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Mikos Earns Young Investigator Award

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Antonios G. Mikos, T.N. Law Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering, recently received the Materials Research Society's Outstanding Young Investigator Award for 1996.

The society honored Mikos for the "synthesis and processing of new biomaterials for tissue engineering, supports for cells, tissue-growth conduits, targeted cell-adhesion substrates and cellular-response stimulants."

The Outstanding Young Investigator Award recognizes exceptional interdisciplinary scientific work in materials research by a young scientist or engineer who also shows leadership in the materials area.

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Mikos' research applies materials science to medicine, with a concentration on biodegradable polymers used for organ and tissue replacement. Mikos uses the degradable polymers, similar to the common internal surgical stitches that dissolve in the body, as scaffolds on which bone or organ cells grow. Mikos' research includes developing systems for bone regeneration, artificial skin and retinal cell repair. In the past, Mikos has successfully grown liver cells in a polymer scaffold in rats and recently, he has successfully grown bone tissue in sheep.

Mikos' approach to tissue engineering works to mimic the body's natural environment by creating a degradable scaffold on which cells will attach, grow and form new tissue, so that the cells will interact with one another to perform the organ's function.

Among Mikos' previous awards are the Victor K. LaMer Award for outstanding Ph.D. thesis from the American Chemical Society and the Whitaker Young Investigator Award from the Biomedical Engineering Society.

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