

Number 1, January 2019

Welcome to our first newsletter!!

Following the success of our first scientific session at the CRS annual meeting last July in New York, we feel that now it is the right time to launch our newsletter, which we hope to be of interest to our members, but also to anyone else out there with passion for the field of nanomedicine and biomedical nanotechnology.

Interviews with the winners of the inaugural N&ND Focus Group Awards



Daniel A. Heller, PhD, from The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA – Young Investigator Award of the CRS Nanomedicine and Nanoscale Delivery Focus Group, 2018

Q. What does it mean for you to receive this FG Young Investigator award?

A. While awards are not the reason to get out of bed in the morning to do science, it is important for young faculty such as me to see that our contributions are valued by the community, even if we don't have the expansive track record of senior scientists.

Q. How important is this award for your career and future research?

A. Awards like this are very important for the careers of young researchers and young faculty members because committees and letter writers are looking at validation from the field, such as this, in their decisions for promotion and tenure.

Q. By being the recipient of this award, how will you influence others and how will this impact your career?

A. I am of the mindset that young researchers and young faculty should have awards to reach for, and I hope to be a proponent that societies offer this type of award in the future. It was great that the CRS is doing this terrific work for researchers in drug delivery.

Q. What do you expect from our Focus group in Nanomedicine and Nanoscale Delivery in the future?

A. I had a wonderful time at the symposia offered by the Focus Group in Nanomedicine and Nanoscale Delivery. I think it allows researchers in this area to really go deeper into their science and get to know each other. I hope to see continued offerings of young faculty and young researcher awards.

Q. In your opinion, what is the greatest reward of being a researcher in Nanomedicine and Nanoscale Delivery?

A. This is a terrific field that has it all--exciting new science and technology, and the promise to improve and save lives. It also requires that researchers learn about

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many fields at once, giving a real diverse feel to the work in the field and the need to collaborate with people from different backgrounds.

Q. What would you tell young researchers to convince them to pursue research in this field?

A. I think I'd tell them what I just said above, but I'd give them the advice to diversify the training that they get in disparate fields. It doesn't take too terribly long to learn the basic principles of drug delivery, but the field needs people to learn more in-depth biology and medicine, to understand where the problems are and where they aren't. The great thing about this field is that it incorporates a lot of engineering, chemistry, biology, and medicine, and even some business, and law. That's also what makes the field difficult, however, if you aren't learning much in some of those areas.

Q. Can you tell us briefly about your most recent and exciting achievements in this area of research?

A. I'm excited to be incorporating machine learning and data science into my research, to help build an area that some people call "nanoinformatics". I'm also excited to address the problems of precision drugs, because each drug or target is a different puzzle to solve in terms of its problems. My lab is also working in the kidney drug delivery space, which seems to be getting a bit more traction by investigators recently.



Lei Wu, from Sichuan University, Chengdu, China – Student/PostDoc Award of the CRS Nanomedicine and Nanoscale Delivery Focus Group, 2018

Q. What does it mean for you to receive this award?

A. When I received this award, I felt extremely surprised. It means that the effort I paid in my research has been recognized.

Q. How do you expect this award to impact your research career?

A. When I attended CRS meeting, I found many excellent investigations and researchers. And this award, I think, encouraged me to work harder on my research. Maybe someday I could have more valuable researches as they do.

Q. What or who inspired you to pursue research in this field?

A. My parents. They always comfort and encourage me when I feel tired working in the lab. For me, it is the best thing to make them proud of me.

Q. What events/ activities would you like to be offered by our FG to young trainees?

A. I would like to have opportunities to communicate with others via e-mail or video-conferencing. I hope that the subject is not only about the experiments, but also the advice for future research career. As a young trainee, I sometimes feel confused about how to become a good researcher after graduation.

Q. What is your ultimate career goal as you see it today, and how do you think this award may contribute to it?

A. I think it is a very good question. I have been thinking about my career goal for a long time. Actually, I do not have a certain answer due to the sense of inferiority. Maybe this award could help me realize that efforts we made will pay off, even though we may need to wait for it. And I wish to work in a pharmaceutical research company and contribute for the development of new medicines.

Q. What would be your advice to young researchers that are just starting their careers?

A. I would suggest them to read more papers and attend lectures, which could help to avoid unnecessary trail. Also, from my experience, we need to ask “why” and keep the curiosity about undiscovered things.

Q. What can you tell us about you? What are your hobbies?

A. I like sports, especially dancing. The beauty created by body language and music impresses me a lot. I do believe dancing builds a divine and splendid world for everyone. Since we spend much time working in the lab, we have little time for exercising, which is regrettable for me.

Highlights from N&ND Focus Group members

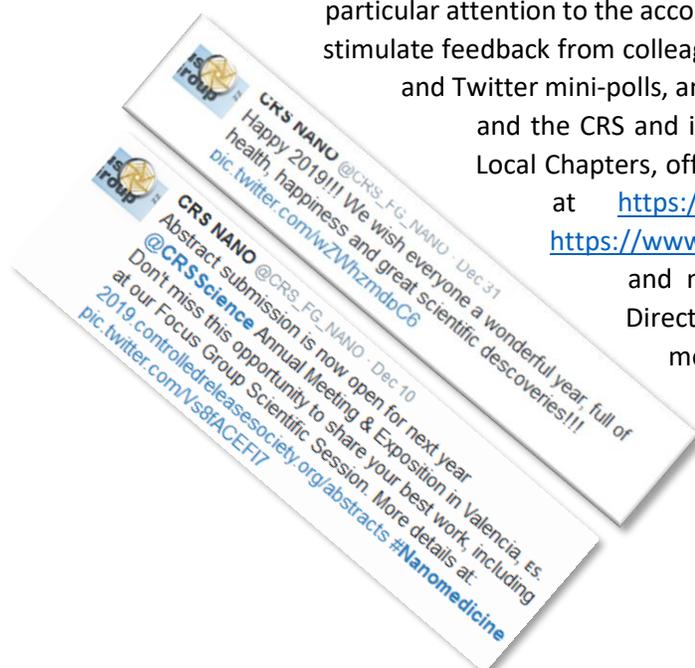


The January 2019 issue of *Bioengineering & Translational Medicine* (BioTM), edited by N&ND FG member Samir Mitragotri (Harvard Univ, USA), honors N&ND FG member Prof. Nicholas Peppas (The University of Texas at Austin, USA) and Prof. Robert Langer (MIT, USA)!! Several N&ND FG members contributed to this special issue, including the CRS president Maria José Alonso (Univ of Santiago de Compostela, Spain). Check it out at <http://www.bioengtransmed.com>.



Social Media Corner

The CRS N&ND FG has been highly active on social media! We are currently present in Twitter and LinkedIn. Our main goal is to publicize relevant content concerning the FG activities, new studies and scientific breakthroughs, positions available for students, postdocs and faculty, scientific event announcements and other activities of the CRS in all fields related to our mission. We have been paying particular attention to the accomplishments of members from the N&ND FG. We also stimulate feedback from colleagues by frequently creating LinkedIn discussion topics and Twitter mini-polls, and promote bridging between our followers/members and the CRS and its associates (other FGs, Young Scientist Committee, Local Chapters, official journals, etc.). You can follow/join us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/CRS_FG_NANO and LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12138578/>. For suggestions and more information, please contact our Social Media Director, José das Neves (j.dasneves@ineb.up.pt). In the meanwhile, check on the left a couple of highlights from our activity on Twitter.



Join Us in Valencia, Spain!!

Annual Meeting
July 21 – 24, 2019

