

IPrime Industrial Fellow Testimonials

Ryo Horiuchi from Asahi Kasei describes the value of the IPrime Industrial Fellows Program:

"The Industrial Fellow program meant a lot to me. It allowed me to raise my skills to the state of the art and greatly broaden my knowledge of coating science and engineering. The environment at Minnesota was excellent: easy access to experts, many students and visitors to learn from, and fine facilities and resources. The program has been of tremendous benefit to our company."

Ryo Horiuchi
Asahi Kasei
October 1, 2013

Tomohiko Anazawa of Dai Nippon Printing shares his thoughts on the IPrime Fellowship Program:

"DNP has been an IPrime member for more than a decade, and we have taken advantage of the Industrial Fellow program to connect with the research community. While at Minnesota, our Fellows have benefited from the accumulated knowledge of the experts there and the state-of-the-art facilities. DNP is one of the largest printing companies in the world, and we have expanded into new fields by deploying results from cutting-edge research on coating science and engineering."

Tomohiko Anazawa
Dai Nippon Printing
June 13, 2013

Rachel Marullo of Cooper Vision talks about her experience as an IPrime Industrial Fellow:

"There is no question that my time as an IPRIME Fellow was valuable to my company." She divided her fellowship into several one or two week residences. She spent time in Chris Macosko's rheology lab, the Characterization Facility with Chris Frethem and Jake Warner, and in the Coating Process Fundamentals lab with Wieslaw Suszynski. In the rheology lab she developed dynamic mechanical characterization methods and recommended a new test fixture for directly characterizing hydrated contact lens that is now used in the Cooper Vision Analytical Group. With the CharFac she explored several micro and nano structure characterization methods. In the Coating Lab she applied several methods to coating of lens, one of which is being pursued for further development in Pleasanton. "Learning the strengths and limitations of different coating methods and being able to try them out with Wieslaw was a real advantage in launching this project."

Rachel Marullo
Scientist, Pleasanton, California
Cooper Vision
January 15, 2013

Steve Anderson of General Mills talks about his experience as an IPrime Industrial Fellow:

Some of the highlights of the benefits that the I' program has provided General Mills are the external resources, personnel and physical resources, provided by the program bring unprecedented value for the minimum investment of \$50K per year. We would not have the ability with our lab setups to explore the research we are looking into with this program so on top of the value it opens up new avenues of research for us. On a higher level it also provides us with the opportunity to have input at a large research university to guide academia closer to where industry is going to there is just "research for research sake."

Steve Anderson
R&D Engineer, Meals/G-Tech/Yoplait USA
General Mills
March 29, 2011

Bruce Forsyth from Boston Scientific expresses his appreciation of being an IPrime Fellow:

"I found the Industrial Fellow position well suited for fundamental IPrime research which brought significant technical value back to my company. I was able to interact closely with a dedicated graduate student and a CEMS faculty member in order to gather relevant data on a representative case model prior to conducting proprietary work. The Industrial Fellow position provided a formal partnership between the University and Boston Scientific that set up dedicated time and funding toward a series of achievable project milestones. I was able to characterize a set of physical and chemical material properties that provided a solid framework to understand a challenging problem. The research led to an advanced process understanding which led to an improved medical device."

Bruce Forsyth
Boston Scientific
June 1, 2010

Yoshifumi Morita of Nitto expresses the benefits of participating in the IPrime Fellow Program:

"During my stay at Minnesota I benefited from the advice of IPrime faculty and students, and learned many new things from classes and seminars. Especially valuable was the interaction I had with other Industrial Fellows, which broadened my perspective of coating science and technology. The knowledge I gained during my stay is now being applied to our manufacturing processes and providing great value to our company."

Yoshifumi Morita
Nitto
June 25, 2009

Gibson Batch of 3M talks about his experience as an IPrime Industrial Fellow:

My term as an IPrime Fellow was viewed inside my company as a "15 percent time" sabbatical for exploratory research. After many discussions with my management and coworkers, I chose to work with Professor Chris Macosko of CEMS on immiscible polymer blends.

At the onset of the project, I was challenged to come up with a potentially useful project that would not be considered proprietary. To that end, I saw an opportunity to make films with cocontinuous immiscible blends based on prior work with melt blending at the U. The rheological and mechanical properties of the blends were very unexpected in many aspects, and this gave me plenty of interesting things to explore while at the U. I also found that my films had several analogs within my company, and this work enhances my ability to solve problems with new and existing products.

With the IPrime Industrial Fellowship, I found time to explore new areas of polymer rheology, read many Ph.D. dissertations from the last 10 years, and dive into texts of several new fields of study. The process of exploration and discovery has reenergized my personal satisfaction and career growth.

For these reasons, I can say that my tenure as an IPrime Industrial Fellow was well worth the investment in time from both myself and my company.

Thanks for giving me this opportunity.

Gibson Batch
Advanced Specialist, Corporate Research Process Laboratory
3M Center
December 31, 2007
