



Los Alamos post-doctoral student wins Hydrogen & Fuel Cell award

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Eun Joo (Sarah) Park has won the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Office post-doctoral award from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office for her work at Los Alamos National Laboratory advancing fuel-cell technology. Fuel cells are a clean technology that cleanly and efficiently produce electricity from the chemical energy of hydrogen or another fuel, with water and heat as the only byproducts.

Park's work focuses on ionomers for alkaline membrane fuel cells and polymer electrolytes for high temperature fuel cells. Her previous work synthesizing polystyrene-based alkaline ionomer was published in Nature Energy this year.

"Breakthroughs like Sarah's will make these alternative materials viable for commercial fuel cells," said Rod Borup, Los Alamos program manager for Fuel Cells and Vehicle Technology and an Electrochemical Society Fellow. "In her research, Sarah solved a major detrimental performance factor in terms of eliminating phenyl adsorption on anode electrocatalysts by introducing triethyl ammonium groups."

The inaugural Postdoctoral Recognition Award award from the U.S. Department of Energy Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office recognizes postdoctoral fellows from DOE National Laboratories for outstanding contributions in identifying research solutions to hydrogen and fuel cell research challenges.

"This award gives me a huge motivation to keep trying to contribute to the advancement of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies," said Park, who is now a scientist at the Laboratory.

The Laboratory also received Honorable Mentions for the work of Chenyu Wang, Daniel Leonard and Dongguo Li.

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