

## PhD Position at Reading University, Centre for Biomimetics

The auditory implant centre of Guy's and St Thomas Hospitals in London and the University of Reading have received a grant from Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) to investigate the impact of auditory implants on the mechanics of the inner and middle ear. The two institutions have been collaborating on this theme for several years, developing a high level of expertise. The Centre for Biomimetics is part of the School of Construction Management and Engineering which obtained a 5 star rating in the last RAE. The auditory implant centre at St. Thomas Hospital operates one of the largest and the most comprehensive auditory implant programmes in the United Kingdom and is equipped with a Laser Doppler Vibrometry laboratory for both *in vitro* and intra-operative measurements of inner and middle ear mechanics. The centre commits to translate scientific interests into a tangible benefit for patients.

The project is seeking a competent postgraduate student to carry out the research. The research grant is for three years and the student will be registered for a higher degree at Reading University. Tuition fees (at the level of home or EU students) and living expenses will be fully covered by the grant.

The research programme involves measurements of stapes movements under various sound stimuli and across the frequency range using laser vibrometry techniques, processing and analysing of data. Owing to the nature of the project the postgraduate student will be expected to spend a very significant proportion of his/her time at St Thomas Hospital in London, working in close collaboration with the medical staff.

Reading University will provide the necessary support to complement the work at St Thomas Hospital.

Candidates should have completed their undergraduate studies achieving a 2.1 or better (or equivalent) in a relevant discipline (physics, engineering, biomechanics). They should have competence in vibrations, acoustics, measurement and data analysis techniques. Knowledge of computer-based data acquisition systems and competence computing methods (such as Matlab, for example) would be an advantage.

Applicants should fill in the Postgraduate Studies Application form which can be downloaded from <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/Study/study-pg.asp> and should be able to start on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

Owing to the nature of the funding, only UK and EU students need apply.

Additional information on the project can be obtained from Mr. A Fitzgerald O'Connor FRCS or Mr. D. Jiang PhD FRCS at St Thomas Hospital ([afoc@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:afoc@globalnet.co.uk), [danjiang@doctors.org.uk](mailto:danjiang@doctors.org.uk)) or from Professor G. Jeronimidis at The University of Reading ([g.jeronimidis@reading.ac.uk](mailto:g.jeronimidis@reading.ac.uk))