

DR. FOLARIN EROGBOGBO

Folarin Erogbogbo is a Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program Alumnus. His Ph.D. was conferred on June 1st, 2009, with a dissertation title "Silicon Nanocrystals and Biophotonic applications Thereof". While awaiting his post-doctoral studies, he maintains an active research agenda as a Senior Research Support Specialist, in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, within the Chemical and Biological Engineering Department at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York. He also teaches Research Methods to undergraduate students in the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (C-STEP). Folarin's preparation through the McNair program exposed him to professional skills and research environments that fostered his success in graduate school. His work was funded through the National Science Foundation (NSF) Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT).

Different portions of the work within his thesis have been published in peer-reviewed journals of the American Chemical Society and submitted as a patent to the UB's Science, Technology Transfer and Economic outreach office for approval. His work demonstrates for the first time the use of non-toxic silicon nanocrystals for multiple cancer applications, including but not limited to, tumor targeting, sentinel lymphnode mapping, and multiplex imaging. Folarin has also written science news articles for Scitizen, a peer-reviewed web publication dedicated to bringing science closer to the community.

Folarin's interests center around cancer nanotechnology that involves i) synthesis, functionalization, characterization and manipulation of materials for biomedical applications ii) responsive delivery of new generation therapeutics and diagnostics – and iii) imaging biological processes and the effects of disease. Though far from clinical application, he has already begun to apply the technology to areas of cancer disparity for minorities (e.g. prostate cancer)

During the pursuit of his scientific interest, he mentored over 25 students, including Ph.D., masters and undergraduate students and high school students that were part of the National Science foundation funded SUNY LS AMP, New York State wide funded CSTEP, and Buffalo Engineering Awareness for Minorities Programs. These include students from UB's School of Engineering and Applied Science, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, UB Honors Program and some local Buffalo High Schools.

Folarin has represented the departments and organizations he is part of very well. He is the recipient of multiple presentation and mentorship awards. He has served as a panel member for multiple discussions related to graduate school. Folarin Erogbogbo is a member of the Material Research Society (MRS), American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), American Chemical Society (ACS), National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Society of Hispanic Engineers (SHEP, Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP).