

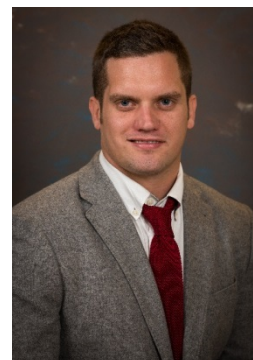
Biography & photograph



Tugba Ozdemir received her B.S. in Bioengineering from Ege University, Izmir, Turkey in 2005. She completed her Ph.D. in Bioengineering in 2013 from Penn State University, where she studied bioactive musculoskeletal regenerative materials. Shortly after finishing her Ph.D., Tugba joined the Jia Group in the Department Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Delaware as a Postdoctoral Researcher. Her postdoctoral

work involves the development of tissue engineering strategies for the *in vitro* assembly of functional salivary gland units using hyaluronic acid-based, biomimetic matrices. Her work will aid head/neck cancer patients suffering from xerostomia (dry mouth syndrome) after tumor-targeting radiation therapy.

Eric Fowler is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Delaware. He earned his B.S. in Polymer Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2011. Under the advisement of Dr. Xinqiao Jia, Eric is developing dynamic and cell-instructive matrices for the engineering of functional replacement tissues of the epithelial origin. He applies various characterization techniques to



correlate observed cellular behaviors, such as cell assembly/aggregation, polarization and branching, with underlying materials parameters, in terms of crosslinking kinetics, network connectivity, network defects, ligand presentation and chain dynamics.

Ying Hao is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Materials Science and



Engineering at the University of Delaware. She joined the Jia Group in 2014 after receiving her Ph.D. in Polymer Science and Engineering from Soochow University in 2013. Combining solid phase peptide synthesis, bioorthogonal reactions and living polymerization techniques, she is developing bioactive protein-mimetic copolymers with defined molecular

architecture and multivalent presentation of peptide signals for the engineering of physiologically relevant tissue models.



Mary C. "Cindy" Farach-Carson is Ralph and Dorothy Looney Professor of Biochemistry and Cell Biology and adjunct Professor of Bioengineering at Rice University. She serves as the Scientific Director of BioScience Research Collaborative at Rice and a Strategic Advisor for Basic and Clinical Research at Texas Medical Center. Her current administrative

duties include building collaborations and supporting infrastructure among biomedical research, clinical and educational institutions in the Texas Medical Center. She is an active researcher and has a federally and industry funded laboratory focused on tissue engineering, extracellular matrix and cancer biology. She is the author of over 180 peer reviewed publications and frequently serves as a reviewer for both grant applications and journal articles. She is co-editor of a seven volume series, *Topics in Bone Biology*. She has mentored dozens of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in interdisciplinary and translational research, and has hosted hundreds of trainees for research rotations.

Swati Pradhan-Bhatt is a Senior Research Scientist and Director of the Tissue Engineering



Center for the Center for Translational Cancer Research (CTCR) at the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute. She is a Scientist at the Department of Biological Sciences and holds a secondary appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Biomedical Engineering Program at the University of Delaware. She received her Ph.D. in 2010

under the Chemistry-Biology Interface (CBI) predoctoral training fellowship, from the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Delaware. Her research is focused on regeneration of soft tissues and glandular organs that are damaged/lost due to cancer, radiation therapy or burn injuries. Her work involves the use of biological and bioengineering principles to recreate tissues by studying isolated primary and progenitor cells and combining them with intelligent biomaterials that can provide unique ECM sequences and growth factor cues to aid differentiation into functional structures.

Xinqiao Jia is an Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Biological



Sciences and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Delaware. She received her B.S. in Applied Chemistry from Fudan University in China in 1995 and her Ph.D. in Polymer Science and Engineering from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2002. She conducted her postdoctoral training with Professor Robert Langer at MIT prior to joining the University of Delaware in 2005. She serves as the Graduate Program

Chair for Materials Science and Engineering and is affiliated with several centers and institutes at the University of Delaware, including the COBRE center on Advanced Biomaterials and Delaware Biotechnology Institute. Dr. Jia's research lies at the interface of materials and biology. Her group is developing intelligent biomaterials that closely mimic the molecular composition, biological functions, mechanical responsiveness and multiscale organizations of the natural

extracellular matrices. Using biologically inspired paradigms, the Jia Group is developing methodologies for the engineering of healthy, replacement tissues such as cartilage, vocal folds and salivary glands, as well as disease models, such as prostate cancer tumor spheroids. Dr. Jia's research activities are currently supported by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, OsteoScience Foundation, W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. and the DuPont Company.