

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Texas at Austin offers unsurpassed opportunities for world-class research across a broad range of chemical and biochemical fields. With nearly fifty faculty, we have a reputation for excellence in teaching in addition to research. Recent rankings position us as one of the top chemistry departments in the country for both our graduate programs and our funding for research and development.

**28 Mar 2007**

**[Congratulations to Daniel Knueppel and Suncerae Smith](#)**

Two UT-Austin Chemistry students awarded 2007 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Awards

**28 Mar 2007**

**[Congratulations to Dr. Russell](#)**

Professor Rick Russell has been awarded a College of Natural Sciences Teaching Excellence Award.

**21 Mar 2007**

**[Chemistry Student receives Hertz Graduate Fellowship Award](#)**

UT Undergraduate Chemistry Student, Richard Darst receives Hertz Graduate Fellowship Award.

**12 Mar 2007**

**[Call for Beckman Scholar Applications](#)**

This year's undergraduate Beckman Scholar



**[Professor John McDevitt's research uses saliva to diagnose health and disease](#)**

Innovative saliva-based health diagnostic tools will be developed by Professor John McDevitt through a \$6 million, multi-institutional grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

**How You Can Help**

There are several capital campaigns currently underway in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry. These include programs to recruit and retain the very best faculty, graduate and undergraduate program support, and creation of a Chairman's Excellence Fund. **[Find out more about](#)**

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## Professor John McDevitt's research uses saliva to diagnose health and disease

Innovative saliva-based health diagnostic tools will be developed by Professor John McDevitt through a \$6 million, multi-institutional grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Saliva-with its slimy mix of proteins, hormones and antibodies-can tell a lot about a person's health, and it is much easier and less painful to collect than blood. But, the medical community lacks the technologies to perform large-scale salivary diagnostics. With collaborators at three medical schools, Professor McDevitt aims to develop lab-on-a-chip sensor systems for measuring important biomarkers in saliva samples. The lab-on-a-chip technology was previously developed in McDevitt's laboratory and has been licensed to LabNow, Inc. Lab-on-a-chip systems are miniaturized biosensors that, coupled with portable instruments, promise to offer inexpensive, point of care medical diagnosis. The technology is being tested for use in the monitoring of HIV immune function. "Through these efforts, we're trying to make clinical diagnostic tests more accessible, less expensive and less painful," said McDevitt. The approach is consistent with the mission of the new Texas Institute for Drug and Diagnostic Development, with which McDevitt is affiliated. The development of these noninvasive oral fluid tests is also expected to provide more options for diagnosis and monitoring health issues in children, contributing to the new activities of the Dell Pediatrics Research Institute. McDevitt will serve as the principal investigator for the grant, awarded recently by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, a division of the NIH.

The cooperative research program brings The University of Texas at Austin together with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville.

Related Links:

- [McDevitt Research Labs - Lab-on-a-Chip Sensors](#)