

Amit Mistry Appointed 2008–2009 MRS/OSA Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow

Amit Mistry, a Science Policy Fellow at Research!America in Alexandria, Va., has been named the 2008–2009 MRS/OSA Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow. His tenure begins in September. As a recipient of this one-year appointment, sponsored jointly by the Materials Research Society (MRS) and the Optical Society of America (OSA), Mistry will work directly for a member of Congress or on a Congressional committee as a consultant on scientific and technical matters.

Eric Werwa, chair of the MRS Congressional Fellow Subcommittee, said, "Amit Mistry brings to the MRS/OSA Fellowship what he described in his application as 'a love of science, faith in education, and a commitment to service.' His experience as a scientist and a teacher, combined with his commitment to several international volunteer activities, helped him stand out in a very strong applicant pool. His work in science policy, through



Amit Mistry

which he has developed his understanding of the political process, demonstrates a dedication to public policy that will serve him well as a Fellow."

Since March 2008, Mistry has been a Science Policy Fellow at Research!America, a not-for-profit group that advocates for

health research. He was also a Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Academy of Engineering where he worked on a resource for engineering educators. Mistry was a high school science and math teacher in New Orleans for two years with Teach for America.

Mistry's major policy interests are in education and health research, but he is also interested in global health and development, energy, and the environment. "I believe strongly in scientific research, and I know that my background in biomaterials will be extremely useful to our legislative officials," he said.

Mistry obtained his PhD degree in bio-engineering from Rice University in April 2007. He received his BS degree in chemical engineering from Rice University in May 2000, and his teaching certificate for secondary chemistry, physics, and physical science in June 2002.

Ticora V. Jones Appointed 2008–2009 Materials Societies Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow

Ticora V. Jones, a postdoctoral researcher at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), has been named the inaugural 2008–2009 Materials Societies Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow, sponsored jointly by the Materials Research Society (MRS); The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS); and the American Ceramic Society (ACerS). Similar to the MRS/OSA Fellow, Jones's one-year tenure begins in September, for which she will work as a special legislative assistant on the staff of a member of Congress or congressional committee.

Eric Werwa, chair of the MRS Congressional Fellow Subcommittee, said, "Ticora Jones brings to the new Materials Societies Fellowship a desire to develop herself into a 'citizen scientist' who will put her skills to use 'in pursuing a common good that ultimately has a positive impact' on her environment. The selection committee was impressed by her ability to maintain a highly productive research career while also committing a significant amount of time and energy to improving the career prospects of her peers. Her combination of academic, industry, and national laboratory experiences provides a broad perspective that will help her to be very productive in



Ticora V. Jones

any position she chooses on Capitol Hill."

Jones is interested in developing policies related to the funding of the scientific and technological enterprise, especially surrounding issues related to alternative energy, sustainability, and science education. "As we move further into the 21st century, many of the globally relevant socio-political issues rely on the assessment and implementation of technological expertise rather than purely political or diplomatic solutions," she said. "One of my current interests is in green policy initiatives around the world, and I believe

the Fellowship will allow me the opportunity to learn about these elements as they develop in the U.S. on a more detailed level and become directly involved in these developing science and technology initiatives."

At LLNL, Jones is currently involved in projects related to the synthesis and characterization of polymer, organic, and nanoparticle compounds to create new functional polymeric systems. Her other interests include hybrid natural-synthetic biomaterials for tissue engineering, communication, and public understanding of science, the implications of policy decisions on the scientific endeavor, and "green" for urban environments.

Jones earned her PhD degree in polymer science and engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 2006 and her BS degree in materials science and engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2000. Prior to her graduate work, she spent a year working for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, first as a middle school teaching Fellow, and then building infrastructure and creating content for the Minority Scientists Network. 