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Society for Biological Engineering Names New Executive Director

Miriam Cortes-Caminero Brings Both Industrial and Academic Experience to SBE

NEW YORK, NY – The Society for Biological Engineering (SBE), a technological community within the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, has named Miriam Cortes-Caminero as its new executive director. She succeeds June Wispelwey, who became executive director of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in January.

Cortes-Caminero is a biochemist and pharmacologist with international experience in sales and marketing and product management in the bio-pharmaceutical field. She most recently served as director of marketing with Sartorius Stedim Biotech, where she held a variety of positions, including head of product management. Earlier in her career, she served as product manager and regional sales manager with Pall Life Sciences. Cortes-Caminero has also been an Instructor in biochemistry and biotechnology at both St. John's University and the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook.

Among Cortes-Caminero's goals will be identifying new research projects for industrial consortia, developing a "web lab" for academic institutions, and increasing SBE membership. "Despite the economic downturn, the worldwide biotech industry continues to grow, as has student interest in biological engineering and the professional practice of this emerging discipline," Cortes-Caminero says.

Wispelwey welcomes Cortes-Caminero as her successor, citing her business career and technical knowledge. "We feel fortunate to have found someone with such energy, enthusiasm, and experience to help us grow this society."

Cortes-Caminero earned a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry, with a dual major in Hispanic literature, at SUNY Stony Brook, where she was elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa. She holds a Master of Science degree in pharmaceutical sciences from St. John's University, where she is currently a candidate for a PhD in pharmaceutical sciences with a concentration in pharmacology.

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About SBE

The Society for Biological Engineering (SBE) is a technological community for engineers and applied scientists integrating biology with engineering. It was established by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), in 2004. SBE's approximately 2,000 members come from a broad spectrum of industries and disciplines and share in SBE's mission of realizing the benefits of bioprocessing, biomedical and biomolecular applications. <http://bio.aiche.org>.

About AIChE

AIChE is a professional society of more than 43,000 chemical engineers in 92 countries. Its members work in corporations, universities and government using their knowledge of chemical processes to develop safe and useful products for the benefit of society. Through its varied programs, AIChE continues to be a focal point for information exchange on the frontier of chemical engineering research in such areas as energy, nanotechnology, sustainability, biological and environmental engineering, and chemical plant safety and security. More information about AIChE is available at www.aiche.org.