

# Ryan Snodgrass

[rsnodgrass.net](http://rsnodgrass.net)  
rjs492@cornell.edu  
(513)703-0745



**GOAL:** Career in US national lab or industry, working on interesting projects involving energy, measurement, or automation  
**QUALIFICATION:** Ph.D. on thermal systems: solid state refrigerators, heat-driven actuators, and solar thermal devices

## EDUCATION

Cornell University

- Ph.D. Mechanical Engineering. Specialization: thermal systems 2014 – expected graduation May 2019
- M.S. Mechanical Engineering 2017

The Ohio State University

- B.S. Mechanical Engineering with Honors Research Distinction, GPA: 3.97/4.00 2014

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow 2016-2019
- Lead student researcher and co- grant writer on project awarded \$3 million from NIH 2018

## PATENTS

Snodgrass, R., Erickson, D., and Cesarman, E. *System and method for isothermal nucleic acid amplification*. PCT number 7674-02-PC. Filed April 10, 2018.

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

**Graduate Research Assistant** - David Erickson Lab - Cornell University Fall 2014 - present

- Achieved new cold-side temperature record in an elastocaloric refrigerator
- Manufactured first-ever thermal cyclers actuated by shape memory alloys
- Built tool that uses sunlight, flame, or electricity to provide health diagnostics to resource limited settings; implemented the device in Uganda; [News story 2018](#), [News story 2016](#)

**Research Assistant** - Microsystems/Nanosystems Lab - The Ohio State University 2012-2014

- Unique synthesis of graphene in a microcombustor device
- Designed and built an electrical-impedance sensor for hepatic cancer detection
- Awarded research scholarship for writing excellent research proposal (\$3300)

**DAAD/RISE Research Scholar** - University of Freiburg - Baden-Württemberg, Germany Summer 2013

- Measured ferroelectric properties of ceramic thin films; fabricated devices in a clean room setting

## PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING POSITIONS

**R&D Intern** - Dow Agrosciences - Indianapolis, IN Summer 2014

- Designed and built an automatic leaf sampling tool for greenhouse plant sampling
- Wrote an EPSON vision algorithm to find leaves with a camera and three-axis robot

**Mechanical Engineering Co-op** - Honda Engineering North America - Marysville, OH Two terms:

- Implemented a novel, automatic windshield priming robot Winter/Summer 2012
- Published specification sheet detailing a new glass installation machine

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Snodgrass, R.** et al. *A portable device for nucleic acid quantification powered by sunlight, a flame or electricity*. *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, 2018. [doi.org/10.1038/s41551-018-0286-y](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41551-018-0286-y)
- **Snodgrass, R.** and Erickson, D. *A multistage, regenerative elastocaloric refrigerator with a 7°C cold-side temperature*. In preparation, expected 2019.
- **Snodgrass, R.** and Erickson, D. *Shape memory alloy driven thermal cycling for nucleic acid quantification*. In preparation, expected 2019.
- **Snodgrass, R.** et al. *KS-Detect - Validation of Solar Thermal PCR for the Diagnosis of Kaposi's Sarcoma Using Pseudo-Biopsy Samples*. *PLOS One*, 2016. [doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0147636](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0147636)
- Koppa, V., **Snodgrass, R.**, & Erickson, D. *Holographic diagnosis of lymphoma*. *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, 2018
- Gumas, A., Ahsan, S., Dogan, B., Jiang, L., **Snodgrass, R.**, et al. *Solar-Thermal Complex Sample Processing for Nucleic Acid Based Diagnostics in Limited Resource Settings*. *Biomedical Optics Express*, 2015.
- Karnes, M., **Snodgrass, R.**, et al. *Microarray Electrodes for Impedance Imaging and Electrical Characterization of Ex-Vivo Liver Metastases*, Hilton Head Workshop for Solid-State Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems Proceedings, 2014.

- **Snodgrass, R.** and Prakash, S., *Microarray Probe Development for the Imaging of Human Tumors*, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, The Ohio State University, 2014.
- Kellie, B.M., Silleck, A.C., Bellman, K., **Snodgrass, R.**, Prakash, S., *Deposition of Few-Layered Graphene in a Microcombustor on Copper and Nickel Substrates*. Royal Society of Chemistry Advances, 2013.

#### PROFESSIONAL MENTORING AND TEACHING

---

<b>DAAD/RISE Worldwide Supervisor</b> - Recruited and mentored two German students for research internships		
• Paul Benecke, Technische Universität Dresden. Project: nitinol spring characterization		Summer 2018
• Jens Duru, Universität Kassel. Project: PCB design for automated heating control		Summer 2017
<b>Graduate Teaching Assistant</b> - Cornell University		
• MAE 3272, Mechanics of materials		Spring 2016
• MAE 4272, Fluid mechanics		Fall 2014

#### RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

---

• <b>Snodgrass, R.</b> and Erickson, D. <i>Methods for elastocaloric cooling below room temperature and cold side temperature record of 7°C</i> . Shape Memory and Superelastic Technology Conference.	expected 2019
• <b>Snodgrass, R.</b> et al. <i>TINY: A portable and isothermal nucleic acid quantification system heated by sunlight, flame, or electricity</i> . World of Photonics Conference.	2017
• <b>Snodgrass, R.</b> et al. <i>TINY: A portable system for nucleic acid quantification in the field using alternative heat sources</i> . MicroTAS Conference.	2017
• <b>Snodgrass, R.</b> et al. <i>KS-Detect: Solar thermal PCR for the point-of-care diagnosis of Kaposi's sarcoma</i> . Pittcon Conference & Expo.	2016
• <b>Snodgrass, R.</b> and Prakash, S. <i>Microarray Probe Development for the Imaging of Human Tumors</i> , Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, The Ohio State University.	2014
• <b>Snodgrass, R.</b> and Fredericksen, E. <i>Automated Leaf Sampling Proof of Concept</i> , Summer Intern Research Symposium, Dow AgroSciences.	2014

#### TECHNICAL SKILLS

---

**Engineering/laboratory:** Refrigeration cycle design and construction (elastocaloric, magnetocaloric), shape memory alloy implementation and characterization, phase change materials, differential scanning calorimetry, electronics (PCB design and IC implementation), power circuits, optical systems, nucleic acid amplification and quantification, finite element analysis, electrochemical impedance spectroscopy, characterization of ferroelectric materials, thin-film deposition, UV lithography, optical microscopy, Raman spectroscopy, microcombustion, metal etching, chemical handling

**Software/programming:** MATLAB, C/C++, Arduino, Python, Solidworks (CSWA certified and 8+ years experience), COMSOL, LabVIEW, EAGLE PCB design, EPSON vision algorithms, UNIX programming environment, CATIA V5, Autodesk Inventor, Vision (ferroelectric testing), L-Edit Layout Tool, HTML; numerical method techniques

**Manufacturing:** Formal mill/lathe training and 5+ years of machining parts designed myself, CNC mill operation, rapid prototyping, laser cutting, operation of a MOTOMAN six-axis robot (3 months experience), operation and algorithm-development of an EPSON three-axis robot (3 months experience)

#### LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH

---

Comedy FLOPS performer - Ithaca, NY	2017-present
• Fundraised for a different charity each month by performing improv comedy on-stage	
Founding Member and Webmaster - TEDxOhioStateUniversity	2010-2012
• Assisted in the startup of a thriving student organization; also responsible for group website	
Event Organizer and Webmaster - Sibley Graduate Research Symposium - Cornell University	2014-present
• Organized an annual research symposium for engineering students	
Group Leader - Very Sharey Halloween	2011-2013
• Led groups of undergraduates in the largest canned food drive at The Ohio State University	

#### ACADEMIC AWARDS

---

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow (2016-2019) • Top Academic Award, Department of Mechanical Engineering, The Ohio State University (2012) • The Ohio State University Undergraduate Research Scholarship (2014) • Ada Richard Pressman Engineering Scholarship (2012-2014) • James M. Elliott Engineering Scholarship (2011-2014) • The Ohio State University Maximus Scholarship (2010-2014) • Honda/Ohio State Math Medal Scholarship (2010-2014)