

2007 Summer Undergraduate Internship Program

Alexander Cigan
Tulane University



Alex recently completed his Sophomore year at Tulane University majoring in biomedical engineering. His future plans are to pursue and obtain a graduate degree. This summer Alex will be working with Michael Sacks, PhD, at the University of Pittsburgh. His research will focus on examining the tissue culture of bladder smooth muscle cells on small intestinal submucosa (SIS) under the influence of the growth factors bFGF and VEGF. Alex enjoys sports, COFFEE, music, and an occasional good book. He is looking forward to spending a day at Kennywood this summer.

Emily Cooperstein
University of Notre Dame



A major in Sociology & Pre-Medicine a senior next year at the University of Notre Dame, this summer, Emily will be working with William Wagner, PhD, University of Pittsburgh. Her research will focus primarily on pursuing strategies to locally interrupted undesirable cell adhesion signals within the body, replacing them with signals specific for a given pharmaceutical agent or for a delivered cell. Emily hobbies are playing soccer, hanging with friends, going to country music concerts and shopping.

Danielle Dukes
California University of Pennsylvania



This summer Danielle will be working with Steven Abramowitch, PhD, University of Pittsburgh. Her work will focus on characterizing changes in the biomechanical properties of functional tissue engineering scaffolds, as well as their effects on the mechanics of treated ligaments and tendons. A senior next year at California University of PA, majoring in Pre-Medicine; Danielle's hobbies include, reading, playing basketball. She is interested in the field of medicine in general and the Bullmastiff dog breed.

Kristin Frawley
CCAC-Boyce Campus



Kristin, will be a sophomore this year, majoring in Biotechnology at the Community College of Allegheny County. This summer, she will work with Savio L-Y Woo, PhD, University of Pittsburgh. Her research will focus on characterizing changes in the biomechanical properties of functional tissue engineering scaffolds, as well as their effects on the mechanics of treated ligaments and tendons. Kristen interests are scrap-booking, reading a good book and spending time with family.

Jack Galagan
University of Notre Dame

A junior in the fall as a Pre-Professional Studies major, Jack plans to go to medical school. His hobbies include hunting camping and just being outdoors. Jack hopes to get a chance to see San Antonio and hang out in a fun relaxed setting during his internship. This summer Jack is working with Charles Wade, PhD, at the US Army Institute of Surgical Research. His research will find Jack investigating the end-points of resuscitation and their impact on outcome in patients with traumatic combat injuries.

Samuel Getchell
University of Pittsburgh

Sam, who will be a senior this fall as a Chemistry major at the University of Pittsburgh, will intern with

Col. John Holcomb, PhD at the US Army Institute of Surgical Research. From existing data sets Sam will be involved in modeling glucose and insulin levels over the course of patients hospital stay looking at relationships to outcome. Sam's efforts will also be directed at novel, real time monitoring of plasma glucose to provide feedback to effective insulin administration.

David Gladowski
John Hopkins University

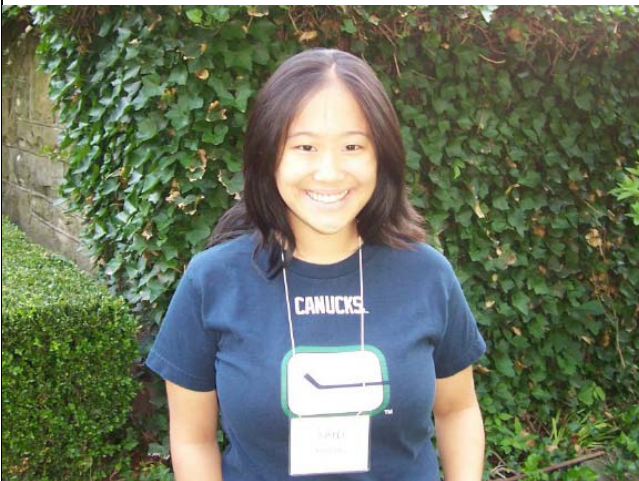


An incoming sophomore this year at John Hopkins University, David is a Molecular and Cellular Biology major. David will work with Savio Woo, PhD, University of Pittsburgh. David's research will examine mechanical and biological characterization of tissue engineered collagen scaffolds. His examinations will include utilizing stretching equipment, as well as performing mechanical testing of healing ligaments treated with tissue derived scaffolds. Ultimate Frisbee, politics, movies and outdoors are some of David's hobbies.

Alexandra Jacob
Texas A&M University

A junior this fall at Texas A&M University, Alexandra is a Biomedical Engineering major. Alexandra enjoys medical research, dance, and traveling. Alexandra is working with Wenjun Z. Martini, PhD, at the US Army Institute of Surgical Research. As an intern in Dr. Martini's lab, Alexandra will investigate changes of fibrin clot formation under hemorrhage, hypothermia and acidosis in pigs.

Angela Jiang
Carnegie Mellon University



A junior this year, majoring in Chemistry, Angela plans to pursue a medical degree following undergraduate graduation. Her hobbies include classical piano performance; contra & belly-dancing and ice hockey. She hopes to learn how to row (crew) this summer. This summer she is working with Drs. Alan Russell and Richard Koepsel at the University of Pittsburgh. Angela's summer research involves the generation and testing of smart coatings. These coatings are either antimicrobial polymers, polymers that release antimicrobial compounds in a controlled manner, or combinations of both. The overall goal of coating development is to produce

materials that will resist or prevent biofilm formation on medical devices.

Matthew Madden
Pennsylvania State University



Matthew is a sophomore at Pennsylvania State University, majoring in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Chemistry. His hobbies include anything outdoors and around water. This summer he will be working with Stephen Badylak, DVM, PhD, MD, at the University of Pittsburgh. Matthew's research will involve exposure to a wide variety of experimental procedures including cell culture, preparation of extracellular matrix biologic scaffolds, PCR, biomechanical testing, microscopy, and variety chromatographic procedures.

Michael Menegazzi
University of South Carolina, Columbia

A sophomore this year majoring in Biology & Science at the University of South Carolina, Michael will work with Garth Ehrlich, PhD at the Allegheny-Singer Research Institute. As an intern, Michael will be exposed to an array of research which focuses on the development of molecular therapeutic approaches to combat heterotrophic ossifications, a painful condition caused by abnormal bone growth in the soft tissue of blast victims.

John McCauley
University of Alabama at Birmingham

John expects to attend graduate school after completing his degree in Biomedical Engineering in 2007 at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. John enjoys computer games and playing the bass guitar. This summer John will be working with Tom Walters, PhD of the US Army Institute of Surgical Research. His research will primarily focus on the development of new biochemical methods for assessing the magnitude of ischemia/reperfusion injury in skeletal muscle as currently established methods are unacceptably variable and insensitive.

Jay Ong
Villanova University



Jay, who will be a junior this fall majoring in Chemical Engineering at Villanova University. His future plans are to attend graduate school. This summer, Jay will be interning with Lee Weiss, PhD, Carnegie Mellon University. Jay will assist in the development and testing of microminiatures, i.e., tissue-engineered biodegradable barbs, for applications in tissue joining and localized drug delivery. Jay's interests range from swimming to playing poker.

Elizabeth Pantalone
Carlow University

A sophomore this fall at Carlow University, Elizabeth is a Biology/Pre-med major. Elizabeth will intern with Robert Christy, PhD, at the US Army Institute of Surgical Research. Her summer research will provide Elizabeth exposure to an array of recent advances in tissue engineering indicating that adult stem cells (ASC) may provide a source of regenerative cells that may be clinically useful for de novo formation of muscle and bone lost to disease or trauma.

Roxanna (Roxy) Perez
Arizona State University



A School of Life Sciences junior at Arizona State University, majoring in Kinesiology, Roxy will be interning with Phil Campbell, PhD, at Carnegie Mellon University. Her research will focus on the identification of novel biocompatible biomaterials and innovative approaches to exploit the biomaterials' structural, chemical, physical and microstructural characteristics for bio-functional applications. Roxy's future plans consist of attending medical school. She is looking forward to walking around and exploring Pittsburgh.

Joseph Said
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



A junior at Rensselaer Polytechnic institute, Joe hopes to attend medical or graduate school after he graduates in May of 2008. Joe enjoys Taekwondo, playing the guitar and snowboarding. He hopes to catch a Pirate game this summer. This summer Joe is working with Marina V. Kameneva, PhD, University of Pittsburgh. His work will focus on various projects that will involve learning conventional rheological methods of assessment of RBC deformability using a Wells-Brookfield Cone/Plate viscometer, the Vilastic-3 Viscoelasticity Analyzer and capillary viscosimeters.

Brittany Sams
Spelman College

A sophomore this year, majoring in Biology at Spelman College. Brittany will be interning with Kacey Marra, PhD, University of Pittsburgh. Her research experience will focus on the use of adult stem cell culture from fat, as well as the development of novel biomaterials and cell/polymer interactions. Brittany enjoys basketball, and working out.

Lori Sanders
CCAC-Allegheny



As a Biotechnology major at the Community College of Allegheny County, Lori will work with David Vorp, PhD, University of Pittsburgh. In Dr. Vorp's lab, Lori will be exposed to an array of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) research. Specifically, Lori will be researching the levels of activity of matrix metalloproteinase 9 (MMP-9). Using gelatin zymography and densitometry, she will be interested in determine the relative fold changes in MMP-9 activity across different areas of the aneurysm sac.

Lara Seltz
University of Virginia



Recently completing her sophomore year at the University of Virginia, Lara is majoring in Biomedical Engineering. Lara is interning with Jennifer Ogilvia, PhD, at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Her research focus is related to tissue engineering of the adrenal gland, focusing on the isolation of adrenal progenitor cells from human fetal adrenal cortex using flow cytometry and cell sorting. Lara enjoys traveling with her family, rowing, snowboarding, and finding new restaurants with family and friends.

Sarita Shah
Trinity University

A junior this year at Trinity University, Sarita is majoring in Engineering Science. Sarita will intern with Andriy Batchinsky, PhD, US Army Institute of Surgical Research, where she will take part in the work of the pulmonary and cardiovascular physiology laboratory and will engage in studies involving analysis of electrocardiogram, arterial blood pressure and other physiologic waveforms by linear (fast Fourier transform) and nonlinear (a variety of novel methods investigating fractal organization, degree of irregularity, level of regulatory complexity and other indicators of state of the subject) statistical methods.

Darren Smith
University of Pittsburgh

A senior this year, Darren is majoring in Biological Sciences, Neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh. Darren enjoys basketball, both watching and playing it. Darren will intern with Kacey Marra, PhD at the University of Pittsburgh. His research experience will focus on the use of adult stem cell culture from fat, as well as the development of novel biomaterials and cell/polymer interactions

Neal Spada
Pennsylvania State University



Neal, a Chemistry/Pre-med major at Pennsylvania State University, will be working with James Kang, MD, at the University of Pittsburgh. Neal's research will consist of will in-vitro organ cultures of the rabbit disc, treated with various growth factor genes to affect increased extracellular matrix synthesis. His hobby interests are sports, music, movies and hanging out with friends.

Jennifer Stipanovic
Duquesne University

Jennifer, a Forensic Science and Law major, will be a senior this year at Duquesne University. She will be interning this summer with both Steven Wolf, MD & Heather Pidcoke, PhD at the US Army Institute of Surgical Research (ISR), Clinical Research. Research foci will include a retrospective review at ISR burn unit of patients treated with Zassi fecal management system, (patients in the burn unit last year) compared to patients treated with previous fecal management system. Jennifer enjoys cooking, scrap booking and computers. She is looking forward to spending her summer in Texas.

Cara Thompson
University of Colorado



Cara will be a senior this fall at University of Colorado, majoring in Nursing. Cara plans to complete additional coursework for her graduate studies. This summer Cara will be interning with Joseph Ahearn, MD, University of Pittsburgh. Her research will focus on development investigating cardiovascular disease and the role of the innate immune system in system lupus erythematosus (SLE). Cara currently is learning to bridge and enjoys competing in novice games, as well as taking lessons.

Carolina Velez
Carnegie Mellon University

Carolina recently completed her freshman year at Carnegie Mellon University where she is a Decision Science, Pre-Med major. This summer she will be working with Robert Parker, PhD,

University of Pittsburgh. Her research will focus on pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic (mathematical) modeling of anticancer drugs, with an additional focus on mechanisms of drug action. A native of Pittsburgh, Carolina is looking towards spending a day at the Carnegie Art Museum, sitting on flagstaff hill, and later getting ice-cream at Dave and Andy's.

Rachel Werner
Washington and Jefferson College



Rachel, a sophomore majoring in Cell and Molecular Biology at Washington and Jefferson College, plans to later attend medical school or graduate school. This summer she will be working with, Sanjeev Shroff, PhD, Magee-Womens Research Institute. Her focus will be work related to the role of myofibrillar protein acetylation in regulating cardiac muscle contractility. A native of Pittsburgh, Rachel describes the best way to enjoy a weekend in Pittsburgh area to either be heading downtown for shopping and dining or boating on the Three Rivers.

Eriko Yoshimaru
Western New England College

Eriko, who will be a senior this fall at the Western New England College, is a Biomedical Engineering major. Her future plans are to attend graduate degree in Biomedical Engineering. This summer, Eriko will be interning with Jill Sondeen, PhD, US Army Institute of Surgical Research, Clinical Research. As an intern, her research will focus on the effect of tidal volume on hemodynamic variables in normal and hemorrhaged animals.