



Contact: Wravenna Bloomberg | CEAT Marketing | 405-744-3734 | wravenna.bloomberg@okstate.edu

Fahlenkamp Earns Prestigious Honor form National Science Foundation

(STILLWATER, Okla., May 24, 2012) – Chemical Engineering faculty member receives CAREER Award through the National Science Foundation for research funding. Heather Fahlenkamp, assistant professor in chemical engineering, was awarded \$400,000 for continued work in her research area titled “An Advanced 3D Tissue Model for the Detection and Study of an Allergic Inflammatory Response.”

“Over the last few decades, the prevalence of allergic diseases has increased dramatically in developed nations,” said Fahlenkamp. “The goal of this project is to use an advanced 3D tissue model to investigate the key aspects of an allergic inflammatory response, more specifically the cellular components at the site of inflammation and the mediators that regulate inflammation. This project will lead to a new way to test allergens and other inflammatory stimuli, and evaluate site specific delivery of active compounds to alter the local inflammatory and immune response.”

As a result, health care providers will have more information available to better manage patients with allergic diseases. As well as a better understanding of inflammation in a broader sense.

A CAREER Award must also have an educational component.

“The education program included in this project will prepare students for transdisciplinary careers, bridge high school biology courses to applied bioengineering research, and enhance women and minority awareness and involvement in STEM fields,” said Fahlenkamp. “One part of the education program includes the creation of an Interactive Web-based Experience in Bioengineering Research that will bring the research experiences of this project directly into the classroom of high school science students.”

Fahlenkamp received her B.S. and Ph.D. from OSU, and has worked as an assistant professor in the College of Engineering Architecture and Technology since 2007. Before taking this faculty position, she worked as an industrial research and design professional. Fahlenkamp has taught

many courses while at OSU including bio-chemical processing, reaction kinetics, mathematical modeling, and senior seminar courses. She has also led the development of bio-experiments in the unit operations lab, and was the faculty advisor to the chemical reaction powered car teams this year.

This award adds credibility to her expanding list of accomplishments in both teaching and research for OSU.

Photo cutline – Fahlenkamp works in allergic disease research and earns NSF CAREER award.

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