

NEWS RELEASE

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NC State Professor Forges International Partnership for “Green Chemistry” Research

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A researcher at North Carolina State University has been named a Finland Distinguished Professor, opening the door to academic exchange and research partnerships with that country.

Dr. Dimitris Argyropoulos, professor of chemistry in the College of Natural Resources’ wood and paper science department, received the professorship and a \$1.6 million grant to create research partnerships with Finnish institutions in the fields of bio-energy and biomass.



Dimitris Argyropoulos

The research partnerships will focus on green chemistry – finding novel, environmentally friendly ways of processing wood and producing not just paper, but other products, such as biofuels, chemicals and even plastics.

“We’re focusing on limiting the amount of waste and environmental impact that comes from processing wood and increasing the variety of products from it,” says Argyropoulos. “Finland is a world leader in this industry, so partnering with their scientists makes a lot of sense.”

The goal of the Finland Distinguished Professor Program (FiDiPro) is to raise the level of scientific knowledge in Finland by supporting research institutes and creating international cooperation.

The grant is funded by the Academy of Finland and Tekes, and participating institutions include the Biotech Institute of Finland, Helsinki University of Technology, the University of Helsinki, and the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Finland. The Department of Chemistry at the University of Helsinki will act as the host institution to Argyropoulos.

“This partnership will give us increased opportunities for student and faculty exchanges with not only the University of Helsinki’s chemistry department, but also Finnish industry,” says Bob Brown, dean of the College of Natural Resources.

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