



*ESB-YSF Board Elections – 2026-2030*

## **European Society for Biomaterials-YSF (ESB-YSF) Board Elections Application Form**

*It should not exceed two A4 pages and should include a photo of the candidate.*

*Name: Francisco José Calero Castro*

*Nationality: Spain*

*Date of birth: 18<sup>th</sup> June 1995*

*Current position (position, affiliation): MSCA Postdoctoral fellow, Tissue Engineering Research Group (TERG) at Royal College of Surgeon in Ireland, Ireland.*

*Research interests (5 keywords): Biomaterials, gene-activated scaffolds, pancreatic cancer, meniscus regeneration, melt-electrowriting*

*Position applied for (please rank your preferences from 1 (most preferred position) to 6 (less preferred position):*

4	YSF Spokesperson
1	YSF communication and dissemination officer
2	YSF educational officer
3	YSF secretary
5	YSF national chapters liaison officer

*Past ESB conferences attended:*

*The 34th Annual Conference of the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB) that was hold in in Turin, Italy from 7th September until 11th September 2025*

**Candidate summary (max 1 page)**

**Motivation:** I have several reasons that motivate me to join the YSF. My main goal is to strengthen the visibility of young researchers while making our work more accessible and inspiring to both scientific and public audiences, as well as engaging new students in our field. I believe we have a responsibility to raise awareness about the impact and relevance of our work. Another key motivation is to be part of a dynamic network where young scientists play a central role in shaping the future of biomaterials research. I am eager to help bridge communication between senior and junior members, fostering mentorship and guidance that can support early-career researchers in the next step of our journey. Finally, I see joining the YSF as an incredible opportunity to develop leadership skills while supporting the next generation of the ESB community. Serving on the YSF would allow me to contribute to community building, enhance my leadership experience and advocate for young voices in the area of biomaterials, something I have already done as the PhD representative at the institute where I finish my PhD. I am excited about the chance to help shape the future of ESB and empower and make emerging researchers heard.

**Possible Achievements:** I would aim to translate my communication and outreach experience into impactful initiatives that benefit the ESB community. My proposed achievements are aligned with my motivations for joining the YSF. Drawing on my background in public engagement, I will support the creation of accessible scientific content for YSF's social media and website. I believe it is essential to organise events, promoting and raising awareness about the work we do. These kinds of events can be organised around ESB conferences, across the host city, and in nearby high schools to engage new students in the field of biomaterials. In accordance with my second motivation, supporting Young researchers, I will advocate for webinars and workshops that connect early-career scientists across Europe, fostering collaboration between labs and contributing to mentorship programmes that link senior ESB members with junior researchers. Another valuable initiative would be to involve middle-career researchers, inviting them to share their experience and career paths with younger students, helping them to better visualise their own next steps. By promoting and helping to carry out such activities and achievements, I want to contribute to making our field more visible, inclusive and impactful to the public.

**Communication skills:** I am deeply committed to making science accessible, and my communication experience spans both academic and public-facing platforms. One of the most remarkable achievements in my career has been developing my science storytelling skills through the "Science in 3 min" format. I began as a shortlist candidate at my institute's research day and eventually was selected from over 100 applicants to compete in the MSCA Falling Walls Lab, a prestigious competition where I had to explain my research to a diverse audience. I have extensive outreach experience including activities and demonstrations for high school students as part of the AMBER Transition Year Programme, and being PhD representative in the institute where I finished my PhD. Also, I have experience in international conferences, presenting and being part of the organization of the event. I have contributed to the field via publications and patents, and delivered lectures and demonstration in our field in Universidad de Sevilla. These experiences reflect my ability to communicate across disciplines, languages, and age groups, skills I bring to collaborative writing, mentoring, and community-building within the biomaterials field.

**Any other ideas/remarks:** I bring a proactive mindset and a strong sense of initiative to every project I join. I am strongly motivated to foster an active, inclusive, and supportive community among young ESB members. I am eager to collaborate with other committees to increase internal growth of the YSF by contributing to strategic planning and YSF visibility during ESB annual conferences and help design engaging social and networking activities that spark lasting connections. I understand the challenges young scientists face, such as funding, mobility, and career development, and I am ready to advocate for practical solutions that empower them. One initiative I would like to explore is the possibility of offering travel grants to PhD students, helping them attend the ESB conference and engage more fully with the community. Having worked in fast-paced, multicultural environments, I thrive in settings where collaboration and adaptability are key, qualities that are especially valuable during ESB conferences and networking events. Given the multidisciplinary nature of our field, I believe we should strengthen ties with other European societies, such as European Society for Cancer Research, and invite professionals from adjacent fields, including surgeons, to share their needs and perspectives. This would help broaden our network and foster meaningful collaborations. Whether it is shaping new initiatives or supporting existing ones, I am ready to contribute with energy, empathy, and a collaborative spirit.