

# CRYO2019 Brings Together Industry Experts, Suppliers in San Diego

CRYO2019, the 56th meeting of the Society for Cryobiology, took place July 22-25 in San Diego. Each year, the society hosts a diverse gathering of cryobiology professionals that encompass theoretical and practical aspects of low temperature biology, biobanking and thermal medicine.

CRYO2019 opened with a conservation session detailing current research activities in preservation of genetic material from wild animal and plant species and agriculturally important crops. Speakers included Oliver Ryder, Kleberg Endowed director of conservation genetics at The Frozen Zoo® at San Diego Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research, giving an overview on the Frozen Zoo's past, present and future conservation research and activities. Hugh Pritchard, senior research scientist in comparative seed biology at the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew, UK, spoke on the importance of cryobiotechnology for conservation of wild plant species. Bart Panis, senior scientist at KU Leuven, Belgium, spoke on the realizations and challenges of ensuring the world's food supply through cryopreservation of vital crops. These topics were explored in a number of sessions throughout the meeting, including animal conservation, germplasm preservation and plant cryobiotechnology.

The second day of the meeting featured a dedicated cell therapy track with a number of academic and industry speakers, including plenary speakers Robert Tressler, vice president of the San Diego Blood Bank, and John Elliott, principal investigator at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Session themes throughout the day included preservation of cellular therapies and good manufacturing practice in cell therapy manufacturing, development and commercialization, with industry speakers from Kite Pharma, GE Healthcare, Fate



*Society for Cryobiology Board of Governors: Pictured from center clockwise, Greg Fahy, James Benson, Rob Ben, Ido Braslavsky, David Rawson, Adam Higgins, Yuksel Agca, Dayong Gao, Nicole Evans, Erik Woods, Estefania Paredes, Tiantian Zhang, Andy Shu. Image: Society for Cryobiology*



*Society President Dayong Gao, inaugural Arthur W. Rowe Best Paper winner, James Benson, Cryobiology Editor-in-Chief David Rawson, immediate Past-President Jason Acker. Image: Society for Cryobiology*

Therapeutics, BioLife Solutions and Juno Therapeutics, among others.

Multiple sessions in fundamental cryobiology topics, cell and tissue preservation, tools and technologies, natural adaptation and thermal medicine rounded out the scientific program, alongside several sessions organized in collaboration with the Organ Preservation Alliance and

the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER). Full program information can be viewed at [cryo2019.com/schedule](http://cryo2019.com/schedule).

CRYO2020 will take place July 21-24, 2020, in Chicago. To learn more about the Society for Cryobiology's activities or to join as a member visit [www.societyforcryobiology.org](http://www.societyforcryobiology.org). ■