

The HQPA Insider

The official newsletter of the Highly Qualified Personnel Association
as part of the Advanced Foods and Materials Network

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Networking to Professional Independence

Jeff Turner is an established and brilliant researcher who was able to jump with both feet out of the realm of academia and into the world of owning his own company. Although starting a new business is risky, Dr. Turner was confident in the groundbreaking technology and the academic know-how he possessed. Backed by years of experience and an impressive network of colleagues and supporters, Jeff was able to develop a company that had true potential for market success. Starting a



HQP are inspired at the January meeting in Gatineau by an excited Jeff Turner

business presents a very long road for the rest of us: an HQP in the middle of a long PhD program; a Master's student in an entirely new field of study; or even an undergrad, wondering if the rest of this road is going to be worth traveling. And again here I'll emphasize that Dr. Turner was an outstanding speaker at this winter's HQP Workshop in Gatineau, Quebec - his animated performance was indeed the highlight of my conference and this is saying a lot considering how valuable I found the 3-day event. In fact, I would have had no objections to extending the workshop an extra few days just to hear more from Jeff. It was easy to see how this established academic could draw on his networks and experience to turn his ideas into a commercial venture but where is the hope for the rest of us: the HQP who have the brilliant ideas but don't have the years of experience, don't know where to go and have no idea how to turn our discoveries into a commercial success? This hope presented itself loud and clear in the presence of young researcher Brett Poulis, who enlightened the Gatineau conference with his accomplishments and was that spark of inspiration for HQP. Dr. Poulis is a recent PhD graduate, an alumni of the AFMNet HQP and possessor of a brilliant discovery with the potential for commercial success. While Dr. Poulis didn't have the established academic career, or the expansive support network to go along with it, he had a discovery, an idea and a network of AMFNet researchers from his experience as an HQP.



Brought to you by your friendly neighbourhood HQP

A few events worth keeping an eye out for:

- 1) NanoBioMaterials Research and Commercialization Workshop
 - The meeting will take place at the University of Guelph
 - For details please visit (<http://www.afmnet.ca/index.php?fa=HQP.showHome>)
- 2) AFMNet's Third Annual Scientific Conference
 - The conference will be held in Québec City, Québec from June 3rd to the 5th 2007
 - HQP will have the opportunity to showcase their research at the poster competition, while experiencing the beauty of summer in Québec City
 - To register please visit (<http://www.afmnet.ca/index.php?fa=ASM2007.showHome>)
- 3) Upcoming Awards
 - Workshop Support Program (June 15th deadline)
- 4) Local Lunch and Learns (coming soon to a university near you – stay tuned)
 - Meet the HQP around you, listen to insightful talks, stay for a free lunch
- 5) HQP Winter School (also coming soon so stay tuned)

NanoBioMaterials Research and Commercialization

On Friday April 27th AFMNet and EMK will host a one day NanoBioMaterials Research and Commercialization workshop at the University of Guelph (U of G). The day will be jam packed with invited speakers, poster sessions and a tour of the state-of-the-art facilities currently used by AFMNet Researchers at the U of G. Please see beside for a complete list of invited speakers for the day.

The workshop will take place:

Friday April 27th 2007 from 8:30am -5:30pm
MacNaughton Bldg. Room 113
University of Guelph

For more details please visit:

<http://www.afmnet.ca/index.php?fa=HQP.showHome>

For all other inquires please contact:

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Invited Speakers include:

- **Dr. Nils Petersen** (*Director of the National Institute of Nanotechnology*)
- **Dr. Eric Brown** (*Dept. of Biochemistry – McMaster*)
- **Dr. Gilbert Walker** (*Dept. of Chemistry – University of Toronto*)
- **Dr. Sergei Magonov** (*Veeco Instruments Inc.*)
- **Dr. Wankei Wan** (*Dept. of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering – Western*)
- **Dr. Larry Arseneault** (*Dept. of Pathology and Molecular Medicine - McMaster*)
- **Dr. Cynthia Goh** (*Dept. of Chemistry – University of Toronto*)
- **Paul Truscott** (*Director of Business Development - AFMNet*)

Sound like a good idea? Why not utilize the AFMNet Workshop Support Program to organize your own workshop at the University of your choosing? All AFMNet members (researchers and HQP) can take advantage of the program that offers up to \$5000 towards the costs of unique workshop ideas. Please visit <http://www.afmnet.ca/index.php?fa=Research.showFundingOp&id=208> for details about the program.

HQP AND THE DISCOVERY DISTRICT

Long standing HQP's future plans

The HQP January meeting offered several sessions addressing the relationship between HQP and other researchers, both within AFMNet as well as the Canadian scientific community at large. A general theme of this last HQP meeting was the integration of the HQP with the science community. It is not surprising that HQP should be interested in examining where they stand in the realm of Canadian science considering that the status of HQP (a group that spans the category of researchers from undergraduate students to post-doctoral fellows) is in and of itself predominantly temporary. Most HQP will eventually move into additional strata of research, and whether this movement is through academic, industry or government circles, they will assume new positions within the scientific



community. In January the station of the HQP was addressed in a session that asked "What can the HQPA do for the HQP?"

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HQP Explore New Avenues of Success

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Dr. Poulis was able to push his idea forward through start-up funding from AFMNet, guidance from the AFMNet's Research2Business program (headed by Jeff Turner, nonetheless) and the drive he had as a researcher. By using his network, established through being active with the AFMNet throughout his graduate program, Dr. Poulis was able to draw on the resources and people he needed to turn his idea into a success. Dr. Poulis is now the



owner of a growing company (FloraPure BioSciences Inc.) and is able to conduct his own research out of the University of Victoria. Dr. Poulis's story was an inspiration to many HQP at the conference and showed how networking events like the one we were all attending could prove to be an important stepping stone in a young career.

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HQP Explore the Discovery District

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The results of this session were enlightening (and will continue to guide the activities of future HQPA councils). Several themes emerged from this session, particularly a consciousness of the benefits produced by communication amongst HQP. Communication is not only of present worth while we are HQP, but has the potential to be of continuing importance as HQP morph into other positions within the scientific community. A group that recognizes the importance of both communication and community within scientific research is MaRS. Housed within a single facility, MaRS brings together a variety of players within

the scientific community – ranging from start-up biotechnology companies to legal experts able to assist with the commercialization of research. MaRS refers to its location as fixed in the “Discovery District” in reference to both the physical location of the building and the relationships amongst the tenants and local researchers. As part of the March meeting, the HQP were invited to visit the MaRS facility. The event addressed themes of the January meeting with respect to identifying the potential for HQP to situate themselves within the Discovery District.

Karen L. Durell

Fun Food Facts

- Eggs age more in one day at room temperature than in one week in the refrigerator
- Bananas are about 99.5% fat free
- Apples are high in fiber
- Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites!
- In one day, a honey bee can fly 12 miles and pollinate up to 10,000 flowers
- 30 to 40 gallons of sugar maple sap must be boiled down to make just one gallon of maple syrup
- Americans eat approximately 100 acres of pizza each day, or 350 slices per second

Food facts courtesy of www.agday.org
 Accuracy of these facts have not been verified

The Advanced Foods and Materials Network



Réseau des aliments et des matériaux d'avant-garde
 ADVANCED FOODS & MATERIALS NETWORK
 Inspiration from the ground up. | Aux racines de l'inspiration.

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