

## Herdeline Ann ARDOÑA

<b>Home Country</b>	<b>Philippines</b>
<b>Degree</b>	<b>PhD in Chemistry</b>
<b>Expertise</b>	<b>Biomaterials</b>
<b>Research Focus</b>	<b>Organic and Materials Chemistry</b>
<b>Host University</b>	<b>Johns Hopkins University, United States</b>
<b>Fellowship Awarded</b>	<b>2014</b>

Herdeline Ann Ardoña was born in the Philippines and grew up in Valenzuela City, Metro Manila. From a young age, she got the motivation to pursue chemistry from her grandmother, who is a chemical engineer. Growing up with her mother who is a nurse, she was inspired to direct her research towards biomedical applications.

Herdeline received her B.S. Chemistry degree (*summa cum laude*) from the University of the Philippines-Diliman in 2011. During this time, her undergraduate thesis work was recognized and awarded by the University and the Department of Science and Technology in the Philippines. Immediately after graduation, she worked as a chemistry instructor at the University. Since 2012, Herdeline has been a graduate student in the Chemistry department of Johns Hopkins University, United States, and is affiliated with its Institute for NanoBioTechnology.

Her PhD studies focus on the use of synthetic organic materials, investigating their properties for biomaterials applications. She is currently in a research group that synthesizes and designs peptide-based conducting hydrogels that can be used as a scaffold for electrically-sensitive tissues such as nerves. This can potentially help improve the very slow rate of nerve regeneration in the millions of people annually who suffer from peripheral nerve injury. This research has the potential to develop an injectable cell scaffold that could stimulate a faster rate of nerve regeneration for patients.

After completing her PhD studies, Herdeline plans to collaborate and expand the biomaterials research at the University of the Philippines. She hopes to become a professor in the field of materials chemistry, specifically focusing on biomaterials.