

New Student Chapter at UCLA

Announcement

by Helena Chia



Founding members of UCLA SFB student chapter (L to R): Helena Chia, Arnold Suwarnasarn, Prof. Howard Winet, Chase Linsley and Abigail Corrin.

We are excited to announce the formation of a student chapter of the Society For Biomaterials at the University of California, Los Angeles. Approved during the summer of 2012, the purpose of the UCLA student chapter is to encourage the development, dissemination, integration and utilization of knowledge in biomaterials among the UCLA community, as well as all members of SFB, especially those in the Southern California area. Our goals for the UCLA SFB student chapter are:

- Enhance student interest in biomaterials and related disciplines.
- Promote the advancement of biomaterials research and education.
- Promote industrial relations, innovations, and entrepreneurship.
- Further the aims and objectives of the SFB as they relate to student research and education.

We aim to achieve these goals by offering a venue for students, post-doctoral scholars and faculty members to network and present on their biomaterials-related research. Additionally, we are encouraging members from around the UCLA campus, including biological sciences and Schools of Engineering, Dentistry and Medicine, to participate so we can learn from one another and start new collaborations.

The formation of a new student chapter of SFB at UCLA coincides with merging of the Biomedical Engineering Interdepartmental graduate program into the Bioengineering Department at UCLA effective Fall 2012. The Biomedical Engineering Interdepartmental Program (BME IDP) was established in 1997 and admitted its first graduate students in the fall of 1998. Shortly after, in 2004, the undergraduate Bioengineering Department was established and has seen rapid growth in enrollment at UCLA. Over the years, both the BME IDP and Bioengineering Department have focused

on interdisciplinary and translational research, which benefits from collaborations within the School of Engineering, as well as with the Schools of Dentistry and Medicine, and the College of Letters and Sciences. Currently on campus, there is a focus on entrepreneurship under the auspices of Bioengineering. This has led to new collaborations with the faculty of our David Geffen School of Medicine and Anderson School of Business. With the merger, there are more than 80 faculty members in the Bioengineering Department at UCLA, including members of the Schools of Engineering, Dentistry and Medicine, as well as the College of Letters and Sciences.

The UCLA SFB student chapter was founded by Helena Chia, Arnold Suwarnasarn, Abigail Corrin and Chase Linsley, graduate students in the Bioengineering Department at UCLA, with advisement from Prof. Howard Winet. As the only student chapter in California, we are interested in involving others in our area and would like to reach out to other SFB members who want to be involved in SFB at a local level. Additionally, we invite all SFB members who wish to be involved in activities happening at UCLA SFB or who want to just say 'Hello' to contact our student chapter (uclasfb@gmail.com). We look forward to a great year and meeting the other student chapters and SFB members at the national meeting.

Ashley Parker, the 2012-2013 President of the University of Memphis SFB chapter.



Ashley graduated from West Jones High School in Laurel, Miss., and went to the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) for her undergraduate degree. She graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science in Polymers and High Performance Materials from USM in 2009 and was awarded a National Science

Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to continue her studies in Biomedical Engineering in the Joint Program at the University of Memphis and University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She was awarded a master's degree in 2011 and is currently a PhD candidate hoping to graduate next year. Ashley is working with Dr. Warren Haggard on modifying chitosan sponges for the local delivery of both antibiotics and antifungals in traumatic wounds for polymicrobial infection prevention. Ashley hopes to work in the medical device or pharmaceutical industry and has interests in product development, regulatory affairs and clinical affairs.