

AU researcher receives Gen*NY*sis biotechnology funding

10/16/02

Dr. Carl Boehlert, assistant professor of materials science and engineering at Alfred University, is one of 10 young scientists and engineers in New York State who will receive research support through the state's new Gen*NY*sis program. Gov. George Pataki and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno Tuesday announced the \$2 million in awards "designed to recognize and support outstanding scientists and engineers who, early in their careers, show potential for leadership and scientific discovery in the field of biotechnology." The James D. Watson Investigator initiative is part of a \$225 million Generating Employment through New York State Science (Gen*NY*sis) program, which was created to maximize the potential of the world-class life sciences research being conducted by New York's colleges and universities. Each of the young faculty members will receive \$200,000 to support his or her research efforts. "This support for our finest young biotechnology scientists and engineers will help to further secure New York's role as an international leader in high-tech and biotechnology research and economic development," said Pataki. "These grants will support the world-class research being performed by some of the best young minds at New York's colleges and universities." "This award is a testimony to Professor Boehlert's commitment to his work," said AU Provost David Szczerbacki. "I am confident that he will be a prime mover in our institutional commitment to biomaterials engineering and science." Szczerbacki noted it is a tremendous honor for Boehlert and Alfred University to receive the Watson Young Investigator Award. "Professor Boehlert and Alfred University competed, successfully, against proposals submitted by New York's largest and most prestigious schools. Other winners are from Columbia University, Cornell University, New York University, Rockefeller University, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Stony Brook, and the University of Rochester, as well as Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and Health Research, Inc./Wadsworth Center. Boehlert's project will be to establish a methodology to evaluate the microstructure-property relationships of biocompatible titanium alloys. For Boehlert, who is in his second year as a member of the faculty of the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science, the Gen*NY*sis award is the second major award he's received as a young scientist. Last year, he received a prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development Award. A graduate of Cornell University, Boehlert earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in materials science and engineering at the University of Dayton, where he studied the physical metallurgy of advanced titanium alloys and their composites. While at Dayton, he worked at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's Research Laboratory, and then completed two years as a post-doctoral fellow in the mechanical engineering department of Johns Hopkins University. Before coming to Alfred, he was a post-doctoral research fellow at Los Alamos National Laboratory's Nuclear Materials Testing Group. ##