

Graduate Student Awards

The CELL Division is pleased to announce the winners of the Graduate Student Awards for 2017. Every year the Cellulose and Renewable Materials Division of the American Chemical Society, in collaboration with the Eastman Chemical Company[†], recognizes graduate student achievement in cellulose and renewable materials research.

FIRST PLACE: YIFAN DONG

Ms. Dong is a Ph.D. student working under the instruction of Dr. Kevin Edgar at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Her award winning publication is titled “Amphiphilic Cellulose Ethers Designed for Amorphous Solid Dispersion via Olefin Cross-Metathesis” published in *Biomacromolecules*, **2016**, 17 (2), pp 454–465. All of her work so far is pioneering with regard to polysaccharide derivative synthesis, rock solid in terms of characterization work, and to boot is directed at design of superior polymers for oral drug delivery. Ms. Dong, a fourth year student, is first author on 3 high-impact, peer-reviewed publications and has two more articles in draft. Ms. Dong receives a check for \$1,500, up to \$500 for travel expenses, and a plaque honoring her accomplishment. Congratulations to Ms. Dong; we look forward to hearing her presentation at the San Francisco meeting titled “Olefin Cross-Metathesis: Mild, Efficient and Modular Pathway to A New World of Polysaccharide Derivatives for Drug Delivery Applications”.

SECOND PLACE: THI HOANG HA NGUYEN

Ms. Ha Nguyen is a Ph.D. student working under the instruction of Dr. Stephen Miller at the University of Florida. Her award winning publication is titled “Polyethylene ferulate (PEF) and congeners: polystyrene mimics derived from biorenewable aromatics” published in *Green Chem.*, **2015**, 17, 4512–4517. Ms. Ha Nguyen has a Masters from the Graduate School in France and is in fifth year of her Ph. D. Ms. Nguyen has two publications in the ACS Symposium Series and Green Chemistry where her articles were honored with front cover graphics and she has a patent application pending. Her diverse scientific background is leading to 10 publications in a wide variety of journals and some more manuscripts in preparation. Ms. Ha Nguyen receives a check for \$750, up to \$500 for travel expenses and a certificate honoring the recipient’s accomplishment. Congratulations to Ms. Ha Nguyen; we look forward to hearing her presentation at the San Francisco meeting titled “Copolymerization of lactones and bioaromatics via concurrent ring-opening polymerization/polycondensation”. Ms. Dong is a Ph.D. student working under the instruction of Dr. Kevin Edgar at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Her award winning publication is titled “Amphiphilic Cellulose Ethers Designed for Amorphous Solid Dispersion via Olefin Cross-Metathesis” published in *Biomacromolecules*, **2016**, 17 (2), pp 454–465. All of her work so far is pioneering with regard to polysaccharide

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