



Students: The Movers and Shakers of EMBS Student Leader Event Description

Student Club or Chapter: IEEE EMBS Student Club at the University of Washington

Student Leader: Jennifer Flexman, Kerem Karadayi, Siddhartha Sikdar, Nikita Immenov, Alex Fichtenholtz

Title of Event: The Future of Engineering in Medicine: A Panel Discussion
Approximate Number of Attendees: 45-50

FUNDING:

Total Budget: \$100.00

Funding Sources: Department of Bioengineering, IEEE EMBS Seattle Chapter

Expenses: Snacks, soda, coffee, printing, parking for panelists

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT:

In May 2006, four panelists from both industry and academia were invited to give their perspective on the future of engineering in medicine. A moderator kept the conversation going with prepared questions and took questions from the audience. The questions ranged from the rising cost of health care to how biomedical engineering students can best be trained for industry.

NAME ONE MAJOR HURDLE OF THE EVENT AND HOW IT WAS OVERCOME:

Recruiting 'visionaries' in the field of engineering in medicine was challenging due to scheduling conflicts. Since we wanted highly qualified panelists, these individuals also tended to be the busiest! We overcame this hurdle using persistence (asking a lot of different people) and being flexible with the date. It was important to start early with the planning.

WHAT WAS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF THIS EVENT?

The attendance and enthusiasm from the audience showed that the topics were interesting and important to both students and industry members of the EMBS Seattle Chapter. New people that we hadn't met before from the Departments of Computer Science, etc. attended and this was a positive sign for recruiting new members and getting people involved with our events and committee.

HOW DID THIS EVENT CONTRIBUTE TO LEADERSHIP SKILLS?

The planning committee of five people gained experience in organizing such an event and researching 'visionaries' in engineering in medicine. We all got to interface with some of these people, which was a good opportunity to make connections and talk with them.

FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS:

This kind of an event is a nice alternative to a seminar format, which is very common in academics. It encouraged more participation from the audience to tailor the discussion to their interests. It was relatively easy to plan but I would recommend starting early in order to get 4-5 prominent people in the same room at the same time!