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#BehindTheLight: For Peter Ufodu, the desire to help scientists use synchrotron light in their research was sparked during his time working on a casual basis at REIXS. That's why he didn't hesitate to apply when a full-time position came open at another CLS beamline. "I thought: This is a passion...I want to do that," says Ufodu, who started as an associate scientist at BioXAS in early November.

Born and raised in eastern Nigeria, Peter completed his Bachelor's degree in physics there before relocating to the US. He did a pair of Masters degrees (in physics and in computational science) at the University of Texas at El Paso – a location whose climate he says is similar to where he grew up. Ufodu chuckles when he thinks back to what he considered "cool" days in El Paso. "When it was a little cold, we'd say 'oh, it's SO cold.'" Now that he's got five Saskatchewan winters under his belt, he says



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he now knows what real cold is.

Ufondu recently completed his PhD in Physics, working under Dr. Alexander Moewes, Canada Research Chair in Materials Science with synchrotron radiation, and professor in University of Saskatchewan's Department of Physics and Engineering Physics. The focus of Peter's doctorate was experimental design, to complement the expertise in theoretical modelling he developed doing his Masters degrees.

"Peter is an excellent scientist, a good person to be around, and he likes to laugh," says Dr. Moewes. "All these attributes will benefit his future users at BioXAS and help when experiments become stressful."

While most physicists are focused on either theory or experimentation, Ufondu sees himself as having one foot in both camps. While he's still in the early stage of his research career, Peter has already published a number of papers in high-impact academic journals, including Advanced Science and the Journal of Materials Chemistry C as the lead author.

Ufondu, who used REIXS for his PhD research, was impressed by the level of automation that beamline responsible Teak Boyko has developed for users. "We would come to the beamline, press a few buttons, and voila, everything was done." Peter says he's looking forward to helping users have a similarly positive experience, in his new role at BioXAS.



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