

NEWS

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Researcher earns Sloan fellowship

Hao Yan, a Biodesign Institute researcher and assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has been named the recipient of a prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Foundation fellowship.

The Sloan research fellow awards are intended to enhance the careers of the very best young faculty members in specified fields of science.

"The Sloan research fellowships support the work of exceptional young researchers early in their academic careers, and often at pivotal stages in their work," says Paul Joskow, president of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Yan is a researcher in the fast-moving field known as structural DNA nanotechnology, which assembles the molecule of life into a variety of nanostructures with a broad range of applications, from human health to nano-electronics.

The fellowship comes with a research grant of \$50,000 over two years.

ASU ushers in new era of nursing

The ASU College of Nursing & Healthcare Innovation broke ground this month for its second building at the Downtown Phoenix campus, the same year the college is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

From its humble beginnings in the basement of Matthews Library in Tempe half a century ago, the college has expanded into state-of-the-art facilities in downtown Phoenix that encompass all of today's modern nursing student needs. The College of Nursing & Healthcare Innovation was one of three pioneering colleges to move to the city's core when the ASU Downtown Phoenix campus was established in 2006.

Now the college is ushering in a new era of helping to meet the nation's nursing shortage with the groundbreaking of their second building downtown. Arizona has 681 registered nurses per 100,000 people, well below the national average of 825 RNs per 100,000 people, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Coupled with an expanding and aging population, the need for

nurses in the state and country will only grow more acute.

The new five-story, 84,000 square-foot facility will provide five new classrooms for nursing students. Located at the intersection of Third and Fillmore streets in Phoenix, the modern, glass-and-copper structure includes five classrooms, a 200-seat seminar space, student facilities and faculty office and research space.

New lab aims for bright future

The future is getting brighter for ASU's Photovoltaic Testing Laboratory (PTL), as it plays a growing role in testing advanced solar energy systems. PTL recently was awarded an \$800,000 grant through the Solar America Initiative to test new solar energy modules.

The Department of Energy's SAI program, which took form at the request of President George W. Bush, aims to make solar energy cost-competitive with more conventional forms of electricity. The program has the goal of bringing solar energy's price down to the 5 cents to 10 cents per kilowatt-hour range by 2015.

The ASU grant is one of 11 awarded to university-industry teams in this round of funding. DOE will invest up to \$13.7 million over three years in this round.

"Developing new solar energy technologies is an important task for our nation, and developing the methods and facilities to test these new technologies is an equally important task," says Stephen Goodnick, ASU's associate vice president for research. "The SAI grant to the Photovoltaic Testing Laboratory is a commitment to advancing these testing facilities, which will play an integral role in the commercialization process of solar technologies."

Degrees target aging population

While the population of the United States is projected to grow by 30 percent over the next two decades, the population of people over age 65 is expected to double.

New bachelor's and master's degree programs in aging and lifespan development, offered by ASU's College of Human Services,

will prepare professionals in many fields to respond to the needs of America's aging population.

"From financial planners to occupational and speech therapists, people in a wide range of professions are working with clients in their 50s through their 80s and beyond," says Kathleen Waldron, interim director of the School of Aging and Lifespan Development. "Our new degree programs meet a growing demand for knowledge of issues associated with aging."

The bachelor's degree program focuses on preparing individuals whose goal is to work directly in the field of aging, in settings that include care facilities and government agencies. The master's degree program is geared toward professionals in a range of fields looking to increase their understanding of aging issues.

Important "News" update

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