

BEACON Newsletter

The Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium

March 23, 2004

EARLY SPRING ACTIVITIES & MEMBER NEWS

BEACON EVENTS REPORT

BEACON has started off the year on a high note! So far we have hosted two of six educational seminars for our members and the response has been tremendous!



Dr. Bronzino with Laurie Sullivan, Kurt Haggstrom and Tony Sacchetti of Tyco Healthcare/Kendall

The first event, held on February 27th entitled, "Areas of Promise: A Corporate Perspective" was presented by Laurie Sullivan, Director of New Product Marketing, Tyco Healthcare/Kendall, Mansfield, MA. Tyco is a corporate member of BEACON and as such, was able to share with our members information on partnerships available to start up companies that have developed products of interest to Tyco. During her presentation, Ms. Sullivan explained the process involved in identifying the proper corporate contact, how doctors are recruited for clinical trials, what methods are used to determine the viability of a product, etc. After the presentation, members had the opportunity to network and ask specific questions of Ms. Sullivan and her two colleagues who traveled to BEACON with her. The response from those present was one of gratitude to learn from the inside how corporations make decisions.

One week later on March 5th BEACON welcomed Dr. Richard Swaja, Ph.D., Senior Science Advisor, NIH, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. Held at the University of Connecticut Health Center, those present were treated to a lively discussion of the federal government grants that are made available every year to individuals, researcher institutions and entrepreneurs involved in creating new medical devices. Dr. Swaja was candid in explaining the lengthy and complicated process in securing these grants, but was reassuring that diligence can pay off. After his presentation, Dr. Swaja met individually with audience members to talk about their specific projects.



Dr. Swaja, NIH, speaks with a BEACON member following his presentation on federal grant opportunities.

Please join us for the rest of the series of seminars:

April 15 – "Inside the Mind of the Venture Capitalist" presented by Udayan Gupta, author of *Done Deals: Venture Capitalists Tell Their Stories*. It will be held at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Hartford from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

May 6 – "Illness and Health Care in 19th Century America" presented by Jack Larkin, Museum Scholar and Chief Historian, Old Sturbridge Village. It will be held at Asnuntuck Community College, Enfield, CT from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

May 20 – "The FDA and Medical Devices" presented by Dr. Sandy Weinger. To be held at Baystate Health Center, Springfield, MA from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

June 17 – "Research and Development Activities at the Engineering Applications Center" presented by Dr. Devdas Shetty, Associate Dean of Engineering, University of Hartford. It will be held from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the University with a tour of the facility included.

October 28 – Annual BEACON Symposium and Technology Fair. The topic will be: Bionanotechnology. More details to follow, but SAVE THE DATE!!!

LOOK AT US NOW!

BEACON is very pleased to announce its newly designed logo and tag line. Watch for it in future publications!



BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING ALLIANCE & CONSORTIUM

Merging minds, medicine & industry

MEMBER NEWS



The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, CCAT, a corporate member of BEACON, is establishing a **Laser Applications Laboratory** as part of its new Innovation Center in East Hartford, CT.

The Connecticut and Western Massachusetts region is home to several of the world's leaders in laser systems development as well as numerous companies that are involved in the application of lasers, including the manufacture of medical devices as well as advanced power systems. The Laser Applications Laboratory will contain laser based equipment and have professional staff available to work on projects in support of entrepreneurs, companies and developmental programs. The faculty and students of affiliated universities and colleges will have the opportunity to undertake projects within the facility. The laboratory staff will also assist in forming multi organization program partnerships and establishing government contract funded activities.

The laboratory will be located within CCAT's Innovation Center facilities at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, CT. The Innovation Center provides space for new, start up companies and mature companies seeking to develop new products in an innovative and entrepreneurial environment. The Laser Applications Laboratory facilities will be available for use by these participating companies.

Areas of laser applications will include:

- Manufacturing and materials technology – shaping, cutting, drilling, joining, micromachining, heat treatment, surface treatment, rapid product realization and repair.
- Medical/Life Science – sensing, diagnostics, medical device manufacture, biomaterials processing.
- Measurement/diagnostic sensing–physical dimensions, quality control and chemical analysis.

Further information can be obtained by logging on to: www.ccat.us or by calling 860-291-8832.

CONGRATULATIONS!

BEACON congratulates member institution **Springfield Technical Community College** for receiving the National Bellweather Award for Workforce Development. STCC was awarded the honor as the 2004 recipient by the Community College Futures Assembly in Miami, FL in January. The Bellweather Awards “annually recognize outstanding and innovative programs and practices that are successfully leading community colleges into the future.” The Community College Futures Assembly convenes annually as “an independent national policy forum for key leaders to work as a think tank in identifying critical issues facing the future of community colleges, and to recognize Bellweather Finalist colleges as trend-setting institutions.” The College of Education established the organization at the University of Florida. As STCC President Sciabelli stated, “during this time of national recognition by President Bush of the vital role of community colleges in workforce development, STCC is being honored as the best community college in the country.” A total of thirty colleges were nominated for this special award. We at BEACON already knew how special STCC is and are proud that they are members!

BEACON President **Dr. Joseph D. Bronzino** has been selected to receive the 2004 Robert H. Goddard Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement by the Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Alumni Association. The Goddard Award is named in honor of Dr. Robert H. Goddard (Class of 1908) who was a pioneer in the field of rocketry. Dr. Bronzino will be presented his award at the WPI Alumni Awards luncheon during the reunion weekend in June.

As always we welcome your comments on our work at BEACON. Feel free to contact us at any time!

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BEACON, the Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium 2004: Trinity College, The University of Connecticut, The University of Connecticut Health Center, The University of Hartford, The University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Drexel University, Springfield Technical Community College, Asnuntuck Community College, Hartford Hospital, John Dempsey Hospital, Saint Francis Medical Center, Baystate Medical Center, and The University of Stuttgart. Corporate Sponsors include Pfizer, TYCO Kendall Health Care, GE Medical, Northeast Utilities, Court Square Data Group, Pepe & Hazard, Pullman & Comley, Day, Berry & Howard, Premise Development, UBS Financial Services, McCormick, Paulding & Huber, MicroTest Laboratories, Vivax Medical, Electron Technologies, Applied Software Technologies, CCAT, Micro-Invasive Technologies, McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Robinson & Cole, and Inframat Corporation.