



**Sarah Heilshorn** is Professor with tenure and Associate Chair of the Materials Science & Engineering Department at Stanford University. She is also the Director of the Geballe Laboratory for Advanced Materials at Stanford, an interdisciplinary research center housing the activities of over 30 faculty from across the campus. As a Bass Education Fellow, she has received campus-wide honors for her excellence in teaching, mentorship, and curriculum development. She is a fervent supporter of diversifying the broader science and engineering community and serves in multiple leadership roles to help achieve this goal. Her research team specializes in integrating

concepts from polymer physics and protein engineering to design materials for medical applications. This interdisciplinary approach to biomimetic materials design has enabled several new technologies including the development of injectable materials for cell transplantation and printable materials for regenerative medicine. Among other recognitions, she has received the New Innovator Award from the US National Institutes of Health and was elected as a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and the Royal Society of Chemistry in the United Kingdom. As service to the biomaterials and biofabrication communities, she is an Associate Editor for *Science Advances*, Editor for *Acta Biomaterialia*, and a member of the *Biofabrication* Editorial Board. She has previously served on the Board of Directors for the Materials Research Society and ISBF.

### **Candidate's Statement**

If re-elected to the Board of ISBF, I would work to further strengthen the society's commitments to three key areas: international scientific cooperation, diversity and inclusion, and advocacy for partnerships between academia, government and industry.

First, the society must continue to emphasize the importance of international scientific cooperation as a requirement to advancing scientific knowledge and to developing impactful biofabrication technologies. This focus on international cooperation begins internally with our own members by promoting geographic diversity in our meetings, encouraging volunteers from across all regions, and advancing a global perspective within the biofabrication community. We can further promote international cooperation by nurturing partnerships with other international societies and regional societies in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, and the Americas.

Second, the scientific challenges of the next decade demand the creativity and innovation that can only be achieved when a diverse set of skills and views are brought together. Thus, as a society we must commit ourselves to diversifying participation throughout all of our events. The society can support this ideal by promoting an inclusive mindset within our leadership, staff, and volunteers. We can further cultivate this culture of inclusivity through the support of mentorship programs to connect young scientists across different career stages and the development of affinity groups and events that celebrate the accomplishments of all of our members.

Third, to translate fundamental advances in biofabrication technology to new industrial products and clinical therapies, there must be tight coupling between academia, government, and industry. As a global organization, ISBF is uniquely positioned to champion the critical need of private/public cooperation to encourage sustainable funding for biofabrication research that spans from basic science through to development of enabling technologies. Investing in biofabrication innovation is an engine for economic growth and a catalyst for breakthrough technologies that address our global health needs.