Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 20, 2022

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Board Meeting

January 20, 2022

## APPOINT FELLOWS TO THE

## CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY, URBANA

**Action:** Appoint Fellows to the Center for Advanced Study for the Academic Year 2022-23

**Funding:** Private Gift Funds from the Beckman Endowment and State Appropriated Funds

Each year the Center for Advanced Study awards appointments as Fellows in the Center, providing one semester of release time for creative work. Fellows are selected in an annual competition from the untenured faculty of all departments and colleges to carry out self-initiated programs of scholarly research or professional activity.

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois System recommends the following list of Fellows selected for the 2022-23 academic year and offers brief descriptions of their projects:

**\*Arijit Banerjee, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering,** *Illini Spine: Making Robots Natural Through Distributed Actuation*

The project objective is to create a class of modular and distributed electromechanical actuators that will enable robots to be agile, efficient, and capable of reproducing biological motions that are impossible today. As an embodiment of a distributed actuation mechanism, the project aims to emulate a biological spine.

**\*Sangjin Kim, Assistant Professor, Physics,** *Probing the Microscopic Structure of a Cell from Diffusivity of the Proteome*

Professor Kim’s research group uses physics-inspired methodologies to characterize the microscopic structure of living cells. The new technology they develop will enable scientists across multiple fields to obtain high-resolution molecular pictures of a cell’s interior, and provide mechanistic and systems-level insights into how cells operate properly.

**Lisa Mercer, Assistant Professor, Graphic Design**, *Racism Untaught*

Professor Mercer initiated the research study Racism Untaught in 2018, a collaborative, participatory, and interactive framework focused on analyzing and re-imagining forms of racialized design. This book project details the iterative research process informing the framework that is meant to disrupt the status quo in collaborative design environments.

**\*Leona Yi-Fan Su, Assistant Professor, Advertising,** *Conversational Agents for Health Misinformation Correction*

This project examines the relative debunking efficacy and mechanisms of conversational agents with different modalities and conversational structures in correcting COVID-19-related misperceptions. As well as potentially leading to theoretical advancements, its findings will have practical implications for communicators and educators considering the use of emerging digital tools to combat misinformation and improve public health.

**\*Xiao Su, Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering,** *Chiral Electrochemical Interfaces for Enantioselective Interactions*

The proposed project by Professor Su aims to develop new electrochemically-active polymer materials with enantioselective interactions. The findings can lead to transformative impact in chiral separations, chemical and biochemical processing, and therapeutic manufacturing.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Interim Executive Vice President and the Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs.

The President of the University recommends approval.

\* These faculty members have been recommended for appointment as Beckman Fellows in the Center for Advanced Study, named for the donor of a gift that permits additional recognition for outstanding relatively younger Fellow candidates who have already made distinctive scholarly contributions to their respective fields.