

CTE Lab Undergraduates Host Lab Tours during ENSPIRE

by Murray Grissom; ed. Johnny Du

On February 18, 2009, the Cartilage Tissue Engineering Lab once again invited students in for a tour as part of the Triton Engineering Student Council's ENSPIRE. This TESC-hosted event is held during UCSD's annual Engineering Week to encourage middle school student visitors to pursue science and engineering degrees.

This year, the nearly 400 ENSPIRE participants included students from Gompers and Pershing middle schools. Activities include lab tours and an engineering design competition. The CTE Lab took part in hosting a tour to approximately 50 to 60 students. Undergraduate researchers Murray Grissom and Espoir Kyubwa led the tours under the supervision of graduate student Eun Hee Han.

First, the students were given an overview of cartilage tissue engineering as well as some of the CTE Lab's specific research projects. This was followed by a brief tour of the lab's facilities, including a hands-on demonstration in the harvest room. The demonstration used a dissected calf knee to describe the knee's anatomy and provided an opportunity for the students to feel the knee joint.

The students' enthusiastic reaction to the knee demonstration and curiosity to the types of experiments the knee underwent validated the tour's success in stimulating their interest. The CTE Lab's ongoing involvement in outreach events at UCSD motivates local youth to pursue careers in science and engineering.

For more information, please visit <http://cte.ucsd.edu> and <http://tesc.ucsd.edu>.

Undergraduate researcher Murray Grissom presents a calf knee to a group of middle school students. Photo courtesy B.C. Hansen.

