

William R. Wiley

# EMSL In Brief

Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory

## Kuchibhatla Receives AVS Graduate Research Award

Satyanarayana Kuchibhatla, a graduate student from Professor Sudipta Seal's group at University of Central Florida (UCF) who is conducting research at the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory, received an AVS Graduate Research Award (GRA) for 2007.

Satya is working with EMSL interfacial and nanoscale science researchers Theva Thevuthasan and Don Baer. The trio attended the AVS 54<sup>th</sup> International Symposium in Seattle, where Satya was honored during an awards assembly on October 17 and gave a presentation about his research.

Understanding and tuning the properties of nanostructured materials, including nanoparticles and high-quality, single-crystal thin films is the focus of Satya's work. At the AVS Symposium, he presented his research to understand the aging and environmental effects of ceria nanoparticles. He is also actively involved in the ongoing EMSL studies to optimize the chemistry and structure of ceria-based thin film electrolytes for use in solid oxide fuel cells. This collaborative work between UCF and EMSL has produced three peer-reviewed journal articles, and five additional manuscripts are in their final stages of preparation.

The GRA was established to recognize and encourage excellence in graduate studies in the sciences and technologies of interest to AVS, which include thin-films studies, materials characterization and processing, surface engineering, biomaterials research, and more. Satya was one of seven individuals to receive the honor, recognized by the AVS for his hard work, creativity, and potential for leadership in his profession.

As part of this award, Satya was presented a cash award, a certificate, and travel expenses to attend this year's AVS Symposium, as well as a complimentary AVS membership for 2008.

AVS ([www.avs.org](http://www.avs.org)) is a nonprofit organization that promotes communication, education, networking, recommended practices, research, and the dissemination of knowledge on an international scale, in the application of vacuum and other controlled environments to understand and develop interfaces, new materials, processes, and devices through the interaction of science and technology.

For more information, contact Mary Ann Showalter (509-376-5751).



*Satya Kuchibhatla and EMSL mentor Don Baer at the AVS 54<sup>th</sup> International Symposium in Seattle*

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