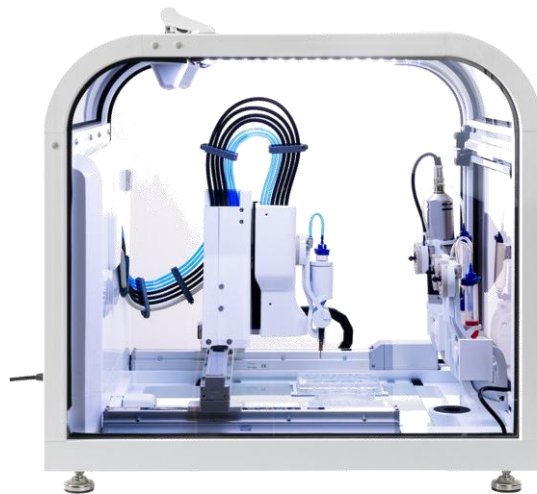
Print on top of
the objects or
inside the gels



Clean
working

Effective Technologies

For Successful 3D (Bio)Printing from research to applications



Multi-material 3D Printing with several printing technologies: Hydrogels suitable for cell culture usually have quite low viscosity. However, 3D structures with defined shapes usually require stiff materials (which cannot support e.g. high cell viability). Available printing technologies include **valve-free pneumatic extrusion** (Pneuma Tools), **screw-driven mechanical extrusion**, i.e. endless piston pump (Rotary Tool & Visco Tools), electromagnetically actuated **droplet dispensing** (Droplet Tool), and **thermoplastic granulate extrusion** (GranuTool).

Brinter® evolves according to our partners' and customers' needs. The upcoming new print heads and modules can be used on the same platform/device by just updating the software. This lengthens the life span of the platform considerably and allows you to adapt to your changing printing needs. Printheads are compatible with both Core and One platforms. Brinter® is a genuine multi-material printer as it can print materials ranging from liquids to hydrogels with living cells, bio-paste, ceramic paste, silicones, and even granulates of plastic, or cellulose.

Stay tuned and follow our LinkedIn, loads of interesting news coming!



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Career

Here we list upcoming PhD defences, open positions as well as other career opportunities. Please feel free to send us relevant information to include in this column!

Open positions

University of Copenhagen is hiring a highly motivated and ambitious postdoc with strong background in stem cell biology and/or neuroscience to an interdisciplinary project focusing on stem cell-based disease modelling of Parkinson's disease.



application deadline:
26.04.2025

Young Scientist Forum



A series of webinars specifically aimed to the young biomaterials scientists – A platform where you can hear experts talk about science, useful career tips, and scientific debates.

Next webinar: June 2026

Do you have a suggestion for webinar topics? Contact one of our [YSF representatives](#) or fill in our [feedback form](#)!

Information for advertisers

The newsletter of the ScSB is published 2-4 times per year. It is distributed by e-mail to a highly focussed Scandinavian and international readership, bringing news and reports of interest to our subscribers. Accounts of activities in the participating countries, such as new research projects and new facilities are published, and open positions and PhD defences are announced. There are currently approximately 500 subscribers to the newsletter.

Current advertisement and promotion article prices (€):

One page:	100
Half page:	70
Quarter page:	50

About ScSB

The Scandinavian Society for Biomaterials (ScSB) was founded in May 2008. The focus of our activities is centred on organizing an annual Biomaterials meeting and thereby promote cross-fertilization of Biomaterials research in the Nordic countries and the Baltic states. In addition to academic researchers, the society welcomes students and industry to participate in the yearly meetings. ScSB is an affiliated society to the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB) and its President takes part in the ESB National Societies Meetings.

Where to find us

You can reach us and follow ScSB's updates on different communication channels and network.

- Website: [Scandinavian Society for Biomaterials](#)
- Social media:



- e-mail list: [Sign up here](#) to our e-mail list and don't miss our latest news
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