



ESB Newsletter – December 22, 2025

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Dear members of the European Society for Biomaterials,

As the festive period and a new year approach, I am pleased to share the latest updates from the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB). This newsletter includes a call for nominations for the ESB 2026 Scientific and Education Awards, an official journal update, ESB meetings in 2026, a call for bids to host ESB 2031, the ESB 50th Anniversary logo competition, the forthcoming ESB-YSF election, and a call for ESB-YSF Project submissions.

Call for Nominations - ESB Scientific Achievement Awards 2026

Nominations are now open for the **ESB Scientific Achievement Awards 2026**:

George Winter Award, Jean Leray Award, Klaas de Groot Award, and the International Award.

ESB members are warmly invited to nominate candidates who have made outstanding contributions to the field of biomaterials. These awards recognise **excellence across career stages, including early- and established-career scientists, individuals demonstrating exceptional mentorship and guidance of young researchers, and scientists who have spent most of their careers outside Europe.**

The deadline for nominations is February 20, 2026.

Further details on eligibility criteria and nomination procedures are available on the respective award webpages:

- **George Winter Award:** <https://esbiomaterials.eu/cms/content/george-winter-award>
- **Jean Leray Award:** <https://esbiomaterials.eu/cms/content/jean-leray-award>
- **Klaas de Groot Award:** <https://esbiomaterials.eu/cms/content/klaas-de-groot-award>
- **International Award:** <https://esbiomaterials.eu/cms/content/international-award>

Call for Nominations - ESB Education Julia Polak European Doctorate Awards 2026

We would also like to remind you that the deadline for applications for ESB's **Julia Polak European Doctoral Awards** continues to be on **January 31, 2026**. For further details and information relating to this award scheme and other ESB Education awards (**Raquel le Geros Award** with a submission deadline of May 31, 2026, and the **Rudolf Cimdins Award** with a submission deadline of June 15, 2026, please visit our Education page on the website.

ESB Official Journal Updates

Biomaterials Science has launched an **official ESB2025 collection**. This collection showcases some of the research that was presented at the 34th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Biomaterials, held in September 2025. As the official journal of the ESB, *Biomaterials Science* works in partnership with the ESB to highlight some of the top research from the community. This year's collection also features additional papers from ESB members. We hope you enjoy reading this collection of featured research. **All articles are free to read until December 31, 2026.**

Biomaterials Science also launched a new themed collection on “[3D and 4D bioprinting](#)”, guest edited by **Professor Nasim Annabi**. The collection showcases advances in biomaterial and cell deposition for creating artificial tissues and organs, scaffolds, and drug-delivery platforms, including emerging 4D, stimuli-responsive approaches. **All articles are free to read until January 31, 2026.**

Nominations are now open for the *Biomaterials Science* Lectureship, an annual award recognising outstanding early-career researchers in biomaterials. Open to worldwide nominations, the lectureship typically honours researchers within 12 years of their PhD, with full recognition of career breaks. The award includes £1,000 to support travel to present at a leading international conference and an invitation to publish a research article in *Biomaterials Science* with a complimentary journal cover. **Nominations close on January 31, 2026.** More details on the award and nomination process can be found [here](#).

***Biomaterials Advances* Innovation Award**

The ***Biomaterials Advances* Innovation Award** is open for nomination. This award recognises a mid-career scientist who has made an outstanding contribution to the biomaterials research field and who has the potential to make an impact beyond academia.

We strongly encourage you to nominate your candidate. The submission **deadline is January 31, 2026**. The Award ceremony will be held at the 35th ESB conference scheduled to take place from 7 - 11 September 2026 in Antwerp, Belgium. For more details on the award and nomination process, please visit this [link](#).

ESB 2026 - 35th Annual Conference in Antwerp, Belgium

We are delighted to share that the **35th Annual Conference of the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB 2026)** will take place from **7–11 September 2026** in **Antwerp, Belgium** ([esb2026.org](#)). This premier event in biomaterials science and regenerative medicine will be hosted at the **Flanders Meeting & Convention Center (FMCCA)** —known as “*A Room with a Zoo*” — right in the vibrant heart of Antwerp.

Importantly, **ESB 2026 will coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the ESB**, making this conference a truly special occasion to celebrate five decades of biomaterials excellence, collaboration, and impact within the biomaterials community.

ESB 2026 promises to bring together **over 1,000 researchers and professionals** from across Europe and worldwide, spanning disciplines such as chemistry, biology, physics, biomaterials science, tissue engineering, clinical sciences, and industry. This is an excellent opportunity to share your work, learn about the latest advances, and engage with the multidisciplinary community that drives innovation in biomaterials.

Key Dates & Deadlines

- **Abstract submission opens:** *January 31, 2026*
- **Abstract submission deadline:** *March 15, 2026*
- **Registration opens:** *January 2026*

Why Attend?

- Present your latest research to an engaged international audience.
- Participate in focused symposia, workshops, and dedicated sessions.
- Connect with peers, clinicians, and industry leaders shaping the future of biomaterials.

Stay tuned for detailed program announcements, registration information, and opportunities to get involved. Whether you're planning to submit an abstract, organize a symposium, or simply mark your calendar, **Antwerp 2026 is set to be an inspiring and impactful event for the ESB community.**

Let's make ESB 2026 a celebration of scientific excellence and collaboration!



Sponsorship opportunities for ESB 2026 are available. We would like to remind you that each annual conference sponsor is **featured on the ESB website and LinkedIn for one year following the conference**, providing valuable visibility within our community. We take the opportunity to acknowledge the ESB2025 sponsors.



Future ESB Events and Hosting

As a reminder, the upcoming Annual ESB Conferences will be held in:

- **Uppsala, Sweden:** September 5-9, 2027 (**ESB 2027**)
- **Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead, UK:** September 3-7, 2029 (**ESB 2029**)

Want to host ESB 2031? National societies, research centres, and academic groups are invited to apply to host the **39th Annual Conference**. Please contact our [Liaison Officer for Conference Organisers](#). The deadline for applying is **January 31, 2026**, and further information about the application process and the application form can be found [here](#).

ESB is on YouTube! Discover insights from the 2024 Klaas de Groot Award Winner Prof. R. Geoff Richards

The ESB is pleased to announce the launch of its **official YouTube channel**.

Visit the channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/@EuropeanSocietyforBiomaterials>

The channel features inspiring **testimonials and messages from ESB Scientific Award winners**, sharing their experiences, perspectives, and insights with the biomaterials community.

Our latest video highlights a testimonial from the **2024 Klaas de Groot Award winner, Prof. R. Geoff Richards**, who offers **thoughtful reflections and valuable advice on mentoring**.

In the coming months, these videos will also be available on the ESB website, with additional content to be added regularly, so stay tuned!

9th China–Europe Symposium on Biomaterials in Regenerative Medicine (CESB 2026)

The **9th China-Europe Symposium on Biomaterials in Regenerative Medicine (CESB 2026)**, jointly organised by the Chinese Society for Biomaterials (CSBM) and the ESB, will be held in **Beijing, China, from May 10-13, 2026**. The symposium is co-hosted by the National Centre for Nanoscience and Technology and Peking University. ESB members are warmly invited to submit abstracts on their latest research and join colleagues from China and Europe to exchange scientific insights, foster international collaborations, and contribute to shaping the future of biomaterials and regenerative medicine.

The **deadline for abstract submission is January 15, 2026**.

More information: <https://cesb2026.csbm.org.cn/>

We look forward to welcoming you to Beijing for CESB 2026!



ESB 50th Anniversary Logo Competition

In 2026, ESB will proudly celebrate its **50th anniversary**. To mark this milestone, we are inviting members of the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) to design the official ESB 50th anniversary logo.

The winning design will be featured throughout the anniversary year.

Who can participate? YSF members (under 40)

Submission deadline: January 31, 2026

Submission Guidelines:

- Only **one original logo** per participant, themed “ESB 50th Anniversary.”
- Submit as a **high-resolution file** (.tiff, .jpeg, or .png; minimum 2 MP / 300 dpi).
- Include the completed **Image Competition Form** (downloadable from the [ESB-YSF website](#) or directly [here](#)). AI-generated content must be fully disclosed.
- Send entries to ysf@esbiomaterials.eu and arn.mignon@kuleuven.be. Large files can be shared via WeTransfer or SurfFilesender.
- Use the subject line: **ESB 50th Anniversary Logo Competition**

The winner will be selected by a vote of the entire ESB community. Don't miss the chance to make your design part of ESB history!

ESB-YSF Board Election

It is time for **five members** of the **YSF Board** to step down after four years of service, or, in two cases, after eight years. Following a thorough review of applications from candidates interested in joining the new Board, the voting phase is now open, and **your participation is essential** in selecting the next YSF Board members. In agreement with the ESB Board, **voting is restricted to YSF members aged 40 or younger**. We strongly encourage all eligible members to take part and contribute to shaping the future of the YSF.

Voting is open until January 16, 2026.

How to vote?

1. The **list of candidates, their CV and application forms** can be found on the [YSF Elections page](#)
2. **Log in to your ESB user account** and ensure that your membership status is up to date.
If you attended the ESB 2025 Conference, your membership should have been renewed automatically, provided that the email address used for conference registration matches the one associated with your ESB account. Please verify this before voting.



3. Navigate to the **ESB Elections tab** in your personal account.



4. **Enter your date of birth** to confirm your eligibility to vote in this election.

5. **Select exactly five candidates** (no more, no fewer), and click **“Place your vote”**.

6. A confirmation message will appear, indicating that your vote has been successfully recorded.

Your vote has been placed

YSF Call for Projects - 2026

The ESB-YSF Call for Projects supports events and workshops that help train young scientists and promote biomaterials knowledge across Europe. For 2026, we have an **increased total budget of €1,700**, while the maximum funding for a single project remains €1,200. This increase means that the YSF may be able to sponsor more than one event, depending on the quality of applications and requested budgets.

Now it is all up to you! The call for events/workshops to be organised in 2026 is open (**Submission deadline is January 31, 2026**). Please visit the [ESB-YSF website](#) to access the application template and eligibility criteria. For more information, please contact the YSF NC Liaison Officer, [Patrycja Domalik-Pyzik](#).

Fraudulent Emails: Phishing

The ESB community is urged to exercise heightened caution regarding suspicious emails purporting to be from ESB council members. It is crucial to note that the ESB Council will never solicit financial assistance from its membership via email. Be wary of any unexpected communications, especially those requesting funds or personal information. If you receive a suspicious email, do not respond or click on any links. Instead, report it as spam and forward it to the official ESB email address for verification.

Finally, on behalf of the ESB Council, I would like to wish you and your families a peaceful holiday period, as well as a prosperous and fulfilling 2026!

Kind regards,



*Nicholas Dunne, President
(on behalf of the ESB Council)*