

**2026 SEFA Annual Conference—Nov. 11– 13, 2026**

**J W Marriott—Aventura, Florida**



Dear Members and Industry Colleagues,

I hope you all have been accomplishing your personal and professional goals recently....and speaking of accomplishments!

### **2026 SEFA Lifetime Achievement Award Honorees at Our Annual Conference:**

We are pleased to announce that during the Thursday night intracoastal cruise at this year's SEFA Annual Conference, we will honor Hank von der Bruegge formerly of DURCON and Abbie Gregg of AM Technical Solutions with SEFA Lifetime Achievement Awards for their incredible accomplishments and extensive contributions to the success of SEFA. Hank worked in the laboratory furniture industry for several decades, primarily for Laboratory Tops and DURCON. He served as the SEFA 3 Chair and later Co-Chair for more than twelve (12) years and was appointed to serve on SEFA's Board of Directors in 2018. Hank remained an active Board Member until his retirement in January of 2023. Over the course of his outstanding career, Hank greatly impacted the industry on a global level through his leadership, knowledge, wisdom, and generosity. We are extremely lucky to have had Hank so involved in SEFA over the years, and we are looking forward to honoring him at our Annual Conference.

Abbie is an MIT graduate who has been a force in the industry throughout the course of her accomplished career. In 1985, Abbie started her own company (aptly named "Abbie Gregg, Inc.") that specialized in cleanrooms, hazardous process materials, advanced imaging and additive manufacturing for university, government and industrial clients around the world. As a SEFA Advisory Board Member, Abbie has been an active contributor on several SEFA Standard writing committees. She is so accomplished in her field, she has earned the nickname, "The Queen of Cleanrooms".

To be part of celebrating these two industry legends, please join us at our Annual Conference at the JW Marriott Miami Turnberry Resort & Spa from November 11-13. To register for or learn more about our Annual Conference, please visit our [website](#).

### **Approved Standards:**

Last week, our Board of Directors officially approved the changes made to the SEFA 8 - Plastic Laminate, Polypropylene, and Wood Casework Standards. This final approval from the Board of Directors comes after the updated standards had gone through all of the required steps of the official [SEFA Standardization process](#). These standards have been posted under the [Standards tab on the SEFA website](#).

## **SEFA Lab of the Year® Competition:**

We are now accepting submissions for the 2026 SEFA Lab of the Year® Competition! The deadline to submit a project is August 1st, but it's never too soon to start working on your submission for a chance at winning one of the world's most prestigious laboratory design awards. The winner of the 2026 SEFA Lab of the Year® Competition will be announced live on November 12th during our Annual Conference. For more information about the SEFA Lab of the Year® Competition, please visit our [website](#) or watch the most recent [video](#) on SEFA's YouTube channel, "Breakdown of the SEFA Lab of the Year® Competition".

## **Lab Ops & Facility Management for Biopharma West:**

We have recently entered into a cross-promotional marketing agreement with Hanson Wade in which we will promote their upcoming conference in San Diego, CA from August 11-13 in exchange for their promotion of SEFA. The 3rd Lab Ops & Facility Management for Biopharma West Summit will unite 70+ senior lab operations and facilities professionals from leading biotech and pharma organizations to discuss how to run smarter, more resilient laboratories. Across three days, attendees will explore strategies to integrate automation into the R&D lab, manage assets and vendors more effectively, and maintain operational excellence while navigating tighter budgets and evolving workforce structures. For more information about this conference, please visit their [website](#).

## **SEFA on LinkedIn:**

Thank you all so much for following our official [LinkedIn page](#) and liking, reacting to, and commenting on our posts! Our page now has over 2,000 followers and continues to grow, and it is all thanks to you. As a reminder, please repost our posts if you or your company are featured on the page so that we can maximize the industry's awareness of SEFA's brand and, of course, our accomplishments!

**Ross Sutton, JD**  
**Associate General Counsel, Director of Marketing**  
**Scientific Equipment and Furniture Association**