Dear Friends of UIC Bioengineering,

In our Fall 2014 Newsletter, I’m proud to share with you the latest accomplishments of our outstanding faculty and students. It’s also at this time I remind you that we are entering our 50th year of continuous operation as one of the oldest bioengineering programs in the country, offering both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Our undergraduate program, third in the nation to receive ABET accreditation when ABET came into existence in the 1970’s, just received a six-year unconditional renewal of its accreditation after a review in October. Our plans to celebrate our 50 year milestone in 2015 will be forthcoming in the near future.

It’s been a great privilege for me to serve first as Interim Head and now as Head of Bioengineering for the last five of those fifty years. During just the last five years UIC Bioengineering has experienced some tremendous growth. Our undergraduate program has increased in size by 44% from 190 to 274 students, while over that same period seeing a significant increase in the preparedness of our incoming students, with one indicator being a 2.4 point increase in the average ACT score of incoming freshman. We continue to graduate more PhD students than all but a few of the Big Ten BioE/BME programs, and in most years our graduating classes at all levels – BS, MS, PhD – reflect a diversity not seen anywhere else in the Midwest. Our core faculty numbers have increased from 14 to 21 full-time equivalent (see new hires below), and our affiliate faculty base continues to exceed 100. The affiliate faculty, many of whom are in the UIC College of Medicine as well as other health-related colleges at UIC, and at nearby medical institutions, Rush Medical University, Loyola University and the Rehab Institute of Chicago, are primarily involved in advising and co-mentoring our many graduate students. We’ve also introduced some curricular innovations, such as the clinical immersion experience highlighted in this newsletter.

As always, thank you for helping support our continued strive for excellence. Gifts targeted to the department continue to help us achieve our strategic goals, and could include opportunities to endow a named professorship, scholarship, laboratory, or special facility or program. See our “Give to UIC BioE” button on our website at bioe.uic.edu. In addition to financial support, I know that the network of UIC BioE alumni and friends will continue to help our students find internship and employment opportunities. I am always happy to meet our alumni and friends and welcome your visit. And, please join our Facebook group; see the link on the back cover.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Royston

Faculty hired in the last five years

Assistant Professor Jun Cheng, PhD (2010)
Live-cell imaging, Ultrafast laser microsurgery, Stem cell regulations

Clinical Associate Professor Miiri Kotche, PhD (2011)
Interdisciplinary medical product development (IMPD), Senior design, Global health

Clinical Assistant Professor Hananeh Esmailbeigi, PhD (2012)
Neural engineering, Neural and biological signal processing, Bioinstrumentation, Global health device development

Assistant Professor Dieter Klatt, PhD (2013)
Elastography, MRI, Motion-sensitive Imaging

Assistant Professor Ao Ma, PhD (2013)
Bioinformatics, Microtubules dynamic modeling

Assistant Professor Daniela Valdez-Jasso, PhD (2013)
Soft-tissue biomechanics, Cardiovascular physiology, Pulmonary hypertension, Vascular biology - parameter estimation optimization

Professor Jose Oberholzer, MD (2013)
(Primary appointment in Surgery)
Surgery, Transplantation

Assistant Professor Vuk Uskokovic, PhD (2014)
Tissue engineering

Associate Professor Alex Leow, MD, PhD (2014)
(Primary appointment in Psychiatry)
Board-certified in psychiatry, Computational neuroimaging

Professor Xincheng Yao, PhD (2014)
Biomedical optics instrumentation, Optical imaging of retinal function, Biophysical study of neural physiology
Jie Liang Investiture

On September 17th, Dr. Jie Liang was formally recognized by becoming the fourth Richard and Loan Hill Professor in Engineering at UIC. He joins Professors Ahmed Shabana (Mechanical & Industrial Engineering), Michael Stroscio (Bioengineering and Electrical & Computer Engineering) and Ouri Wolfsson (Computer Science).

Dr. Jie Liang joined the Department of Bioengineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1999 as an assistant professor and became a full professor in 2007. He received his B.S. in biophysics, from Fudan University in 1986 and his M.S in computer science and Ph.D. in biophysics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1995. Liang continued at UIUC as a National Science Foundation Computer and Information Science and Engineering research associate at the Beckman Institute and National Center for Supercomputing and its Applications. He subsequently was a visiting fellow at the NSF Institute of Mathematics and Applications at the University of Minnesota and a researcher for the pharmaceutical company SmithKline Beecham (now GlaxoSmithKline).

Liang is the co-author of more than 80 published journal articles and a half-dozen book chapters. He is associate editor of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics, a member of the editorial board of Gene and Development, and a founding editorial board member of the International Journal of Bioinformatics Research and Applications. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Medicine and Biological Engineering. Liang is a recipient of the NSF Faculty Early Career Development Award and UIC's University Scholar Award, which supports faculty members who have demonstrated superior performance in both research and teaching and who show great promise for future achievements.
NEW Faculty Profiles

Alex Leow, M.D., Ph.D.

As a joint hire with the Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Alex Leow, M.D., Ph.D., joined the core faculty of the Richard and Loan Hill Department of Bioengineering on June 2014. As a physician scientist and a board-certified psychiatrist, Dr. Leow received medical training in Psychiatry and research training in biomedical imaging both at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She received her Ph.D. in Biomathematics at UCLA in 2003 and previously had received her M.D. from the National Taiwan University College of Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan.

Having co-authored more than 80 articles, Dr. Leow’s current research interests focus on developing novel computational techniques for brain connectomics and applying them to the study of neuropsychiatric illnesses. Prior to joining the faculty of the Departments of Psychiatry and Bioengineering at UIC, Dr. Leow was affiliated with the Laboratory of Neuroimaging (LONI), then at UCLA, and developed several key high-dimensional non-linear image registration techniques. Dr. Leow continues to collaborate extensively with researchers both within and outside of the university, with joint projects investigating a wide range of neuropsychiatric illnesses including bipolar disorder, late-life depression, Alzheimer’s disease, body dysmorphic disorder, Fragile-X syndrome, and diabetes-related neuroimaging abnormalities.

Besides research, Dr. Leow enjoys playing classical piano as both an amateur soloist and a chamber musician. Dr. Leow currently performs, as a piano trio, with another physician scientist Dr. Jennifer Goldman (violin) at Rush University and Grammy award-winning cellist Donald Moline.

Hananeh Esmailbeigi (Co-PI)
“Testing of a prototype obstetrical medical device for auto transfusion in life threatening postpartum hemorrhage”
UIC Discovery Fund, $40,000

“Obstetrical Medical Device for Auto Transfusion in Post-Partum Hemorrhage (PPH)”
UIC Proof of Concept Award, $75,000

Jie Liang (Co-PI):
“Using Empirical and Mathematical Approaches to Model Yeast Gradient Sensing”
NSF $204,109 (08/14-07/18)

Jose Oberholzer (PI)
“Multicomponent microcapsules for allogeneic islet transplantation in a comprehensive, preclinical non-human primate model.”
JDRF $384,998 (09/14-08/16)

“Advanced Biomaterials and delivery systems for Islet Encapsulation”
JDRF (To MIT- PI Langer, with subcontract to UIC - SC PI Oberholzer) $1,969,491 (09/14-08/16)

Dieter Klatt (PI)
“Magnetic Resonance Elastography for the early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s Disease”
UIC Discovery Fund, $40,000

“Validation of in vivo Sample Interval Modulation-Magnetic Resonance Elastography”
UIC Proof of Concept Award, $50,148

Andres Linninger (PI)
“Intrathecal Magnetic Drug Targeting to the Central Nervous”
NSF CBET $298,848 (05/14-04/17)

Xincheng Yao (PI)
“Super-resolution ophthalmoscopy for in vivo retinal imaging”
NIH-R01 $1,013,010 (09/14-08/17)

“Functional imaging of retinal photoreceptors”
NIH-R01 $1,615,565 (04/14-03/19)
On November 1, 2014, Professor Xincheng Yao joined the UIC Department of Bioengineering. He also has a secondary faculty appointment with the UIC Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences, and serves as the Instrument Core Director at the UIC Lions of Illinois Eye Research Institute. Dr. Yao’s prior appointment was with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), where he was an Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Co-Director of the Advanced Image Analysis Core at UAB Vision Science Research Center, and a member of UAB’s Center for the Development of Functional Imaging.

Dr. Yao received his PhD in Optics from the Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2001. This was followed by his postdoctoral research in biomedical optics with Dr. John S. George and Dr. David M. Rector at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) from 2001 to 2004. He held a LANL Technical Staff appointment from 2004 to 2006, and served at CFD Research Corporation as a Senior Research Scientist from 2006 to 2007. He joined UAB as an Assistant Professor in 2007, and received an early promotion to Associate Professor in 2012. Dr. Yao is a well-established expert in biomedical optics instrumentation and retinal imaging. As a pioneer of optical imaging of retinal physiology, he reported the first ever functional optical coherence tomography (OCT) recording of stimulus-evoked intrinsic optical signals (IOSs) correlated with retinal physiological activities. At UAB, he served as the PI on multiple biomedical optics and imaging projects funded by NIH, the NSF CAREER, the Dana Foundation, Alabama Eyesight Foundation, and the UAB Institute of Interdisciplinary Imaging. He has authored more than 40 peer-reviewed articles, and given multiple invited talks and seminars in conferences, universities and research institutes in the USA, Canada and China.

Dr. Yao’s lab is focused on optical technology for advanced study of retinal morphology and physiology. They have developed both time-domain and spectral-domain optical coherence tomography (OCT) systems to investigate OCT correlates of the outer retina. In-depth understanding of anatomic sources of the OCT signal is essential for accurate interpretation of clinical outcomes and is valuable for instrument optimization to enable reliable assessment of AMD and other eye diseases. Dr. Yao’s lab is currently working on functional OCT, high-speed confocal and super-resolution mapping of intrinsic optical signal dynamics correlated with retinal physiological kinetics. Their recent experiments revealed transient phototropic change in retinal rod photoreceptors and they anticipate that further investigation of the rod-dominant phototropic response can provide a high-resolution IOS biomarker to allow objective identification of rod dysfunction, thereby allowing early detection and easy treatment evaluation of eye diseases, such as AMD-associated photoreceptor degeneration.
Dr. Jose Oberholzer is a surgeon and scientist that is passionate about finding a cure for diabetes. As the director of the Islet and Pancreas Transplant Program at UIC, he performs about 10 islet transplants a year from among 50,000 diabetic patients whose disease rages out of control even after current standard treatments. Islet transplant is the process of transferring islet cells, the insulin-secreting beta cells, from a donated pancreas into the diabetic patient’s liver. People with Type 1 diabetes can no longer produce their own insulin to regulate their blood sugar levels. During the transplant, the liver is the most important organ for controlling blood sugar and has the highest success rate of accepting the islet cells. Sometimes it works on the first try but depending on the patient, it may take two or three tries. Of his patients receiving the procedure, approximately 60 percent of them are off their daily insulin injections within five years. While this process is extremely successful, he estimated that only about 150 total procedures can be performed given the current supply of donated pancreas. These donated pancreas also vary in quality and are always in short supply.

Recent breakthroughs in the research of stem-cells by Douglas Melton of Harvard have potentials to consistently provide a supply of beta cells. Dr. Melton is the co-director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute. He’s been an advocate in stem-cell biology since his own son and daughter were diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Melton and his team have figured out how to turn embryonic stem cells into beta cells. Beta cells are the insulin-secreting cells of the pancreas and the missing component of people with Type 1 diabetes. “We wanted to replace insulin injections” with “nature's own solution,” says Melton. There is still more testing and work that needs to be ironed out before they are mass produced and available.

What this means for Dr. Oberholzer is that this potential breakthrough might result in a limitless supply of beta cells for islet transplants. “I would say it’s bigger than the discovery of insulin,” he notes. Insulin allows patients to survive but this discovery has the potential to wean patients off insulin altogether and allow them to live their normal lives. Roughly two million Americans suffer from Type 1 diabetes. Given an unlimited supply of beta cells, Dr. Oberholzer and the Islet and Pancreas Transplant Program at UIC could essentially perform countless successful procedures with this potentially functional cure. “This is a phenomenal accomplishment”, says Dr. Oberholzer.

Dr. Oberholzer collaborating with fellow Bioengineering Associate Professor David Eddington on microfluidic devices to aid in his islet transplantations.

More about this can be found in the recent UIC College of Engineering Magazine Spring/Summer 2014 and UIC Medicine Magazine Summer 2014
Clinical Immersions

This past summer, a dozen students were able to experience once in a lifetime internships in which they shadowed doctors around in real clinical environments. Funded by the NIH ‘Translational Design of Medical Devices’ grant (PI: Miiri Kotche), these students were able to follow doctors around and identify real medical and engineering needs in a hospital. The Clinical Immersion Program is a six-week internship designed to provide extensive exposure to the clinical environment in order to conduct human-centered research focusing on observation and needs assessments. Small groups of students rotate every three weeks through two hospital clinics. An example rotation was three weeks in Orthopaedics and another three in Hematology/Oncology. Each team is provided a clinical mentor in each rotation. As early as the second day of the internship, many students were able to go into an operating room and observe an ongoing surgery. In addition to operating rooms, students were able to ask doctors and medical students about their daily routine and identify potential needs and problems with engineering applications.

This unique program is for undergraduate juniors going into their senior year in preparation for the Interdisciplinary Medical Product Development class. Through collaborations with doctors at the UIC hospital, students witnessed medical procedures, investigated the philosophy of approach by the practitioners, participated in problem-solving sessions, and identified problems or difficulties that can potentially serve as a future opportunity for improvement through bioengineering design. The success of the program lies in exposing students to the entire medical product development cycle, beginning in the earliest stages of needs assessment.

Learn more and read about actual experiences from the interns’ blogs at: https://sites.google.com/a/uic.edu/bioengineering-clinical-immersion/

Left to right: Clinical Immersion students and faculty mentors - Susan Stirling from UIC School of Design (mentor), Ryan Orda, Matt Dela Cruz, Justin Thomas, Nada Abdelrahim, Martin Strama, Nadia Crawley, Victoria Way, Martin Gannon, Haroon Papa, and Clinical Associate Professor Miiri Kotche (mentor).
Department of Bioengineering doctoral graduates in Spring 2014 semester

Golnar Doroudian, PhD in Bioengineering
Delivery of Mechanical and Chemical Stimuli to Advance Regeneration
Advisor: Brenda Russell

Georgi Genchev, PhD in Bioinformatics
Computational Studies of Mechanical Signal Transduction in Proteins
Advisor: Hui Lu

Hsien-Chi Kuo, PhD in Bioengineering
Development and Evaluation of Computerized Segmentation Algorithm for 3D Multimodality Breast Images
Advisor: Maryellen Giger

Sujeeth Parthiban, PhD in Bioengineering
A Novel Method to Determine the Impact of Different Saddle Designs on Male Cyclists’ Perineal Blood Flow
Advisor: Craig Niederberger

Department of Bioengineering master’s graduates in Spring 2014 semester

John Grotberg, MS in Bioengineering
Modifying Ti6Al4V Implant Surfaces: Cell Responses and Corrosion Resistance of Annealed Titania Nanotubes
Advisor: Christos Takoudis

Yajur Parikh, MS in Bioengineering
Fractal Dimension Assessment of Dibenzo[a,l]pyrene Oral Carcinogenesis
Advisor: Joel Schwartz

Mruga Patel, MS in Bioengineering
Effect of Fusion on the Adjacent Segment Motion in a Lumbar Spine
Advisor: Raghu Natarajan

Padmabharathi Pothisrajan, MS in Bioengineering
Magnetic Resonance Characterization of Stem Cell Based Tissue - Engineered Cartilage and Bone
Advisor: Mrignayani Kotecha

Department of Bioengineering doctoral graduates in Summer 2014 semester

Taneka Taylor, MS in Bioengineering
Human Dental Pulp Stem Cell Adhesion and Viability Studies in Hybrid Hydrogels
Advisor: Michael Cho

Department of Bioengineering master’s graduates in Summer 2014 semester

Deivya Bansal, MS in Bioengineering
Movement Skill Generalization Relevant to Robotic Neuro-rehabilitation
Advisor: James Patton

Laura Jane Elgass, MS in Bioengineering
Microfluidic Approaches for Algae Culture in Controlled Oxygen Environments
Advisor: David Eddington

Matthew Ellis, MS in Bioengineering
Tear Film Thickness and its Effects on the Recording of Multi-electrode Electroretinographic Responses
Advisor: John Hetling

Navya Shilpa Josyula, MS in Bioinformatics
Identifying Ligand Binding Sites of Proteins using Crystallographic Bfactors and Relative Pocket Sizes
Advisor: Constance Jeffery
Recent Alumni Spotlight

Catherine Santis received her undergraduate degree in Bioengineering from UIC this past Spring. She is currently a first year graduate student pursuing a Master of Science degree in Bioengineering. While an undergraduate, Catherine had the opportunity to work on a medical device development project that originated from Senior Design. The goal of the project was to address major issues that occur during endotracheal intubation such as teeth chipping and aspiration, minor lip lacerations, as well as tracheal perforation. After several months of research and prototyping, Catherine and her team designed a mouth guard and oral airway device that provides airway management, tube retention, teeth and lip protection during intubation. The device is intended to be used by trained medical personnel on adult patients during general surgery, emergency medicine, and critical care. Upon successfully completing their senior design project, team advisor, Trevor Wesolowski, Senior Design Engineer at Design Integrity, decided to further advance the device. This led to a successful filing of a patent, and later the development of a start-up company called Defiant Airway Management, LLC. Catherine is very proud of the advancements that she and her team continue to make to further enhance this device. She envisions this product to be successful in the medical field and hopes that the device can protect patients while also facilitating physicians.

Nikhil Bommakanti received his B.S. degree in Bioengineering from UIC this past Spring. Nikhil is a recipient of the Whitaker Foundation Fellowship, and upon graduation started a Masters Program at Oxford University, UK. After completion of this program he is already accepted to medical school at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, NY.

For his masters research his focus is on acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), a devastating form of lung injury with an estimated annual incidence of 190,600 cases in the United States (Rubenfeld. NEJM, 2005) and a mortality rate of approximately 25% at specialized ARDS Network centers (Erickson. Crit Care Med, 2009). Patients with ARDS require ventilatory support, yet mechanical ventilation is inherently harmful. He is using his group’s novel intravascular oxygen sensors to identify biomarkers of an injury mechanism that leads to ventilator-induced lung injury in a large animal model of ARDS and determine the physiological mechanism(s) that give rise to dynamic oxygenation in the context of ARDS and mechanical ventilation. His aim is to develop the tools and understanding necessary such that in the intensive care setting ventilatory parameters may be adjusted in real time and on an individual basis so life-saving ventilation can be administered with minimal progression of lung injury.
Zahra Derafshi was selected as a finalist in the UIC ‘Image of Research’ contest. (Advisor: Hetling)

Student awards and Honorable Mentions (since our last newsletter in Spring 2014)

Matthew Bochenek is a 2013/14 Kosciuszko Foundation Graduate Tuition Scholarship recipient, 2014 UIC Dean Scholar Fellowship recipient, and 2014 BRG Bioencapsulation Conference Best Student Oral Contribution. (Advisor: Oberholzer)

Royston recognized at the NIH National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)
Professor Thomas Royston was one of eight recipients of the Nagy New Investigator Award recognized at the Second Edward C. Nagy New Investigator Symposium at the NIH in Bethesda, MD on July 30, 2014. This award and symposium highlights accomplishments of researchers under their first R01 (Research Project Grant) from NIBIB. Information about Professor Royston’s R01 project, “The Audible Human Project”, can be found at: http://acoustics.mie.uic.edu/AHP/htdocs/default.php. This award was named in honor of Mr. Edward Nagy, one of the driving forces behind enactment of the legislation that created the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering in 2000.

Jesse Gerringer was awarded the Honors College Research Grant. (Advisor: Valdez-Jasso)

Moria Fisher was awarded a research externship to Zurich to work at ETH. (Advisor: Patton)

Nikhil Bommakanti was selected for a 2014/15 Whitaker International Program Fellowship grant. (Advisor: Cho)

Diana Gutierrez was awarded the BioTech Scientist and Mentoring Diversity Program Award Scholar and MedTech SMDP Award scholar for 2014. (Advisor: Oberholzer)

Zahra Derafshi was selected as a finalist in the UIC ‘Image of Research’ contest. (Advisor: Hetling)

The Computer & Chemical Engineering Best Paper of the Year 2013 AIChE award goes to Andrej Mosat, Eric Lueshen, Martina Heitzig, Cierra Hall, Andreas Linninger, Gurkan Sin, and Rafiqul Gani for ‘First Principles Pharmacokinetic Modeling: A Quantitative Study on Cyclosporin, ‘Computers & Chemical Engineering 54: 97-110, 2013’. This award is given to the best computer and chemical engineering paper submitted to AIChE from hundreds of submissions. In the paper, Dr. Linninger and his lab describe the biodistribution of the immunosuppressant drug Cyclosporin in the whole body and how the rate constants for mechanistic models can be determined from response curves. Whole body pharmacokinetic models and parameter estimation techniques as described in the paper could lead in the future to faster time-to-market of new drugs and better methods to mitigate patient risk due to side effects of pharmacokinetically active compounds.

Pictured from left clockwise: Andrej Mosat, Eric Lueshen, Andreas Linninger, and Cierra Hall

Cover Page Image

Recipients of the Annual Nagy Award and NIH NIBIB staff. Top row from left to right: Omid Farokhzad, Brigham and Women’s Hospital; Paul LaBarre, PATH; Adam Cohen, Harvard; Roderic Pettigrew, Director of NIBIB; Thomas Royston, UIC; Christine Kelly, NIBIB Program Director; Steven Krosknick, NIBIB Program Director. Seated from left to right: Shaochen Chen, Univ. of California, San Diego; Peter Kochunov, Univ. of Maryland; Quyen Nguyen, Univ. of California, San Diego; Jan Grimm, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

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Students featured on Univision

As part of their capstone class, Senior Design students, Denise Espino Barros, Cyril George, Kyle Kumpke, Masood Qader, and Katrina Weber designed a device to help the millions of people that suffer hand injuries every year. In cases where hand injuries occur and surgery is required, hands need to go through rehabilitation. While most of these devices provide a level of assistance, most lack the diversity in functionality desired to correctly treat a hand. The group designed a device that could provide multiple levels of movement for the human fingers and thumbs. They designed it so that while there was still movement and at the same time, it would strengthen the fingers in the process. This was done by incorporating resistance bands that could be adjusted by the turn of a dial. This eliminates the need for bands of different set resistances, with a device that could be utilized the entire duration of the rehabilitation period. Such a design followed the requirement of portability and ease of use. Resistance measurements were done using basic tension principles and a tensile tester provided by the University of Illinois at Chicago. Adhering to the established design requirements facilitated the creation of a device that strengthens fingers by varying the resistance internally in addition to allowing multiple dimensions of freedom. After winning the gold award in the category ‘Assistance and Living Products’, the students were featured on Univision. Watch the feature at: http://chicago.univision.com/videos/video/2014-05-05/por-el-prototipo-de-una

Student Awards (cont.)

Christopher Knowlton won first place in the Moving Image Category in the 2014 UIC Image of Research Contest. (Advisor: Wimmer)

Joshua E. Mendoza-Elias received the 2014 American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Fluids Engineering Division (FED) Graduate Scholarship, 2014 UIC-COM Urban Health Program José Barbaso, and was awarded registration and travel to the Professional Development and Data Systems Workshop, Hispanic Serving Health Professions Schools (HSHPS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). (Advisor: Oberholzer)

Mohammad Nourmohammadzadeh received the Best Poster presentation at the 9th Chicago Diabetes Day at University of Chicago. (Advisor: Oberholzer)

Nataliya Rokhmanova was awarded Honors College Undergraduate Research and Travel Grant. (Advisor: Hetling)

Carlos Ng was awarded the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship award. (Advisor: Eddington)

Mohammad Nourmohammadzadeh received the Best Poster presentation at the 9th Chicago Diabetes Day at University of Chicago. (Advisor: Oberholzer)

Kirti Yenkie won the graduate student Women and Gender Research award at the UIC Research Forum for her research related to InVitro Fertilization. (Advisor: Diwekar)

Sathees Selvaraj was awarded 2013 UIC Dean’s Scholar Award and UIC Graduate student council travel award for 2014. (Advisor: Takoudis)

Jacek Lechowicz won the Provost’s & Deiss Award for his project on ‘Microfluid Platform for the Study of Cellular and Molecular Water Transport in the Central Nervous System.” (Advisor: Linninger)

Carlos Ng was awarded the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship award. (Advisor: Eddington)

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