

Trip to Center for Molecular & Functional Imaging (CMFI) at UCSF

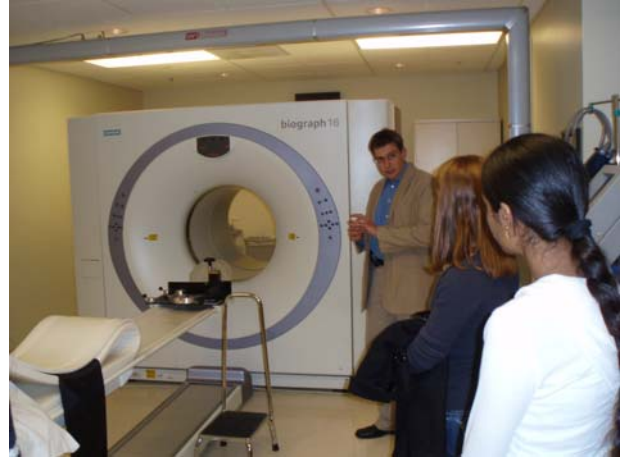


The Biomedical Physics students were invited to tour the new Center for Molecular and Functional Imaging at the China Basin Landing location of the University of California at San Francisco (<http://cmfi.ucsf.edu>) on April 20, 2007. The tour and presentations were specially arranged for us. Fifteen students and three faculty members from the Department of Physics at Fresno State were part of the visit. Our host was Professor Bruce Hasegawa who is himself an alumnus of Fresno State.

The CMFI includes 47,000 square feet of laboratory and office space for approximately 130 faculty, research scientists, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students and staff. The main reception area and primary space is on the third floor, with a view of the Mission Bay campus. Suite 350 includes spacious physics, chemistry, nuclear medicine, tissue culture, and instrumentation development laboratories. Shared resources provide state-of-the-art instrumentation including: a high field Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) tissue scanner, a Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) microscope, a small-animal SPECT/CT dual-modality imaging system, a microPET, specimen storage, and an animal housing and surgical suite.



A biomedical cyclotron is housed in the basement below the PET/CT and research labs, which complements important work in PET research, target development and other molecular imaging research.



Dr. Henry VanBrocklin gave us tours of newly installed biomedical cyclotron and the automated radiochemistry lab. Clinical applications of PET were demonstrated by Dr. Ben Franc, optical imaging lab by Dr. Ella Fung Jones, and the PET/CT imaging lab by Drs. Bruce Hasegawa and Youngho Seo. After the tours and presentation, the students and the presenters had dinner at the facility and our hosts informally told their professional life histories of how they ended up where they are today despite several adversities. Dr. Hasegawa also informed us of summer opportunities for our students.



The tour was really good for our students who not only learnt of career opportunities but also got to meet the people in an informal setting who run the large and impressive laboratories.