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### Assistant Physics Professor Gidalevitz Named a 2008-2009 Coleman Faculty Scholar

*IIT Today* October 16, 2008

Assistant professor of physics David Gidalevitz has been named a Coleman Faculty Scholar for 2008-2009, announced David Pistrui, IIT Stuart Coleman Chair in Entrepreneurship.



The Coleman Faculty Scholar program brings non-business and business faculty together to work on entrepreneurship activities. This school year, Gidalevitz will teach, collaborate on events and projects, and do research in innovation and entrepreneurship for the equivalent of one course per semester. One of his first tasks is to help the Entrepreneurship Program at IIT prepare a science and technology track for the 2008 CEO National Conference. He also serves on the campuswide entrepreneurship committee.

"Cross-campus faculty and curriculum integration and advancement are vital to developing competitive, world-class education at Illinois Institute of Technology," said Pistrui. Gidalevitz was nominated by previous Scholars and highly recommended by his colleagues, he added. "We were impressed with his academic background, his entrepreneurial mindset, and his research."

Gidalevitz's research focuses on biomimetic (manmade and imitative of nature) membranes and investigates the fundamental properties of plasma cell membranes and peptide/protein/polymer interactions with cell membranes. Specific research projects are:

- Antimicrobial peptides - investigation of the mechanism of action.
- Early stages of HIV-1 entry into the cell - insight into the viral fusion.
- Peptoid mimics of lung surfactant proteins.
- Ampetoids as biostable functional mimics of antimicrobial peptides.
- Immunological attenuation via PEGylation of red blood cells - polymer/membrane interaction in "stealth" erythrocytes.

Gidalevitz is involved in collaborative research projects with Stanford University, the University of Pennsylvania, UCLA, and Israel Institute of Technology.

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