

ABSTRACT

CONFERENCE: The 20th Women in Medicine and Science Research Day 2026

The Women in Medicine and Science (WIMS) Research Day is an annual conference held at Stony Brook University at the beginning of March, organized during the week celebrating International Women's Day (**March 8th**). The upcoming conference, 2026, will be significant as it will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the meeting.

The WIMS Research Day is designed to celebrate women's achievements in all areas of science and medicine and provides a platform to share research and discoveries, interact with researchers and physician-scientists across different disciplines and at various career stages, and build collaborative projects. Notably, the meeting format provides an opportunity to not only showcase academic scholarship through a poster session and oral presentations but also interact with other participants engaged in biomedical, translational, and clinical research to discuss recruitment and retention, awards and recognition, collaboration, and career advancement.

The WIMS conference is organized annually with the support of the Office of Faculty Affairs at the Renaissance School of Medicine. As we established a chapter of the AAMC Group on Women in Medicine and Science (GWIMS) at Stony Brook University, the annual WIMS meeting will take advantage of national resources such as advocacy, career development tools, and events. The WIMS conference is organized by the co-chairs of the GWIMS chapter at Stony Brook Drs. Agnieszka Bialkowska, Aleksandra Krajewski, and Rebecca Spiegel, with Dr. Stella Tsirka on behalf of the Office of Faculty Affairs. The conference is open to participants from every stage of their career: high school students (who participate in the research at SBU), undergraduate, graduate, and medical students, medical fellows, residents, post-doctoral associates, staff, and faculty across all scientific disciplines. Significantly, it bridges the science across the SBU campus. Although the meeting is focused on celebrating the research achievements of Women in Medicine and Science, abstract submission and participation are encouraged for everybody, as the central theme of the meeting is for all to stand in solidarity with women to create a bold, visible, and united drive towards biomedical and health discoveries.

The WIMS Research Day was the first in-person conference here at Stony Brook University after the COVID lockdown. During the last three years (post-COVID timeline), we received a steadily increasing number of abstract submissions, starting at 80 and growing to 137. The poster session brings double or triple the number of participants as it is open to the entire SBU community. The conference provides a good blend of different activities: the keynote speaker's talk on medicine and science, a panel discussion on topics related to the GWIMS, oral presentations for the abstract winners, and a poster session for submitted abstracts. The invited keynote speakers are selected to be accomplished and talented, renowned faculty who have shown excellence in their research and medical careers and have a strong record of mentorship and advocacy.