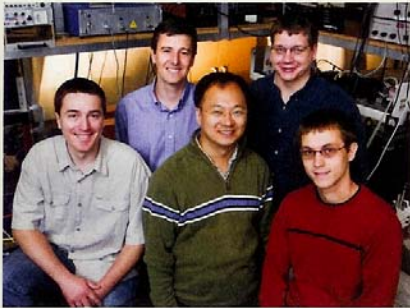


A model research enterprise

John A. Rogers, the Lee J. Flory Founder Chair in Engineering Innovation, is a chemist by training, but he characterizes his research as “highly multidisciplinary ... combining expertise from nearly every traditional field of technical study.”

Rogers (back row, left) describes his fundamental research interests as materials

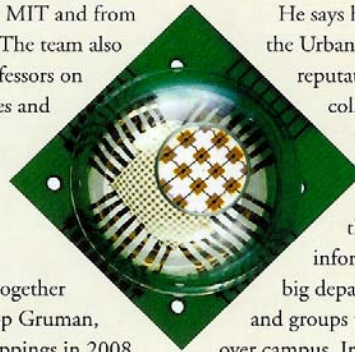


and patterning technologies for unusual-format electronics and photonics systems and basic and applied research in nano- and molecular-scale fabrication.

The Rogers Group of young researchers numbers about 50, including graduate students, post docs, visiting faculty and even undergraduates. By discipline, they're chemists; physicists; electrical, mechanical and chemical engineers; and materials scientists. They come from Urbana and other top American universities including Stanford, Northwestern, Cornell and MIT and from numerous other countries. The team also collaborates with other professors on campus, at other universities and with corporate labs.

Think of the Rogers Group as the model of the 21st century research enterprise.

Rogers and his team, together with researchers at Northrop Gruman, garnered a stack of press clippings in 2008 for their work creating a curvilinear-shaped electronic-eye camera based on the biological design of the human eye and made out of stretchable sheets of optoelectronics.



Rogers says, “The ability to wrap high-quality silicon devices onto complex surfaces and biological tissues adds very interesting and powerful capabilities to electronic and optoelectronic device design, with many new application possibilities.”

Applications range from electronics to biomedical devices to solar energy.

He says he chose to work on the Urbana campus because of its reputation in multidisciplinary, collaborative research. He hasn't been disappointed.

“The U of I is even better than I thought. It's a dynamic but informal environment with big departments with professors and groups that can be co-located all over campus. Interdisciplinary centers like the Beckman Institute and the Materials Research Lab also are critical.”

Reporting by James E. Kloppel



CHICAGO

Goal: Reduce HIV/AIDS

Family Health International (FHI) awarded UIC an \$8.6 million grant to take part in the Male Circumcision Consortium. Established by a five-year, \$18.5 million grant to FHI from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the consortium will improve and expand voluntary medical circumcision services throughout Kenya as part of an overall strategy to reduce HIV infections in men. Recent studies conducted in African countries, including one led by UIC epidemiologist Robert Bailey, have shown that medical circumcision dramatically reduces a man's risk of acquiring HIV from an infected woman. UIC and a Kenyan partner organization will expand and further support a medical circumcision training center to build capacity in Kenyan public health facilities and among private practitioners, monitor and evaluate the safety and quality of the services, and evaluate whether men change their behavior after being circumcised.

CHICAGO / URBANA

Helping nonprofits help themselves

UIC is creating a network to help Illinois nonprofits and small municipalities access federal grants and build partnerships for community improvement using a three-year, \$2.25 million grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation. Illinois ResourceNet, based in UIC's signature Great Cities Institute, will provide a website as well as web-based seminars, conferences, workshops, a resource center and technical assistance to nonprofits that might lack the resources to carry out their missions and projects. Richard Kordesh, director of Illinois ResourceNet and a fellow in the Great Cities Institute, says that a university brings a variety of assets to the project, including technology, knowledgeable staff and objectivity. Other collaborators include the UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs and Extension staff from the Urbana campus.

