



Jhalique Jane FOJAS

Home Country: Philippines

Degree: PhD in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

Expertise: Neuroscience, Neurophysics, Neuroengineering

Research Focus: Neurophysics

Host University: University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Fellowship Awarded: 2016

Jhalique Jane Fojas was born in a province around twelve hours drive from Manila, the capital of the Philippines. She was raised by her grandparents, who were farmers, and they supported her love for science by providing books from a nearby public library and local bookstore. Jhalique graduated top of her class at primary school, which earned her a scholarship at the most prestigious science high school in her country.

With support from a full scholarship, Jhalique attended the University of the Philippines where she gained a BSc in Chemical Engineering. She then worked as a faculty member teaching chemistry while also studying towards an MSc in Chemical Engineering, specializing in bioengineering, and another MSc in Applied Mathematics. She was top of her year in all of her courses and won several awards, including a scholarship from Harvard Medical School in the United States.

Jhalique's PhD research focuses the development of an integrated microfluidic-neurosensory platform to investigate underlying pathological mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's. She has a passion to understand the inner workings of the brain, and there are few experts in the field of neuroengineering and neurophysics in the Philippines. Jhalique hopes to develop a portable and flexible technology that can identify these pathological mechanisms, which may also enable the discovery of new drugs and treatments for degenerative brain disease. She also believes that the flora and fauna of her country could provide a reservoir of affordable medicines to mitigate or cure neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's disease.

After completion of her PhD, Jhalique plans to gain further training abroad before returning to teaching and research in the Philippines. She hopes to establish a research group in her country within which she can share her international knowledge and experience.