2026 BMES CMBE CONFERENCE
Renew, Recharge, Reimagine
JANUARY 3-6, 2026
The Royal Sonesta San Juan, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Rising Star Eligibility: Applicants must have had an independent lab for no more than 6 years at the time of application. Abstracts should present work from the applicant's independent lab.

Significance

Criteria	Example Characteristics and Suggested Scores	Max Score	Assigned Score
Scores should reflect the importance of the **work presented in the abstract,** with respect to the relevant literature and the work's impact to the field of CMBE. Studies providing mechanistic insight, developing new technologies, and/or enabling translational activities are of particular interest	5: Reveals long sought-after mechanism / Presents ground-breaking technology / Describes translational approach to major clinical need / Other equivalent accomplishment 4: Reveals important mechanism / Presents exciting new technology / Describes translational approach to minor clinical need / Other equivalent accomplishment 3: Refines well-studied mechanism / Present a new technology/ Refines existing translational approach / Other equivalent accomplishment 2: Focuses on technical details or approaches of some interest to the CMBE field 1: Focuses on technical details or approaches largely not of general interest to the CMBE field	5	

Innovation

Criteria	Example Characteristics and Suggested Scores	Max Score	Assigned Score
Scores should reflect the overall conceptual and/or technical innovation the **work presented in abstract** with respect to current approaches in CMBE. Approaches enabling studies in new sub-fields of CMBE, probing new scales/concepts in existing sub-fields, or integrating diverse sub-fields are of particular interest	5: Study opens new sub-field, probes existing sub-field in new way, integrates multiple subfields for the first time, and/or other equivalent characteristic 4: One of first studies in new sub-field, using new techniques, integrating multiple sub-fields, and/or other equivalent characteristic 3: Focuses on an established field of research 2: A confirmative study using novel approaches 1: Largely a confirmative study using established techniques	5	

Technical Content

Criteria	Example Characteristics and Suggested Scores	Max Score	Assigned Score
Presented results are quantitative, clearly, and concisely summarized, sufficiently powered, potentially repeatable, and appropriately interpreted	5: All aspects of technical content are high quality 4: Most aspects of technical content are high quality 3: Some aspects of technical content are high quality 2: Few aspects of technical content are high quality 1: Very few aspects of technical content are high quality	5	

Writing Style and Figure Presentation

Criteria	Example Characteristics and Suggested Scores	Max Score	Assigned Score
Writing style is high quality: lacking excessive technical jargon, is clear and concise, has a logical flow, lacks typos, and communicates main points effectively. Figures are of high quality, easily read, and readily convey important aspects of data	5: All aspects of writing and figures are high quality 4: Most aspects of writing and figures are high quality 3: Some aspects of writing and figures are high quality 2: Few aspects of writing and figures are high quality 1: Very few aspects of writing and figures are high quality	5	

Investigator

Criteria	Example Characteristics and Suggested Scores	Max Score	Assigned Score
Productivity of the investigator, **based on career stage, standards of pertinent CMBE sub-field, and in reference to the biosketch.**	5: Exceptional productivity, 4: Outstanding Productivity, 3: Good Productivity, 2: Average Productivity, 1: Weak Productivity	5	
Impact of the investigator's entire body of work, **based on career stage and in reference to the biosketch**.	5: Exceptional Impact, 4: Outstanding Impact, 3: Good Impact, 2: Average Impact, 1: Less than Average Impact	5	
Overall investigator score: This score should reflect the overall quality of the investigator's **entire body of work based on career stage and in reference to the biosketch**. As this is a research award, primary emphasis should be placed on research achievements. Secondarily, other contributions, such as those to education and service, may be considered. **Applicants may alter their biosketch from strict NIH/NSF guidelines to highlight key contributions**.	5: Exceptional Body of Work, 4: Outstanding Body of Work, 3: Good Body of Work, 2: Average Body of Work, 1: Less than Average Body of Work	5	

Overall Score of Application

Criteria	Reviewer Comments, Score Driving Factors	Max Score	Assigned Score
The overall application score should represent the overall quality of the application as subject to the opinion of the reviewer in response to a wholistic review of the entire application.		5	

Prior involvement with CMBE and contribution to support and promote a vibrant and sustainable CMBE research community:

Criteria	Explanation	Answer
The nominee's work conforms to and supports the goal of supporting and promoting a vibrant and sustainable CMBE research community. The nomination material clearly describes the community service to CMBE. Examples of prior involvement with CMBE include but not limited to attended past CMBE annual conference, attended past or will attend the upcoming CMBE session during BMES annual conferences, helped organize CMBE conferences, volunteered to review abstracts to CMBE annual conference. Examples of supporting and promoting a vibrant and sustainable CMBE research community include but not limited to community engagement to K to 12 students, traditionally unreachable community to promote STEM education and research in CMBE. **Applicants are encouraged to summarize these activities at the end of their biosketch (total 5 pages).**		Y/N?