

NYMU iGEMers' interview

We are honored to visit the past ten years, a total of twelve school seniors, and from which a lot of inspiration and advice. We chose one of the five seniors and an interview summary to share with each iGEMer, about their career development and the impact of iGEM on them.

NYMU iGEM 2007 — [Ying-Chun Lo](#)

As a junior in National Yang Ming University, he joined the first ever NYMU iGEM team created in 2007. He then studied at John Hopkins University for his doctorate degree; he now works as a physician at Yale.



Impact of attending iGEM

As Ying-Chun joined during his junior year (most NYMU students joined iGEM as freshmen or sophomores), he was able to perceive and experience this competition from a different perspective. Through the Giant Jamboree, he met diverse people from all around a world with topics ranging from environmental science to optoelectronics, taking him beyond the field of biomedical engineering (his major). Furthermore, through interactions among other iGEM fellows, he was able to step out of his comfort zone into exchanging ideas and sharing his research topic -- this is something he valued most as a learning experience. Despite other intern experiences he's had beyond Taiwan, he strongly believes that this competition took him beyond what he's seen before, introducing a more globalized and interesting perspective.

The link of original article on our Facebook page: <https://goo.gl/MyV71j>

NYMU iGEM 2008 — Chen-Wei Tsai

Chen-Wei was an alumnus who studied in NYMU medical school; she joined iGEM as a freshman. She now works as a postdoctoral research associate at Brandeis University, studying the molecular properties of mitochondrial calcium uniporter and its corresponding importance.



Impact of attending iGEM

This competition impacted Chen-Wei the most by introducing her to the field of research, allowing her to acknowledge it as something interesting and worth investing. Whether it's the process of coming up with a project topic or planning experimental procedures, she learned from her own interactions with professors, teammates, and elder schoolmates. She claims that though her postdoctoral training plays a huge part in her development of the ability to do independent research, it was iGEM that really sparked her interest of research, enlightening her to strive deeper into this field, and having this as a main part of her career eventually.

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NYMU iGEM 2013 — Wan-Hsin Liu

Wan-Hsin is currently in her sixth year at National Yang-Ming University as a clerkship in Taipei Veterans General Hospital. After being a part of 2013 NYMU iGEM team, there was more time for her to explore her interests and herself. After trying out different research fields, she finds herself preferring the dry lab component of iGEM. She plans to go abroad to attend hospital internships in hopes of gaining more experience at other different medical environments.



The Impact of Participating in iGEM

Because iGEM is a competition with such a huge network, Wan-Hsin Liu was able to bond with iGEMers from all around the world. She found people from her own school that once participated in this conference and even generations that represented her own school and went to Boston after her, she realized the power of learning. When she sees someone who participated in iGEM, they automatically have a bond with each other. This unspoken connection where they both understand each other in terms of experience, obstacle faced and other participants they remember in the conference. To this day, she still says Happy Birthday to the friends she met at my iGEM conference in 2013. This is the type of connection iGEM encourages – academic exchanges or interpersonal interactions with others even after the competition.

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NYMU iGEM 2013 — Rou-Chien Liao

Rou-Chien Liao is a medical student currently in her sixth year at National Yang Ming University. After participating in the iGEM conference in 2013, Liao got the experience to do more research in Taiwan as well as gaining lab experience in a foreign country. She plans on studying abroad after graduating and continue do to what she loves – research.



The Impact of Participating in iGEM

Rou-Chien Liao actually did some research in high school but she didn't really appreciate the essence of research. If she didn't decide to join iGEM, she wouldn't have been able to continue my research career in college. After joining iGEM, she was able to conduct experiments in the lab even during the summer to prepare for the Giant Jamboree. Over one summer in 2013, she fell in love with research and especially the wet lab component of iGEM. It was the first time she felt happy doing experiments. She knew what she was doing and there was something different to do every single day. Whenever there was a problem she was able to solve it with my team because we all strived for a common goal. iGEM ultimately made my research career possible.

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NYMU iGEM 2014 — Yen-An Chang

Yen-An is now in her fifth year at National Yang Ming Medical School. The project for NYMU iGEM 2014 was to combat the issue on tooth decay. They came up with a project to eliminate tooth decay and cavities by empowering both a specific bacteriophage and an oral probiotic to make a sustainable auto-adjusting bio-drug to eliminate cavities. After participating in the iGEM competition, Chang continued to participate in scientific research. At the beginning of this year, she interned at Duke University to help Professor Yan-Chuang's laboratory study. She plans to study abroad in the future and hopes to become a clinical and physician.



The Impact of Participating in iGEM

In the process of getting ready for the iGEM competition, Yen-An Chang learned to establish her own enthusiasm for our project. She was originally planning to graduate majoring in medicine and become a doctor one day. But after iGEM, she became interested in scientific research and realized life with research can be more challenging and filled with surprises!

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