



August 21, 2021

Dear former student and friend of the department,

Welcome to this edition of the Biomedical Engineering Department newsletter. Similar to what most of the country has experienced, the last year has been challenging for our department, its faculty, staff, and students. We used a hybrid teaching model during the last year, where smaller classes were taught in person, while larger classes were held virtually. For the fall we ensured that each class had both an in-person educational component so that students could participate either off campus or on campus. We tried out a different model in the spring where each class that had more than one section offered, had at least one that was in-person-only and one that was only virtual. This model allowed the instructors to focus all of their attention on one group of students instead of splitting their focus between students in and out of the classroom. Instruction in the summer was then all in-person in BME while the institute still followed a hybrid model. Starting in the fall, all classes at Rensselaer will return to in-class instructions as our instructional model, combined with our safety measures, have resulted in a good educational experience while keeping infection numbers very low, i.e., we had a total of two people who were diagnosed with a Covid infection this entire summer and none of them were students or have student contacts. In addition to our in-class instructions, all graduate students have returned to campus and undergraduate researchers will also be allowed back in the lab in the fall.

Despite these challenges, a number of accomplishments have been made, awards and honors were received, and research milestones were met:

- Pingkun Yan receives NSF CAREER award [\[More\]](#)
- Research: Deep Learning Enables Dual Screening for Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease [\[More\]](#)
- Ge Wang Receives 2021 IEEE EMBS Academic Career Achievement Award [\[More\]](#)
- Research: Polymerized Estrogen Provides Neuroprotection in Preclinical Testing [\[More\]](#)
- David Corr promoted to Professor [\[More\]](#)
- Education: In Era of Online Learning, New Testing Method Aims To Reduce Cheating [\[More\]](#)
- Research: By Combining Neuroimaging and AI, Researchers Aim To Save Military Lives [\[More\]](#)
- Student wins NSF Graduate Fellowship [\[More\]](#)
- Research: Mothers of Children With Autism Found to Have Significantly Different Metabolite Levels [\[More\]](#)
- Research: Bone Fracture Risk May Increase When Critical Enzymatic Processes Decline [\[More\]](#)
- Leo Wan named Fellow of American Heart Association [\[More\]](#)

I am excited about these developments, especially given the current circumstances and look forward to future achievements by our faculty and students in the coming year!

Best regards,

Juergen Hahn
Professor and Department Head
Department of Biomedical Engineering
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

