



Dynamic Interactive Nanosystems

Marie Curie Initial Training Network

Interview with Brian Timmer ESR – KTH – Stockholm, Sweden

I come from the Netherlands from a small town lying close to Amsterdam. Ever since I've started my studies I've been intrigued by organic chemistry and this is the track I've always followed. I have received my Bachelor of Chemistry from the University of Applied Sciences in Leiden and my Master of Chemistry from the VU University in Amsterdam. During my Masters I've done an internship of 5 months at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden, where I learned that another group had a PhD-position available in the DYNANO project. Hence, after finishing my Master's degree I started as ESR in Sweden.



Brian Timmer

What is your PhD project about? What objectives do you have to reach?

My PhD project is about expanding the applications of Constitutional Dynamic Chemistry. My main project is currently focused on employing Constitutional Dynamic Chemistry in the synthesis of intriguing platforms for carbohydrate functionalization. The objective in this project is to provide better insight in what is important for a wide variety of biological interactions with carbohydrates.



DYNANO received funding from the European Union's 7th framework programme under grant agreement n° 289033.



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What is the best thing about taking a PhD in the framework of an ITN European Project? What is challenging?

The best thing about taking a PhD in the framework of this ITN European Project is the **opportunity** you receive **to discuss research with scientists from a variety of backgrounds**. This helps you expand the scope of your research to new dimension you could never have thought of on your own. However, starting of your research in such dimensions with people from such a wide variety of backgrounds can be not straightforward and very time consuming.

Could you tell us something about your secondments and what you learnt there?

During my secondment I've visited Attana, which initially trained me in using their Quartz Crystal Microbalance biosensor. Later on we used the QCM biosensor to determine the affinity of the synthesized glyconanoplatfoms to biologically relevant entities. This to me was very interesting as it finally **expanded the scope of my research from just synthesizing the molecules to actually determining how they behave in these assays**.

Brian and Muhammet at the QCM courses, at KT University in September 2014



KTH University, September 2014



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What did you learn from your participation to national/international events during your PhD?

On these events you learn a lot about what the latest hot-topics are in science as well as how other people approach their research. The most important thing you see/learn on these events is that there are always **multiple approaches to achieve your goal**.

Do you have some advice to master/engineer students considering taking a PhD?

If you are willing to take on a PhD-studies you definitely should do so. That a PhD-study can be very demanding is true but it doesn't necessarily mean you do not have any free time and only have to work day and night. The only recommendation I can give you is, **do something that you like/enjoy** to do or that catches your interest, if you manage to do so the rest will follow, don't worry too much.



Do you have any plans after completing the PhD?

After completing my PhD studies I will most likely first continue as a Postdoctoral fellow to pursue my interest in research. After that I will see if I want to continue travelling around the world or settle myself in one place.

Thank you Brian and all the best for DYNANO.

Interviewed by Laurence Bosch

DYNANO in brief

Starting date: 1st November 2011

Project duration: 48 months

Number of partners: 15

Project Coordinator: Dr. Mihai BARBOIU,

European Membrane Institute -IEM, Montpellier, France.

FP7-PEOPLE-2011-ITN

Grant agreement n°: PITN-GA-2011-289033

EC funding: 3 825 000 €.

www.dynano.eu

