



**Cecilia KORBER  
GONCALVES**

**Home Country  
Brazil**

**Degree  
MSc in Materials  
Engineering**

**Expertise  
Chemical Engineering**

**Research Focus  
Pollutant Emissions  
of Plastics  
Combustion**

**Host University  
Northeastern  
University,  
United States**

**Fellowship Awarded  
2005**

Cecilia Korber Goncalves was born and raised in Santo Andre, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Both she and her sister enjoyed the support of their family and were motivated to improve their qualifications, and both obtained graduate degrees in the environmental sciences.

Cecilia began taking chemistry courses in technical high school and she continued studying chemical engineering during her undergraduate years. In 2005 and 2006 she was a visiting scholar at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts in the United States, after which she graduated in 2007 with a Master of Science degree in materials engineering at the University of Sao Paulo.

Cecilia's research focus was on studying the pollutant emissions of plastics combustion, which are widely used in developed countries such as the US and Japan to "dispose" of solid waste.

Specifically, she studied the poliaromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) emissions of polyethylene and polystyrene during several different conditions of pyrolysis and combustion. Her research findings were published in the respected ACS Journal of Energy and Fuels, and were presented at a symposium at the EPD Congress of the Minerals, Metals & Materials Society. As well, she delivered three other presentations in Brazilian congresses. Her work to determine which conditions have fewer emissions of soot and heavy PAH, some of which are known to be carcinogenic, could lead to lowered emissions of PAH in developed countries.

Cecilia is working on quality management at a respected pulp and paper company in Sao Paulo, improving her qualifications and experience in the area of quality and environmental management. In the future she plans to obtain her PhD and hopes to teach in Brazil at the University of Sao Paulo.

