

Graduate Student Spotlight



Janjira Intra

PhD - Pharmetics

*BS, Pharmacy - Mahidol University
MS, - The University of New York - Buffalo*

**Winner of Honorable Mention in the
Biological & Health Sciences Division at the
2007 James F. Jakobsen Graduate
Conference**

Please describe your thesis project in a short sentence.

My research focuses on developing polymeric gene delivery system for both in vitro and in vivo models. In addition, I am also interesting in the development of novel drug delivery systems including micro-fabricated device for controlled release of drug and DNA and PLGA-based suture containing CpG oligonucleotides motif and tumor lysates for cancer prevention.

How did you decide to go to graduate school?

I decided to go to graduate school to prepare myself for research and development career.

What made you decide to go to graduate school at Iowa?

Pharmaceutics program at the University of Iowa has excellent reputation among the top university in USA as well as long standing recognition in Pharmaceutical industry. Moreover, there are many highly esteemed faculty members in the program.

How has being a graduate student at Iowa prepared you to achieve those goals?

Of course. The pharmaceutics program here enriches me with both knowledge and training in a wide variety of instruments. The program taught me a great deal of critical thinking and analysis as well as practical experience in laboratory management.

Hometown: *Bangkok, Thailand*

What are your long-term goals beyond your graduate degree?

I would like to work in the pharmaceutical industry.

You are a winner of one of the top awards at the Jakobsen Conference in a previous year. What did you enjoy most about the Jakobsen Conference experience?

During the conference I had a good moment meeting with graduate students from different programs and exchanging information about our research. Moreover, I had a chance to explain my research for other students that are not in my field. This challenged me since I had to find a way to make the subject materials clear to someone who was not familiar with my field.

What are some of your interests outside of school?

Cooking, movies, Thai Student Association activities.

Are there any particular challenges you've faced as a graduate student at Iowa?

There are many challenges I've faced during my study here. First, as an international student I have worked to improve my English and communication skills. The research process is a continual challenge to learn how to solve new problems that arise.

Advisor: *Aliasger K. Salem*

Do you have a particular mentor who has played an important role in the development of your thesis or your career trajectory?

My dissertation mentor has been critical towards developing my thesis. His enthusiasm and interest in the sciences has given me more motivation to work towards my personal and career goals.

Please note any significant honors you've received .

Parenteral Drug Association (PDA) Journal of Science and Technology Pre-Doctoral Fellowship 2007, John Lach Memorial Scholarship 2006, Parenteral Drug Association (PDA) Journal of Science and Technology Pre-Doctoral Fellowship 2006, Mark Diamond Research Fund 2004, Rachman Scholarship 2004, Rachman Scholarship 2003