



Kavitha Chintam

Kavitha (Kavi) Chintam was recognized by Los Alamos National Lab for her work on the fuel cell team with a 2019 Distinguished Student Award. Kavi joined the Los Alamos fuel cell team in Jan of 2018 after finishing a B.S. in chemical engineering at the University of Pittsburg. She participated on three different fuel cell and electrochemistry related projects (FC-PAD: Fuel Cell Performance and Durability, ERIS: Electrolysis Rocket Ignition System, and a microwatt fuel cell project). Kavi was remarkably productive during her time at Los Alamos which is quantified in the publications, presentations and patents she has either led or been co-author on: 7 publications (4 as first author), 3 patent applications (all as 2nd author), 23 presentations (7 given by Kavi), 9 as first author, 6 as second author). In addition, the projects that Kavi worked on received individual recognition: FC-PAD received a U.S. DRIVE Highlight, and the ERIS team was awarded a Large Team DPA.

Kavi's contributions to FC-PAD have included conducting a significant amount analysis related to fuel cell components from commercially sold Toyota Mirai to help the U.S. DOE define the current state-of-art materials, post-characterization of PEM fuel cell components related to membrane durability and radical scavenger migration. She lead an effort related to AFM definition of ionomeric layer thickness in operating fuel cell catalyst layers; for this work she is working with another group at Los Alamos (CINT – Center for Integrated NanoTechnologies). These are complex non-homogenous porous catalyst layers, with ionomeric films on the order of 4-8 nm in thickness. For this work she is conducting 100% of the experiments and defining the experimental procedure and defining her own matrix of experiments. She worked with NIST (National Institute of Standard and Technology) conducting neutron imaging of operating miniature fuel cells and full-scale imaging of operating commercial fuel cell stacks.

Kavi is starting graduate school in September 2019 pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at Northwestern University.