



Julia van Drunen has been granted a FAPESP postdoctoral fellowship to pursue research at the Universidade de São Paulo (USP) in Brazil. The proposed research focuses on the electrochemical conversion of biomass and biomass waste products into valuable chemicals and electrical energy. This research project fits in well with Brazil's booming biofuel industry and the global initiative towards environmentally sustainable energy systems. FAPESP (*Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo*, Foundation for Research Support of the State of São Paulo) is a government agency that supports both Brazilian and international research within the state of São Paulo. The FAPESP postdoctoral fellowship provides researchers with financial support for two years and also funding to participate in national and international conferences.

Dr. van Drunen completed her PhD in the Department of Chemistry at Queen's University in December 2013 under the supervision of Prof. Gregory Jerkiewicz. Prof. Jerkiewicz and his Brazilian colleague, Prof. Germano Tremiliosi-Filho of USP, are currently laying the foundation for collaborative research between Queen's University and the Universidade de São Paulo in the field of electrochemistry and electrocatalysis. This collaborative research program will facilitate the exchange of scientific expertise between Queen's and USP and allow researchers from both institutions to learn and apply new techniques. It will also give students the opportunity to travel between Brazil and Canada, and to experience new cultures and languages. Dr. van Drunen will be the first researcher to participate in this new collaboration.