CBI Training Program

The Chemistry–Biology Interface (CBI) Training Program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison was initiated to provide outstanding graduate students with an opportunity to broaden and deepen their knowledge of interdisciplinary research at the frontiers of this interface and become future leaders in this area.

Our Mission

The mission of the UW–Madison CBI program is to train graduate students to address problems that transcend the traditional boundaries of chemistry and biology using innovative and rigorous approaches, to provide professional development skills that maximize the impact of their training, and to develop an inclusive and supportive community of engaged scholars working at the chemistry–biology interface.

Our Commitment

The University of Wisconsin has a long-standing commitment to the education of all citizens, especially to those individuals who, by virtue of ethnic or racial background, or disability status, have been underrepresented in the academic community and professions. Within this context, the CBI program is 100% committed to the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students.

Training Program Components

The program provides stipends for up to two years, tuition expenses, and travel funds to attend conferences. Students are appointed during their second year of graduate studies. The training includes:

• Thesis Research: CBI Trainee thesis research focuses on cutting-edge science at the chemistry–biology interface.

• Chemical Biology Course: Open to all interested graduate students, this course serves as an introduction to concepts and approaches at the chemistry–biology interface.

• Chemical Biology Seminar Course: This interactive graduate course focuses on recent developments at the chemistry–biology interface. Participants discuss recent publications in chemical biology.

• CBI Colloquium: Trainees present and discuss their research in a monthly colloquium.

• Responsible Conduct of Research: Trainees take a formal course in ethics every 4 years.

• CBI Internships: CBI Trainees participate in a 10–12 week research opportunity in industry, at a national laboratory, or at another venue of their choice to explore career options.

To learn more about the CBI Training Program, please visit our website: http://cбитp.chem.wisc.edu
CBI taught me how to think as a scientist, to address problems from both biological and chemical perspectives, and to communicate to a diverse audience.

– Dr. Samira Musah
UW Chemistry PhD, 2012
Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering
Duke University

“I moved from synthetic organic chemistry into a lab that performs directed evolution and synthetic biology. I can say that my experience in the CBI program proved invaluable both in terms of covering content and material relevant to my current field of research, as well as providing faculty contacts who were equipped to offer advice and recommendation letters that enabled me to pursue my current trajectory.”

– Dr. Travis Blum
UW Chemistry PhD, 2016
Postdoctoral Researcher
Harvard University

“I liked the environment of the group. It provided a safe place to learn and grow without fear of judgement because you learn that everyone is an expert in their field and it’s okay to not be the expert of everything.”

– Dr. Ashley Phetsanthad
UW Chemistry PhD, 2023
Proteomics Biologist
Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Boston, MA