
Interview: NUS-BME students at 2017 *Summer by Design* Programme

June-July 2017



[source] Ms Liang Yeshi (interviewee, second from left) and Mr Ernest Tan (third from right) are PhD students from BME

Q: What inspired you to participate in this event?

A: I received an email from my supervisor, Prof. James Goh, about this Summer by Design workshop. This workshop is an intensive four-week summer pilot programme and students from different regions will stay together in Toronto to learn from scientists, business faculty and commercializers in University of Toronto.

The programme is mainly about regenerative medicine and stem cells, which is relevant to my own research. I thought it would be a great chance for me to witness current scientific development in this area, learn some basic knowledge about business and commercialization, and get inspirations at the same time in this overseas programme.



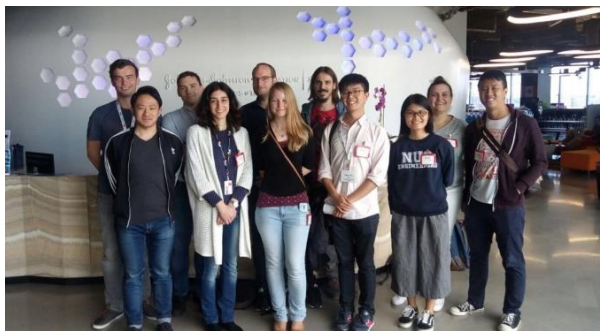
[source] Yeshi looked on as a post-doctoral fellow demonstrates aspects of 3D bioprinting

Q: What did you do in the workshop?

A: The workshop could be divided into three parts - CCRM modules on business and commercialization, workshops, and Business of Regenerative Medicine conference. They cover commercialization, regulatory affairs, manufacturing and scale up, intellectual property, economic reimbursement and clinical trials. Two specific cases were also used alongside for group studies.

From these modules, I got an idea about how to relate scientific researches to the market, how to protect intellectual properties and how to make a startup. More importantly, I know what is lacking from the clinical perspective when doing research.

Most of the workshops are lab tours. We visited some labs in University of Toronto, MaRs. Including 3D printing, imaging, synthetic biology, EVLP etc., they introduced some of their researches and showed us the facilities and experiments. There were also two workshops where TED Talk trainers were invited to speak to us about presentation.



Visiting JLab

The Business of Regenerative Medicine conference was held at the end of the programme and spanned 2.5 days. They covered topics about the market, strategies, researches and startup. Some of us also got the chance to give a short speech in the conference.

Of course, the participants also hung out and explored Toronto together in our spare time. My fellow participants come from Australia, Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Canada, Sweden and UK.



Together with Fulya (rightside), also from NUS

Q: What are your favourite parts?

A: One of them is the lab tour on EVLP (*ex vivo* lung perfusion). We had the chance to witness a surgery to remove lung from a pig and perfuse it in the setup *ex vivo*. The other is visiting the synthetic biology lab. They shared how they had actually developed a quick-product last year when the Zika virus struck.

Q: What is your biggest impression?

A: It must be the urban design in Toronto, which connects the hospital, researches, university and startups tightly. These institutes are all closely situated together in the central part of Toronto. Imaging a T-SHAPED Toronto might help explain what I am referring to - these institutes are built along two main streets shaped like a 'T'. Therefore, it is very convenient for educators, students, researchers, businessmen and doctors to gather together to share opinions and updates. This is an advantage for human health research in Toronto.



I also realized that the incorporation of different aspects is of great importance. This has been a good and precious experience in bringing concepts from the bench-side research to the market.



Group photo taken at Business of Regenerative Medicine conference

Official report by Medicine by Design:

<http://mbd.utoronto.ca/blog/news/summer-design-draws-emerging-regenerative-medicine-leaders-around-world-u-t/>



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