

# THE INTERNATIONAL BIOMATERIALS STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS TO EXPERIENCE ADVANCED BIOMATERIALS RESEARCH



## PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE IN THE GLOBAL ARENA

The **International Biomaterials Student Exchange Program** creates valuable training experiences in leading edge biomaterials research for advanced graduate students. These young scientists are drawn from the most prominent biomaterials research laboratories worldwide, directed by members of the International College of Fellows of Biomaterials Science and Engineering. Unlike many exchange programs, which focus largely on

cross-cultural experiences, this science exchange program develops individual research plans for each student during the three-month summer term. Each international student will have a pre-arranged workplan, leading to scientifically meaningful results. In this way, the exchange program can help the student and the international faculty mentor to advance their research interests and form lasting collaborations.

## YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

- Help to support costs in US by making charitable contributions
- Connect with international scholars - both visiting young scientists in the US and their faculty mentors in their home countries



2015 Summer Students at NJCBM.

## PILOT PROGRAM REPORTS SUCCESS

Since 2007, the New Jersey Center for Biomaterials at Rutgers has conducted pilot versions of the International Biomaterials Student Exchange Program. The summer program has hosted scholars, from Singapore, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Poland, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Taiwan, India, Brazil, Spain, China, and

United Kingdom. One home country mentor reported on her student's experience at Rutgers by writing: *I very much appreciate the intangible benefits of the program, of giving him access to research training in the US context, to broadening his network of peers and to enhancing his understanding of the global challenges in research.*

The **International College of Fellows of Biomaterials Science and Engineering (ICF-BSE)** was created in 2000 in conjunction with the World Biomaterials Congress. Its mission is to provide a forum for professional discussion and interactions among all fellows on issues pertaining to international collaborations, scientific exchanges and the practice of Biomaterials Science and Engineering (BSE) within a global community of scientists. Currently, there are 280 ICF - BSE fellows representing 10 national or regional biomaterials societies.

In performing its mission, the ICF-BSE adheres to these core initiatives:

- Facilitate the internationalization of biomaterials science education through short-term exchanges
- Support biomaterials science in developing countries
- Raise public awareness of the successes of biomaterials science
- Provide role models and exemplars of professionalism
- Create a sense of community in the international arena of biomaterials science

# WHO PARTICIPATES

**THE STUDENTS.** Promising graduate students in biomaterials science from an international array of leading laboratories, led by the distinguished scientists who belong to the International College of Fellows of Biomaterials Science and Engineering

**THE ORGANIZERS.** The organizing institution for the US program is the New Jersey Center for Biomaterials, based at Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey. The Center is one of the leading academic research groups to address the challenges of biomaterials discovery and optimization through a rational interdisciplinary approach. The

**THE DIRECTOR.** The International Biomaterials Student Exchange Program is directed by Dr. Joachim Kohn, chair of the ICF - BSE. He is a Board

(ICF - BSE). These are some of the world's most prominent scientists in areas of biomaterials, medical devices, drug delivery, tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.

Center manages sponsored programs of inventive research, postdoctoral education and translational research leading to partnerships with industry. These activities synergize to provide an enriched environment for innovative research that focuses on the ultimate societal goals of improved healthcare

of Governors Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Rutgers, and director of the New Jersey Center for Biomaterials.

## HOW ARE THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SELECTED

ICF-BSE fellows nominate promising graduate students from their labs. Director Joachim Kohn reviews nominations and speaks with the ICF fellows about potential summer projects for their students. Each student is matched with a mentor so that his or her project can be fully supported with technical and intellectual resources. Summer accommodations and a social program are provided by the New Jersey Center for Biomaterials.



## HOW IS THE PROGRAM SUPPORTED

A combination of institutional and charitable contributions supports the program. Funds are used to cover local housing, health insurance, visa and lab fees for each international participant.

### *Examples of participating international institutions:*

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (USA)  
The University of New South Wales (Australia)  
University of Cambridge (England)  
University of Naples, Federico II (Italy)  
McGill University (Canada)  
Complutense University of Madrid (Spain)  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel)  
University of Sao Paulo (Brazil)

University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA)  
University of Paris XIII (France)  
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brazil)  
University of Minho (Portugal)  
Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)  
University of Liverpool (England)  
National University of Ireland, Galway (Ireland)  
University of Basque Country (Spain)



# PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

## Intl Exchange Program Participants: 2007 - 2016

### 2007

**Mr. Leonardus Kresna Widjaja** - Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)  
**Ms. Kanishka Herath** - Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)



### 2010

**Mr. Jędrzej Skrobot** - West Pomeranian University of Technology (Poland)  
**Ms. Ewa Balacha** - AGH-University of Science and Technology (Poland)  
**Ms. Sing Shy Liow** - Nanyang Technological University (NTU) (Singapore)

### 2011

**Ms. Valentina Cirillo** - University of Naples "Federico II" (Italy)  
**Mr. Josef Goding** - University of New South Wales (Australia)  
**Mr. Jen Fong Kong** - Nanyang Technological University (NTU) (Singapore)  
**Ms. Agnieszka Telecka** - AGH-University of Science and Technology (Poland)



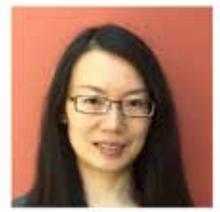
### 2012

**Ms. Joanna Gajowy** - West Pomeranian University of Technology (Poland)  
**Ms. Helena Felgueiras** - University of Paris XIII (France)  
**Mr. Tianyu Zhao** - National University of Ireland, Galway (Ireland)



### 2013

**Ms. Helena Felgueiras** - University of Paris XIII (France)  
**Ms. Ying-Chen Chen** - Taipei Medical University (Taiwan)  
**Mr. Julien Guerrero** - National Institute for Health and Medical Research (Inserm), Bordeaux (France)  
**Mr. Edward Inns** - University of Cambridge (UK)



### 2014

**Ms. Tayana Mazin Tsubone** - University of Sao Paulo (Brazil)  
**Ms. Maria Martinez Ibanez** - University of Basque Country (Spain)  
**Ms. Priya Sahadevan Syamala** - Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (India)



### 2015

**Ms. Caroline Kohn** - University of Leipzig (Germany)  
**Dr. Xue Qu** - East China University of Science and Technology (China)

### 2016

**Dr. Yulin Li** - East China University of Science and Technology (China)

# HOW IS IT WORKING SO FAR?

*"It was a unique experience in such a way that I have learned a lot professionally and personally. The program gave me the opportunity to improve my training, work with good scientists, and establish collaborations with them. I also made good friendships with people from different countries."* - **Tayana M. Tsubone (Brazil)**



*"Valentina had a great experience, and I would like to thank you again for giving her this unique opportunity."* - **Dr. Luigi Ambrosio (Italy)**



*"My experience here was amazing, one to remember. It was possible to work and learn while having fun. Thank you NJCBM for everything."* - **Helena Felgueiras (France)**



*"Working in a new, stimulating environment and engaging with researchers in different disciplines rewarded me with a very valuable experience."* - **Edward Inns (United Kingdom)**



*"I think that the experience Agnieszka gained will be a good background for her PhD studies. Thank you very much for supervising her. I would like to appreciate a great value of gained experience by our students in your Lab."* - **Dr. Jan Chlopek (Poland)**



*"Jen Fong is back and quite delighted with his experience. It appears that the mentors you assigned to help were indeed great mentors! Thank you once again for hosting him. He is almost ready to wind up his thesis work now."* - **Dr. Subbhu Venkatraman (Singapore)**



**Thanks to our program sponsors, the New Jersey Center for Biomaterials has hosted students from 13 different countries.**

For further information, contact the Program Coordinator,  
Carmen Castro at [cbmoffice@dls.rutgers.edu](mailto:cbmoffice@dls.rutgers.edu)



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