

# Strategic Plan: 2020-2025

## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BIOMECHANICS

### **Preamble**

In 2007, the American Society of Biomechanics (ASB) adopted its first strategic plan. A major focus of that initial plan was growth, both in terms of membership size and the range of programs offered by the Society. In many ways, that initial effort was a success, as the size of the membership and the annual meeting have both grown considerably, and the ASB offers substantially more programs than it did a decade ago. A major objective for the first half of the next decade will be to encourage continued growth of the ASB, while ensuring that we vigorously support and enhance our existing offerings. This balanced approach has been informed by member feedback that accessibility and collegiality are vital and distinctive components of the ASB's culture. Thus, as the Society grows, we must ensure that we do not compromise the quality of our existing programs as we pursue novel approaches to maintain our established culture and values for an expanded membership.

### **Purpose**

This Strategic Plan is a formal document that describes the objectives and planned directions of the ASB as a professional society. It is meant to serve as a link between the present and a consensus vision of the Society's future. The plan is a series of multiyear goals and associated strategies that the Society is currently pursuing or will initiate in order to reach our shared objectives.

### **Vision Statement**

Improving lives through biomechanics.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the ASB is to foster the advancement, communication, and application of biomechanics to benefit society.

## **Goal Statements**

### **1.0 Member Engagement**

Expand the level of engagement of the ASB membership and provide more opportunities for interested members to become involved in the activities of the Society.

### ***Strategies***

- 1.1 Provide more opportunities for regular and student members to serve on ASB committees, contribute to existing initiatives, develop new initiatives, and participate in the further development of the Society
- 1.2 Facilitate the transition from student membership to regular membership; actively encourage members to renew their membership every year
- 1.3 Establish procedures to recognize and reward service to the ASB at all levels
- 1.4 Engage members across the full diversity spectrum, including all backgrounds, cultures, identities, abilities, and experience

- 1.5 Establish formal procedures to better leverage the experience and energy of the ASB Fellows in enhancing the Society
- 1.6 Broaden the pool of members considered for honors, awards, and fellow status by evaluating, refining, and increasing the transparency of the processes for application, nomination, and selection

## **2.0 Professional Development**

Promote the professional development of ASB members in ways that will benefit the Society and the members in their professional pursuits.

### *Strategies*

- 2.1 Enhance existing programs and seek new opportunities to provide professional development opportunities for student members, postdoctoral fellows, and newly independent investigators
- 2.2 Inform members about relevant professional development and training opportunities (e.g., research experiences for undergraduates, graduate and postdoctoral fellowships, early career reviewer programs, industry internships, science policy fellowships)
- 2.3 Inform members about career opportunities in biomechanics beyond academia such as industry, healthcare, professional sports, and science policy
- 2.4 Formalize a mentorship process that prepares interested regular members for future leadership roles in the ASB
- 2.5 Create opportunities to participate broadly in the leadership of the Society that are not limited to serving on the executive board

## **3.0 Communication**

Enhance communication with ASB members and external audiences about the nature and scope of ASB and the field of biomechanics.

### *Strategies*

- 3.1 Develop a comprehensive communication strategy that is aligned with and supports the other goals of the ASB articulated in this document
- 3.2 Create opportunities to enhance communication between the ASB membership and the Executive Board
- 3.3 Explore new communication channels that fit between social media posts and the biannual newsletter
- 3.4 Update the ASB website and develop a strategy for maintaining the website in a manner that is responsive to future web standards and developments

#### **4.0 Research: Promotion, Dissemination & Sharing**

Enhance the impact of research by ASB members through innovative programming and research support

##### ***Strategies***

- 4.1 Explore creative programming approaches to maximize the value and impact of the annual meeting for all attendees
- 4.2 Expand opportunities for student research to be highlighted at the annual meeting
- 4.3 Increase support for regional, student-focused ASB meetings and actively recruit members to host meetings in underrepresented geographical regions
- 4.4 Expand the number and scope of student and junior investigator research grant opportunities for ASB members
- 4.5 Pursue jointly-sponsored symposia with other conferences that are relevant to biomechanics, and foster new opportunities for our members
- 4.6 Seek additional opportunities for research by ASB members (e.g., competition and award winners) to be published in high-quality biomechanics journals
- 4.7 Educate ASB members about best practices and emerging trends in data and model sharing, open access, and reproducibility

#### **5.0 Ethical & Responsible Conduct**

Develop and promote codes and policies that provide guidance on ethical and responsible conduct in the field of biomechanics

##### ***Strategies***

- 5.1 Educate members about existing ASB statements (Code of Conduct, Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest) and newly adopted statements regarding ethical and responsible conduct
- 5.2 Adopt a policy pertaining to harassment that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behavior and conduct, and includes specific protocols for reporting and responding to cases of alleged harassment
- 5.3 Seek partnerships with international bodies, such as the International Society of Biomechanics, in developing standards for the responsible conduct of research in biomechanics
- 5.4 Educate members on emerging areas of concern surrounding electronic data management, record security, and cyber security
- 5.5 Educate members about processes to address apparent fraudulent conduct such as plagiarism, data fraud, or data theft

## **6.0 Education, Outreach & Advocacy**

Develop and deliver education and outreach programs, and advocate for the field of biomechanics.

### ***Strategies***

- 6.1 Enhance existing initiatives and seek new opportunities to provide educational experiences and materials for ASB members and others interested in biomechanics
- 6.2 Promote the sharing of biomechanics educational and outreach materials through the ASB Teaching Repository
- 6.3 Support outreach initiatives that inform the general public about biomechanics and ASB, such as National Biomechanics Day and the Diversity Outreach Events at the annual meetings
- 6.4 Promote biomechanics as a distinct discipline that has its own academic departments and degree programs
- 6.5 Become a leader in political advocacy and influence public policy for issues that directly impact scientific progress and members of the scientific community
- 6.6 Partner with outside constituents and initiatives (e.g., NIH, NSF, CDC, AAAS, AIBME, Perry Initiative) to raise awareness of biomechanics and advocate for ASB priorities