# **Department of**

# Chemical and Biological Engineering

Drexel University



# **Undergraduate Research**

Undergraduate students in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering have the opportunity to participate in a variety of research programs led by our dynamic faculty in modern facilities. Students gain hands-on experience in research outside of the classroom environment. Students with laboratory experience are better prepared for graduate studies and better equipped to decide what they want to do after graduation. Our students go on to begin graduate study in chemical engineering, medicine, or work in industries from pharmaceuticals to energy.



### Learn More

To learn more about our programs, contact Professor Cameron Abrams, Department Head, at cfa22@drexel.edu or Katie Brumbelow, Director of Undergraduate Affairs, at kms88@drexel.edu.



Professor Abrams Department Head



Katie Brumbelow Director of Undergraduate Affairs



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www.drexel.edu/em/apply

# Some of the current research projects are in areas such as:

- Drug Delivery
- Solar Cells
- Polymer and Composites
- RenewableEnergy
- Nanotechnology

- Fuel Cells
- **Biosensors**
- MolecularSimulations
- \* Biological Colloids



# **Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering** Drexel University



# **Undergraduate Research**

Here's what two of our students had to say about their experiences conducting research as an undergraduate in our department...

## **Faculty**

#### Cameron F. Abrams

PhD, University of California - Berkeley Molecular Simulations in Biophysics and Materials: HTV-1 Envelope Structure and Function; Protein-Ligand Binding Thermodynamics and Kinetics

#### Nicolas J. Alvarez

PhD, Carnegie Mellon University

Photonic Crystal Defect Chromatography; Extensional rheology of polymer/polymer composites; Surfactant/ polymer transport to fluid and solid interfaces: Aqueous lubrication; Interfacial Instabilities

#### Jason B. Baxter

PhD, University of California - Santa Barbara

Solar cells; Semiconductor nanomaterials; Ultrafast spectroscopy

#### Richard A. Cairncross

PhD, University of Minnesota

Biodiesel Production; Sustainability; Waste to Energy Systems; Biodegradable Polymers and Composites

#### Nily R. Dan

PhD, University of Minnesota

Self assembly in amphiphilic and polymeric systems; Controlled drug release from polymer-based carriers

#### **Aaron T. Fafarman**

PhD, Stanford University

Photovoltaic energy conversion; Solution-based synthesis of semiconductor thin films: Colloidal nanocrystals Electromodulation and photomodulation spectroscopy

#### Vibha Kalra

PhD, Cornell University

Electrodes for Energy Storage and Conversion; Supercapacitors, Li-S Batteries, Fuel Cells, Flow Batteries: Electrospinning of Nanofibers; Molecular Dynamics

#### Kenneth K.S. Lau

PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Polymer thin films and devices; Energy capture (solar cells); Energy storage (supercapacitors, batteries); Surface engineering (superhydrophobicity, superhydrophilicity)

#### Raj Mutharasan

PhD, Drexel University

Cantilever sensors for biological detection; Modeling of resonance; Dynamics of fluid-solid interactions; Mechanics and related phenomena in biological binding and interaction

#### Giuseppe R. Palmese, **Department Head**

PhD, University of Delaware

Thermosetting polymers and biomaterials: Composites and interfaces; Processing-Structure-Property relationships

#### Joshua D. Snyder

PhD. Johns Hopkins University

Electrocatalysis (Energy Conversion/Storage); Heterogeneous Catalysis; Corrosion (Dealloying, Nanoporous Metals); Interfacial Electrochemical Phenomena in Nanostructured Materials Colloidal Synthesis

#### **Masoud Soroush**

PhD, University of Michigan

Modeling, control and optimization of solar cell, fuel cell and power storage systems: Probabilistic risk assessment and mitigation; Polymerization reaction engineering; Process systems engineering; Polymer membranes; Multiscale mathematical modeling

#### Maureen H. Tang

PhD, University of California - Berkeley Electrochemistry (batteries, fuel cells, electrolyzers): Catalysis and surface science



**Anthony Abel** 

BS/MS

Nanomaterials for Energy Applications and Technology (NEAT) Laboratory

"During my first summer at Drexel, I participated in the STAR program, which allowed me to begin studying iron oxide for solar water splitting in Dr. Jason Baxter's group. This research has since grown into a published project, and led directly to two research co-ops in industry. Further, I have developed professional relationships with the graduate students in my lab and my professors, which has helped me succeed in classes and given me the opportunity to travel to academic conferences. These experiences have shown me all the different types of research available to chemical engineers, and driven me to pursue a Ph.D. after graduating from Drexel."



**Anjli Patel** 

Nanomaterials for Energy Applications and Technology (NEAT) Laboratory

"Undergraduate research has been an extremely beneficial experience that has enriched my education and also helped inspire my career plans. I began studying copper oxide solar cells in Prof. Baxter's group I've continued freshman. and photoelectrochemical (PEC) water splitting research ever since. My experience in this research has allowed me to build important technical skills and learn to effectively communicate scientific findings. Through my involvement in research, I've also developed a keen interest in solar energy research that I plan to pursue by attending graduate school for a Ph.D. after graduating from Drexel."

