

Photos and Testimonials from Internship Challenge Participants

Microbiotix, Inc.

“We had another great summer with interns. Both were bright, hard-working, and engaged in the work. One just sent us a syllabus for a fall class she has; she was excited to show us the class is covering almost everything she learned this summer! This is such a great program for both companies and students. Many thanks to the Mass Life Sciences Center for obtaining funding and organizing the program.” – Kim Kapteyn, Administrative Assistant at [Microbiotix, Inc.](#)

Nexcelom Bioscience, LLC.

“At Nexcelom, we greatly appreciate the collaboration we have with the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. This collaboration has allowed us to hire and support talented students and work with them to provide scientific working experiences and improve our scientific community. Because of this collaboration, we have been able to hire 5 R&D and Engineering interns in a period of 3 years. The students have supported project development in both R&D and Engineering departments at Nexcelom. In addition, six peer reviewed scientific publications and multiple conference posters have been presented from the projects with the students. We hope to continue our relationship with the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and continue to provide support to the scientific community.” – Dr. Leo Chan, Technology R&D Manager at [Nexcelom Bioscience LLC.](#)

Acetylon Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

“We joined the MLSC Internship Challenge program last summer and found two awesome kids, one in biology and one in chemistry, who enriched our company and they told us their experience was wonderful for them in a hands-on way. For example, sitting in a classroom is a lot different than working in a real lab. We will definitely pursue some new interns this next season. We are hearty supporters of this program!” – Elaine Larsen, Finance Manager at [Acetylon Pharmaceuticals, Inc.](#)

Sage Science, Inc.



Madeline Huleatt and Kristopher Amirault, 2013 MLSC interns.

“My company was initially resistant to accepting interns out of concern that they would require too much time to train, would add little value, and would prove to be an expensive distraction from our core mission. The MLSC’s willingness to reimburse our company assumed the financial risk of engaging our first interns. We therefore brought in our first interns, mostly as a civic duty we felt we needed to honor. We expected to be giving, not receiving. We learned that all of our earlier assumptions were wrong. Not only do interns support the core mission of the company and add value, especially in our research labs, we love how they bring a youthful scintillation of intellectual curiosity and vibrancy to the company. Our experience has been so positive that we have expanded our paid internship program far beyond the MLSC’s maximum per company. We have also hired, and continue to look forward to hiring, the best of our interns as they graduate and enter the biotech workforce. I will always be thankful to the MLSC and the internship program for opening our eyes to the potential of Massachusetts collegiate interns.” – Gary Paul Magnant, CEO of [Sage Science, Inc.](#)

CytonomeST



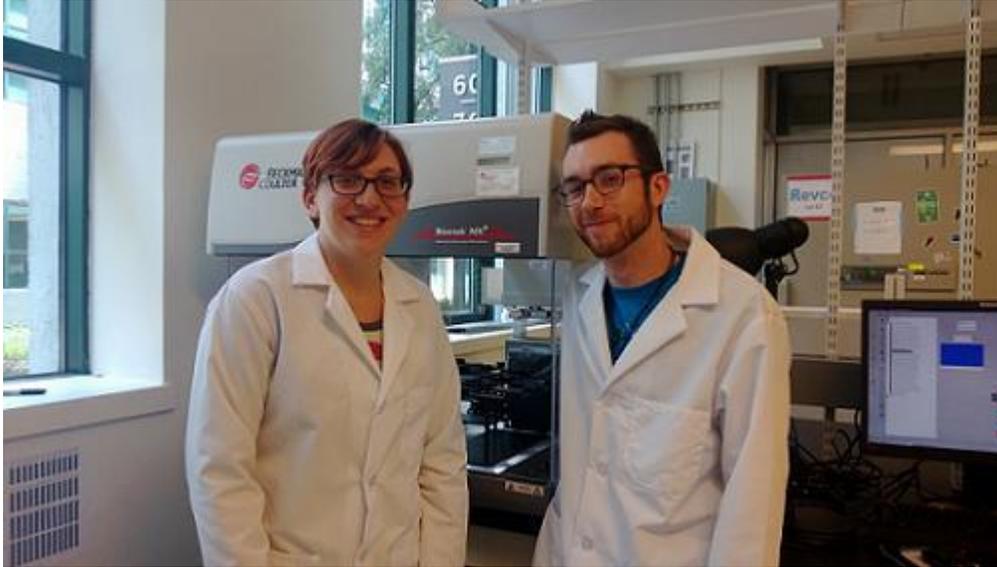
Intern JoAn Blake was inspired by the tragic passing of her daughter to return to school as an adult. She enrolled at Roxbury Community College and went on to receive her Bachelor's degree from Boston University and a Master's degree from Regis College. She was selected for two consecutive internships with [CytonomeST](#), a small Boston-based company developing cell detection and purification systems. The company has since hired JoAn as a Senior Compliance Specialist.

X-Chem, Inc.



“The MLSC Internship Challenge is an amazing tool that assists both small companies and people looking to launch a career in the life science industry. We at [X-Chem](#) have had six interns as a result of the program. Two of these interns have been hired as full-time employees in the life science industry, one full-time by our company, and three have been retained by us on a part-time basis. We are actively in touch with all of our interns and consider them part of our family. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity which has greatly assisted us with our recent growth.” – Jeffrey Troderman, CFO of X-Chem, Inc.

Addgene, Inc.



Left: Emma Gottschall, 2012 MLSC intern now employed full time as a Lab Technician at Addgene, Inc. in Cambridge, MA. Right: Kory DelPrete, 2013 MLSC intern.

“In 2012, a friend of mine received an internship through the Mass Life Sciences Center’s Internship Challenge. She knew I was having a hard time finding internships and told me to apply. I did, and by the next week I had accepted an internship at [Addgene](#), a non-profit plasmid repository in Cambridge. As a Biochemistry/Molecular Biology major, I was able to make use of the lab skills I gained in college. I was an intern at Addgene from March through the beginning of January, when I was offered the opportunity to become a part-time Lab Technician. Now that I have graduated from BU I am employed full-time at Addgene. By participating in the MLSC Internship Challenge I found a great job at an amazing company... and it’s a nice perk that I am able to stay and work in Boston!”- Emma Gottschall, Lab Technician at Addgene, Inc.

BioScience Academy

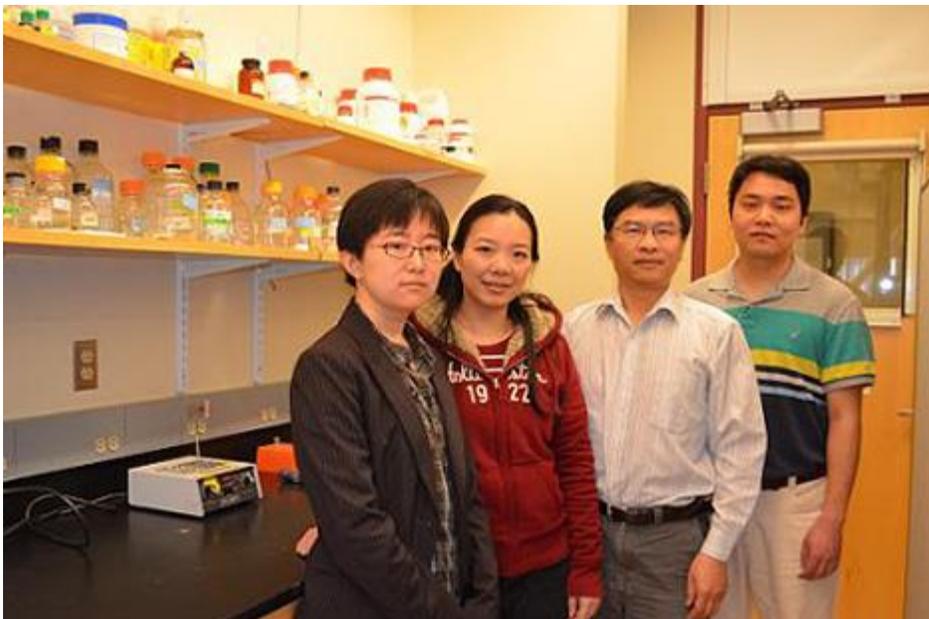


Left: Mark Damish, MLSC intern at WorldCare Clinical; Right: John Lugo-Toro, MLSC intern at STC Biologics.

Students of the Boston University [BioScience Academy](#) (BSA) presented at its Internship Poster Presentation on May 3, 2013. BSA is a program that offers biotechnology laboratory skills training, twelve Boston University credits, tuition support, an internship, and a Certificate in Applied Biotechnology.

Internship Challenge host companies [STC Biologics, Inc.](#) of Cambridge, and [WorldCare Clinical, LLC.](#) of Boston, each hired interns from BioScience Academy during the 2012-13 Program Year.

Imgen BioSciences



Dr. Wendell Yang, President of Imgen BioSciences, with interns Shirley Hou and Abby He.

“It was my great pleasure to supervise and work with each of the four interns at our company, [Imgen BioSciences](#), through the MLSC-sponsored internship program over the past two years. I am very satisfied with the work that they conducted and much appreciative of this program and the mutual benefits that it offers to the company and the interns. I am also particularly glad with the training outcomes of the interns; two were each offered and accepted to full-time positions at the NIH and a private biotech company, and one moved on to pursue a Masters Degree during or immediately after the completion of their internship.” – Dr. Wendell Yang, President of Imgen BioSciences, Inc.

Respiratory Motion



Based in Waltham, Mass., [Respiratory Motion](#) is a medical device company that received U.S. Food and Drug Administration clearance for its ExSpirom system in October 2012. This tool monitors ventilation and has the potential to serve as a leading indicator of respiratory failure during and after surgery. Respiratory Motion has recruited eight interns over the past three years through the Internship Challenge. Mike Lalli and Lynn Desmarais are two of those talented interns that helped with clinical testing, and eventually human trials, which led to FDA approval.

Desmarais, of Natick, Mass., was a student at Massachusetts Bay Community College, pursuing an Associate’s Degree in Biological Engineering, when she began her work at Respiratory Motion.

“They took a chance on me, and I took a chance on them – it could not have worked out better!” she said. Desmarais, like Lalli, started her internship by working on the clinical trials of the ExSpirom prototype. She was soon put in charge of managing the product literature and graphic design for the product. “In a start up, you just can’t sit around and wait for someone else to do something – you have to just stand up and do it yourself.” That kind of determination is what brought Desmarais from intern to a marketing and clinical associate at Respiratory Motion after she graduated.

Myomo

“The MLSC Internship Challenge program has been a terrific experience for [Myomo](#). In fact, we were so pleased with our last intern that we hired him upon graduation. Many thanks for helping to facilitate the process of connecting good candidates to open positions.” – Steve Kelly, Founder, President & COO, Myomo, Inc.

BioSurfaces



Lt. Governor Timothy Murray visits Biosurfaces and meets their MLSC Interns.

On October 18, 2012, Lt. Governor Timothy Murray stopped by [Biosurfaces](#), a medical device company in Ashland, Mass. Biosurfaces staff and interns showcased their patented biomaterial technologies and spoke about their participation in the MLSC Internship Challenge. Biosurfaces has worked with eight interns over the past four years.

UMass Dartmouth Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center (ATMC)



On Thursday, August 30, 2012, SouthCoast participants in the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center's Internship Challenge gathered at UMass Dartmouth's [Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center](#) to present on their summer internship experiences. The event brought together several of the region's life sciences companies, which hosted interns funded by the Center.



From left to right: Paul Vigeant, Assistant Chancellor for Economic Development, UMass Dartmouth; Dr. Lou Petrovic, Director, ATMC; Dr. Susan Windham-Bannister, President & CEO, MLSC; Jane N.

Staples, Director, Cooperative Education & Internship Program, UMass Dartmouth; Ryan H. Mudawar, Senior Program Associate, MLSC.

Albright Technologies



From left to right: Susan Windham-Bannister, President & CEO, Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, (former intern) Phayhean Soo, Project Engineer, Albright Technologies; (former intern) Veasna Nhem, Project Engineer, Albright Technologies; Bob Waitt, VP of Business Development, Albright Technologies

“We were fortunate to have two interns this past summer, [and one] has proven to be a great addition to our team and was recently promoted to a project engineer. All four of our engineers started as interns, two of them as part of the Internship Challenge. Their hard work and dedication contributed to a 30% growth in 2011.” – David Comeau, President, [Albright Technologies](#)



From left to right: Phayhean Soo, Project Engineer, Albright Technologies; Diane Hewitt, Cooperative Education for Engineering & Technology, UMass Lowell; Susan Windham-Bannister, President & CEO, Massachusetts Life Sciences Center; David Comeau, President, Albright Technologies; John Henshaw, Assistant Dean, School of Business, Science, and Technology, Mount Wachusett Community College; Veasna Nhem, Project Engineer, Albright Technologies.

HepatoChem

“My introduction to [HepatoChem](#) was the result of a serendipitous meeting I had with one of the company’s business contractors. The small bioinorganic chemistry startup was looking for an intern to help with the work brought on by their rapidly growing client base and I was looking for a post-graduation job that would be challenging and impactful. The funding supplied by the MLSC Internship Challenge was what allowed me and HepatoChem to take a chance on each other, beginning a relationship that has developed into long-term employment.

I feel lucky to be back in Massachusetts where there is such a wealth of resources available to small life sciences companies such as HepatoChem. The work that we do aids pharmaceutical companies in the production of innovative and life-saving drugs, but were it not for the support of organizations such as the MLSC, we would be unable to perform our services or conduct our research. This research, in turn, has given me the valuable opportunity to improve my skills and gain insight into the fascinating and ever-pertinent world of pharmaceuticals development. Such a symbiotic connection between young scientists and young businesses could only exist with the help of the MLSC Internship Challenge.” – Elizabeth Lebling, University of Chicago, AB ‘12

ECI Biotech

“ECI has hand-picked very talented individuals in biochemistry and engineering to work at our company this summer. The goal of hiring the interns is to provide them with relevant experience and to further prepare them as viable candidates for full-time employment at ECI or within the industry.” – Dr. Mitchell Sanders, CEO and Founder of ECI Biotech.

Ginkgo BioWorks



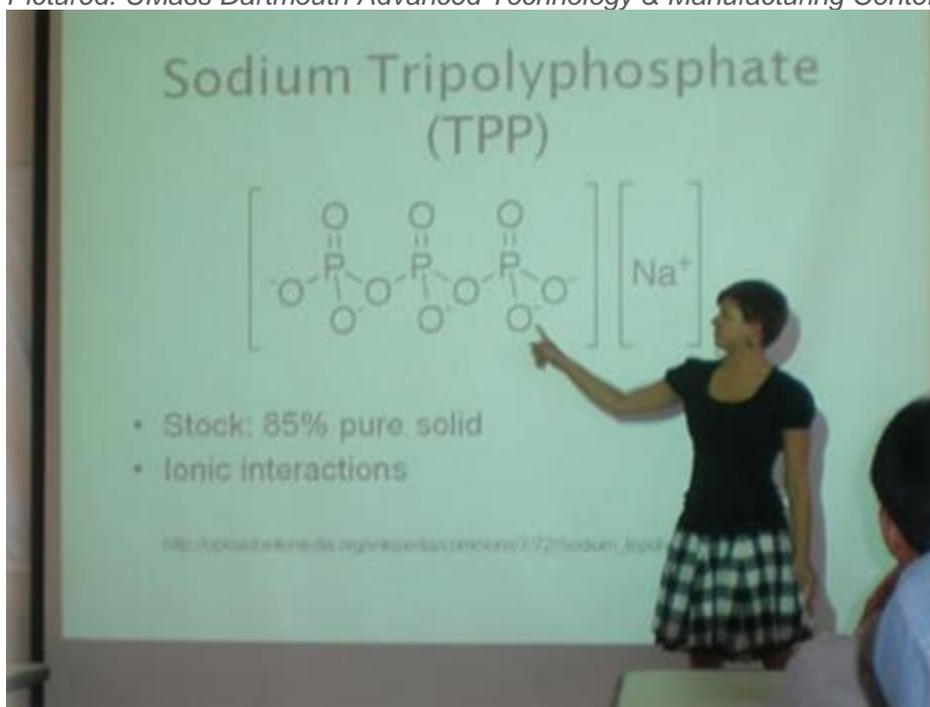
Photo courtesy of Bay State Banner/Sandra Larson

“The internship allowed me to work for [Ginkgo BioWorks](#), a biotech start-up, during its infancy. At this early stage of development, scarce funds could have prevented them from hiring me. Working for them during this period gave me the chance to make significant contributions to several exciting projects and allowed me a great introduction to the challenges of founding a start-up. The experience has encouraged me to bring my life sciences background to the business sector.” – Matt Gethers, Internship Challenge participant and MIT graduate with a degree in biological engineering.

UMass Dartmouth ATMC



Pictured: UMass Dartmouth Advanced Technology & Manufacturing Center (ATMC) interns and staff.



“This summer internship has been much more than I expected. Working at a biotech start-up has opened my eyes to the great potential there is in the Life Sciences industry right here in Massachusetts.” – Juan Betanzo, Babson College

VivoPath

“The program has opened a great opportunity for us to offer interns some practical scientific experience while they make some significant contributions to our programs. I am very happy the program is achieving its goal to develop the Life Science resources of Massachusetts with these internship opportunities to our future scientists.” – Walter Lunsmann, Chief Operating Officer, VivoPath, LLC

UMass ATMC



“Comprising of five full-time employees, the company at which I interned allowed me to thrive through regular contributions to several different projects and has introduced me to the intricacies of running a biopharmaceutical company. This experience has inspired me to pursue a career in the business sector of the biopharmaceutical industry.” – Renee McKell, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

UMass ATMC



Diagnostics for All

“Diagnostics for All has greatly enjoyed participating in the Internship Challenge program. The interns bring enthusiasm and a fresh perspective to our research projects, and they have readily become invaluable, contributing members of our team. We’re grateful that the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center supports such a valuable program.” – Dr. Matthew Stewart, Senior Scientist, Diagnostics for All

Imgen BioSciences



“The Internship Challenge has given me an excellent opportunity to work with the most welcoming, knowledgeable, and team-oriented group of scientists. I feel that I have been given a chance to be part of something bigger than myself and I appreciate every minute of it.” – Crystal Smith, Bridgewater State University

TRA360

“My internship at TRA360 has offered an unparalleled opportunity to learn first-hand about my area of study. I couldn’t be happier.” – Ryan Connors, UMass Lowell

Bach Pharma



Pictured from left to right: Nicholas Hammond, Intern, Bach Pharma, Mark O Henry, CEO, Bach Pharma, Susan Windham-Bannister, President & CEO, Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, Megan Sperry, Intern, Bach Pharma.

“The internship was very exciting because I had the opportunity to interact with people involved in all aspects of the industry, including research, clinical settings, and business. I think that working at [Bach Pharma](#) has given me greater insight into the industry as well as given me skills that I can carry into my future career.” – Megan Sperry, Boston University

Tetraphase Pharmaceuticals

“We are very pleased with the biology and analytical students that have worked with us. The program gives us the opportunity to hire talented students that we would otherwise not have access to. It’s a win-win situation: we are extremely impressed with the contributions the students make and its great work experience for them.” – Shana Dobson, Operations Manager, [Tetraphase Pharmaceuticals](#)

UMass Dartmouth ATMC



NuOrtho Surgical

“Interning with [NuOrtho Surgical](#) has enhanced my understanding in both the marketing and financial fields. The opportunity to work with such upbeat and intuitive professionals has been an exceptional introduction to the business world. I feel as though I have already become a more confident and skilled individual thanks to the practical training this internship has provided.” – Tamer Plourd, UMass Dartmouth

Five Star Companies



Pictured: Five Star Companies staff with MLSC interns.

Ligon Discovery



Pictured: Ligon Discovery staff with MLSC interns.