

# BEACON NEWS

## UPDATE ON BEACON EVENTS 2011

### NEXT SEMINAR: BEYOND THE HYSTERECTOMY: NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN WOMEN'S HEALTH



Join us for our last seminar of the year on **Thursday, November 17** as we welcome Mira Sahney, General Manager, Gynecology, Smith & Nephew who will present an "interactive" talk on the dynamic field of women's health specifically on a variety of new innovations in the area of minimally invasive gynecology. Ms. Sahney

is part of the team that launched Smith & Nephew's innovative TRUCLEAR system for treatment of polyps and fibroids. This is part of the company's diverse medical device portfolio. Every year over 600,000 women in the US have a hysterectomy. As it turns out many may not need the procedure and this device can change that. Ms. Sahney's background includes developing new companies and bringing devices to market. She will also explain the requirements for bringing ideas to commercialization. The event is being sponsored by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, CT. This event is open to the public. Full details are at: [http://www.beaconalliance.org/pdfs/womens\\_health\\_seminar.pdf](http://www.beaconalliance.org/pdfs/womens_health_seminar.pdf)

**Thursday, November 17, 2011**  
**Networking Reception 5:00-6:00p.m.**  
**Presentation 6:00-7:00p.m.**  
**Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Chawla Auditorium**  
**114 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT**

### SEPTEMBER EVENTS: HEART PUMPS AND NANOMEDICINE

Early this Fall BEACON held two events both specializing in new, cutting edge medical technology.



The first introduced a new technology for heart pumps from Abiomed, Inc. referred to as "The World's Smallest Heart Pump." Their Impella 2.5 directly unloads the left ventricle with up to 2.5 litres of blood per minute in a forward flow fashion allowing for immediate response to a

blockage. This device is used only in certain patients in the ER that need it and can be implanted quickly to aid in maintaining hemodynamic support. Years ago such LVADs (left ventricular assist device) were large, needed lots of space and cumbersome to use. This new pump is small, lightweight and more accepted by the body. It was presented by Sue Salvemini, Key Account Director, Abiomed who has over twenty years of medical industry experience. The following week BEACON welcomed Dr. Raj Bawa, patent agent with Bawa Biotech LLC in Ashburn, VA who presented "Nanomedicine-A Journey in

Pictures." Presently "Nanomedicine" is a term without a clear definition. As Dr. Bawa explained, it is such a new way of treating various diseases that the medical world has yet to define it. However, that is not stopping this new technology from growing rapidly in research and development around the world. Dr. Bawa gave many examples such as in cancer therapies where gold magnetic nanoparticles are directed right to cancer cells to destroy them at their core thus eliminating the need for chemotherapy and radiation. He showed examples of nano drug delivery systems being used in research and testing that will lead to much more directed medication to diseases. Both presentations, the "smallest heart pump" and "nanomedicine," are innovations of the future that are available today.



**SBIRs and STTRs –  
WHAT ARE THEY AND  
WHY ARE THEY  
IMPORTANT?**



Over the past several years BEACON has supported and promoted the SBIR/STTR program and we are pleased to learn that in Connecticut the number of grants awarded annually has grown substantially. The SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research) and STTR (Small Business Technology Transfer) awards provide more than \$2B in competitive federal R&D grants each year to small, high-tech, innovative businesses in the U.S. It is funded by 11 federal agencies including the Dept. of Defense, Dept. of Energy, Dept. of Health and Human Services, NASA, the National Science Foundation, among others. Every state has an SBIR office to assist small companies (under 500 employees) learn about these opportunities and provide assistance with their application. In Connecticut the SBIR office opened in 2004. Since then the number of SBIRs/STTRs awarded to Connecticut companies has risen from a few dozen to 138 in 2010 for a total of \$60M of federal grant money supporting small business in the state. Sixty-four companies were awarded those grants and, of those, ten were from NSF and 27 from NIH. This shows a marked rise in grants to life science companies, some of them medical device companies. BEACON is pleased to be helpful in promotion of this program and encourages any small company interested in these grants in Connecticut to visit [www.ctinnovations.com/sbir](http://www.ctinnovations.com/sbir) for more information.

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**BEACON MEMBER NEWS**



Metrum Research Group, a BEACON-member company located in Tariffville, CT, is a provider of biomedical modeling and simulation in the US and internationally. They are pleased to announce the launch of a new product, **METAMODL** (MEtrum research group Therapeutic Area MOdel and Data Library). METAMODL is the result of Metrum's internal R&D efforts focused on quantifying clinical biomarkers and endpoints in specific disease states/therapeutic areas. Access to METAMODL, a web-based library of mathematical disease models and

curated public-source data sets, is available via subscription, and provides a platform for Pharma/Biotech companies to rapidly evaluate development questions in the context of relevant therapeutic area patient populations and competing therapies. In addition, METAMODL includes a full suite of analysis tools to support application of the models/data to strategic decision-making in biomedical development. Current disease states include osteoporosis/bone disorders, Alzheimer's Disease, and viral dynamics. METAMODL content continues to evolve, under the guidance of a subscriber-based Scientific Advisory Board, and multiple new therapeutic areas are planned for development in the next 6-12 months. For more information, visit [www.metamodl.com](http://www.metamodl.com)

**METAMODL**

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**BEACON 2011 Members**

**Benefactors:** Trinity College; Covidien Vascular Therapies; Covidien Surgical Devices; Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center

**Medical/Academic Members:** University of Hartford; Springfield Technical Community College; Asnuntuck Community College; Medical Professions and Teacher Academy; Hartford Hospital; Hospital for Special Care; Connecticut Children's Medical Center; University of Connecticut and Medical Center

**Corporate Members:** Ahlstrom Nonwovens LLC; Cable Components Group; Ciracet Corporation; Connecticut Innovations; Court Square Group; Covington Associates; Dymax Corporation; Foster Corporation; Metrum Research Group; Northeast Utilities; Rogers Corporation; Soft Tissue Regeneration, Inc.; Valtronic Technologies; Web Industries  
**Legal Members:** McCormick, Paulding & Huber LLP; Robinson & Cole LLC

October 2011