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Dr. Brendan Harley is an assistant professor in the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received his Sc.D. in Mechanical Engineering from MIT where he worked on developing collagen scaffolds for a wide range of tissue engineering applications. After a postdoc at the Joint Program in Transfusion Medicine at Children's Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Harley came to the University of Illinois in 2008. His research group is developing collagen based biomaterials to probe both the practical significance of how cell and matrix-based cues can be optimized for regenerative medicine applications and the mechanistic details of how individual cells within these biomaterials sense, integrate, and respond to multiple extrinsic cues from their microenvironment. He was a co-founder of Orthomimetics, an orthopedic tissue engineering company based in the U.K.