

## WISEST INITIATIVES / POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAM

### ***News and Events***

The college of Engineering and the Department of Chemical Engineering is proud to announce that WISEST Post-doctoral Fellow Belinda Akpa accepted an offer of a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Department of Chemical Engineering at UIC to start in August 2009.



Dr. Akpa received her undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Cambridge (UK) with First Class Honors. She then completed her Ph.D in Chemical Engineering with Advanced Chemical Engineering Practice with Professor Lynn F. Gladden, FRS also in University of Cambridge, in the Cambridge-MIT Institute, UK. Her dissertation was on Quantitative, chemically-resolved study of chemical engineering systems using nuclear magnetic resonance. While in Cambridge Belinda Akpa won several scholarships and prizes for her achievements. She came to UIC as a WISEST Post-doctoral Fellow on Aug 15, 2007. She is concurrently a Resident Associate at Argonne National Laboratory. She gave a departmental seminar in the Chemical Engineering Department on October 25, 2007 entitled Multi Scale Applications of Magnetic Resonance in Reactor Engineering, and greatly impressed the members of the department. She had already created a “buzz” within the department with her very quick adoption of simulation techniques in collaboration with Prof. Ludwig Nitsche and Prof. Lewis Wedgewood in a newly formed collaboration with Prof. Minshall from the Department of Pharmacology. Since coming to UIC, she has augmented her CV with a large number of talks at national and international conferences (American Institute of Chemical Engineers, International Conference on Mechanics in Medicine and Biology, the 49th Experimental NMR Conference, to name only a few). She has also given invited seminars at the Center for Catalysis and Surface Science at Northwestern University and the Heterogeneous Catalysis Group at Argonne National Laboratory. Since coming to UIC she has added to her list of publications, currently 7 peer-reviewed original articles, plus two book chapters: 19 pages published by Wiley in 2006 and 22 pages published by The Royal Society of Chemistry in 2008. She has also written

several proposals with other co-PIs, as well two proposals as sole PI. As part of her WISEST postdoctoral experience, she designed and taught a one-semester course CHE 494 on “Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Spectroscopy for Engineers” during Fall 2008, which was attended by graduates and senior undergraduate students in chemical, bio-, and mechanical engineering.