

## ASMR Medalist 2023: Professor Manu O. Platt

[Dr. Manu Platt](#) is the inaugural director of the NIH-wide Center for Biomedical Engineering Technology Acceleration (BETA Center), housed within the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) Intramural Research Program. In addition, Dr. Platt is NIBIB associate director for Scientific Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Previously, Dr. Platt was professor and Associate Chair of Graduate Studies in the Walter H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University. He also was Georgia Research Alliance Distinguished Cancer Scientist and Deputy Director, Interdisciplinary Bioengineering Graduate Program at Georgia Tech Walter H. Coulter Distinguished Faculty Fellow.



Dr. Platt earned his B.S. in Biology from Morehouse College and Ph.D. from Georgia Tech/Emory in biomedical engineering. After postdoctoral training at MIT, he returned to Georgia Tech/Emory Biomedical Engineering where he has been promoted to full Professor. Diseases of research focus are health disparities in the U.S., but global health concerns: pediatric strokes in sickle cell disease, predictive medicine for breast cancer, and HIV-mediated cardiovascular disease, which has taken him to South Africa and Ethiopia for collaborative work. He has been funded by NIH Director's New Innovator Award, American Heart Association, Georgia Cancer Coalition, and NSF.

Integrated with his research are mentoring goals of changing the look of the next generation of scientists and engineers. Dr. Platt co-founded and directs Project ENGAGES, a program paying African-American high school students to work as paid researchers in Georgia Tech labs since 2013. Awards for mentoring and outreach have included the Georgia Tech Diversity Champion award and Georgia Tech Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Advisor. He was named an Emerging Scholar by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine, the Biomedical Engineering Society Diversity Award and Lecture, Fellow of American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), Fellow of BMES, the Root 100 in 2019, and AAAS Mentor Award in 2021.