

Dynamic Interactive Nanosystems

Marie Curie Initial Training Network

Interview with Junjun Tan ER – Strasbourg University, Strasbourg, France



Junjun Tan

I grew up in China and received my Ph.D from the Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. I was trained in the area of polymer science and supramolecular chemistry, building stimuli-responsive supramolecular materials for biosensors and drug delivery system. Then I moved to US to start my first postdoc at Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia and again focused on supramolecular chemistry however working on functionalization and self-assembly of peptides.

What is your Postdoc project about? What objectives do you have to reach? What have you achieved so far?

My current project is developing conductive supramolecular materials to biosensors. Specifically, we couple recognitive elements such as peptides and sugars to the conductive monomers to make the recognition process 'sensible'. Currently, I am synthesizing the designed molecules.



Institute Charles Sadron

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

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

The best thing is we are trained in the networks with a group of distinguished scientists from both Academia and Industry in interdisciplinary areas, which allows us to learn from different areas, create collaborations and inspire new ideas. The most challenging part is how I can integrate all the diversities and benefit most in the Network.





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Do you have any secondment planned in your postdoc?

I'm interested in having a secondment in industry. I'm always curious about the difference between the academia and industry in running the projects and expect I can benefit from both.

What do you expect from your participation to the DYNANO events coming in Bucharest?

To introduce our research to DYNANO, to know our peers' researches and to be able to generate questions and ideas as well.

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

Devoted yourself to research and enjoy it! I also think it is quite helpful to select a interdisciplinary area if possible.

Do you have any plans after completing your Postdoc?

I'm considering to start my independent research in future. So the questions I want to answer now are how I can build my personal identity in Science and how I can work out a way to start my independent research.



Being inside a European project will it give you the idea to build one yourself? Will you apply again for European funding?

Yes, the training in the interdiscipline of physics, chemistry, biology and medicine spurs me new ideas about how supramolecular chemistry can contribute to biology and medicine.

I absolutely want to apply for European funding again if I a get chance!

Thank you Junjun 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

