

BEACON Newsletter

The Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium

April 10, 2002

BEACON HOSTS NSF VISIT

On Wednesday, February 13, 2002, BEACON provided an opportunity for its membership to learn first-hand the guidelines and opportunities afforded by the National Science Foundation's GOALIE, SBIR and STTR programs. These programs are designed to encourage and support the interaction between academia and industry. From 12:30-2:00pm in the 1877 Club at the Harry Gray Center at the University of Hartford, **Dr. Donald Senick, the Program Director of the GOALIE Program**, presented detailed information regarding the organization of NSF, the funding allocated to various divisions, and industrially oriented federal programs. Following his presentation, the 40 plus members of the BEACON community had the opportunity to ask specific questions about the procedures to be followed in preparing proposals for submission, the important criteria to address, levels of funding, and appropriate contacts within NSF to assist in answering questions related to applications. Dr. Senick then met individually with several BEACON members to address their specific questions.

BEACON RECEIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION

On Thursday, February 28, 2002, BEACON was given special recognition at SiliconSound's WinterFEST business networking event. Accepting the recognition at the event were Dr. Joseph Bronzino, President of BEACON, and Mr. Jeffrey Horn, Executive Director of BEACON Technology Network, a for-profit subsidiary of BEACON that focuses on incubating bioscience, and bioengineering companies. **"We are both impressed by what BEACON has done and honored to give recognition to BEACON" announced Mr. Angelo A. Rossetti, SiliconSound's President.** In responding to this award, Mr. Jeffrey Horn, the Industrial Liaison Officer of BEACON stated, "With BEACON's involvement in creating a bioscience/bioengineering hot spot and SiliconSound's promoting of CT as a high-tech hot spot is not only a strong alliance but an unbeatable combination." The companies that we have worked with, such as Premise Development Corporation and ePALS, have helped us grow this sector and give it national recognition.

On a final note, Dr. Joseph Bronzino stated, "We are appreciative of the recognition of the achievements BEACON has made in promoting the growth of biomedical engineering in Hartford, the state and the Northeast region of the country."

Over 400 participants joined Mr. Rossetti in congratulating BEACON for the increased visibility the medical device/systems industry has gained during the past year due to the efforts of the BEACON staff.

One of SiliconSound's goals is to recognize the grassroots companies, organizations and institutions through Connecticut's Community Achievement Awards for Technology. This is an awards program that recognizes the efforts of specific companies including several BEACON incubating companies and organizations. This awards program was launched at the Team CT Rally in December 2001 on February 28th. The six winners for 2002 will be announced at the Connecticut Technology Council's TecXPO on April 11th at Sonalysts Studios in Waterford.



Mission Statement:

BEACON pledges to facilitate a collaborative alliance among its academic, industrial and clinical members. Our goal is to stimulate collaborative research, promote industrial partnering within the alliance and foster the development of new companies whose primary objectives are to advance biomedical science and create innovative engineering solutions in healthcare.

For more information check out our website at:
www.beaconalliance.org

BEACON, the Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium Collaborative Team (2002): Trinity College, The University of Connecticut, The University of Hartford, The University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Hartford Hospital, John Dempsey Hospital, Saint Francis Medical Center, Baystate Medical Center, The University of Stuttgart and University of Frieburg Medical School. Corporate Sponsors include Pfizer, TYCO Kendall Health Care, GE Medical, Boston Scientific, Court Square Data Group, Pepe & Hazard, Pullman & Comley, The Steinbeis Foundation (Germany), Premise Development, UBS Paine Webber, and McCormick, Paulding & Huber.

BIOETHICS SEMINAR SERIES

On Thursday, March 14, 2002, BEACON launched its Bioethics Seminar Series. **The first of the series focused on "Stem Cell Research: Unraveling the Mysteries and Moral Issues"**. The event was held at the Charter Oak Cultural Center in Hartford. The attendance was 140-145 people, many of them from the greater Hartford community. The evening program began with Dr. Tom Chen, Director of the Biotechnology Center at the University of Connecticut, providing the fundamental scientific facts related to stem cell research. Dr. Maurice Wade of the Philosophy Department at Trinity College then spoke about the philosophical/moral issues raised by stem cell research. Following these presentations, Dr. Marie Hilliard of the Connecticut Catholic Conference discussed the Christian moral and ethical issues related to stem cell research, and Rabbi Elissa Kohen of Temple Beth Israel gave the Jewish perspective on this issue. Following these presentations, members of the audience were provided an opportunity to ask questions. This portion of the program was lively indeed. Upon departing for the evening, many of the participants were extremely pleased and complimentary about the evening's program.

As a follow-up, Drs. Chen and Wade have agreed to "take this show on the road" and provide a similar opportunity for individuals in the greater Springfield area during late May or early June. **The next lecture in the BEACON Bioethics Series will be on November 7th and focus on "Cloning: A Scientific, Philosophical and Religious Perspective."** Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

UCONN BME STUDENT WINS AWARD

John Oh, a recent graduate of the Clinical Engineering Internship Program at UConn, was recently informed that the following paper based on his Master's degree thesis:

"Oh, J., Rosow, F., Bronzino, J., Enderle, J., Eisenfeld, L. : The Design and Development of a Biosensor to Measure the Concentration of Meconium in Amniotic Fluid. Biomedical Instrumentation and Technology 35:44-56, 2001"

was selected by the journal of Biomedical Instrumentation and Technology as the **Outstanding Research Paper of the Year**. He is scheduled to receive a plaque and a check for \$1000 at this year's AAMI Conference on June 2 in Minneapolis. **Dr. Leonard Eisenfeld of Hartford Hospital holds the patent for this technology.** The BEACON Community offers its sincere congratulations to both of them.

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UPCOMING BEACON EVENTS

The following are important BEACON sponsored events that will take place during 2002. Please plan to attend.

- **Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering Symposium on "The Advances in Biological Engineering"**.

May 8, 2002, 3:00-5:00pm, Radisson, Cromwell, CT

Speakers include:

John White, Ph.D.

Biomedical Engineering Department
Center for Biodynamics, Boston University
"Neural Engineering"

Michael Shambloott, M.D.

Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics
John Hopkins School of Medicine
"Embryonic Stem Cell Technology"

Reen Wu, Ph.D.

Center for Comparative Respiratory Biology and
Medicine, University of California
"Functional Genomics"

- **Intellectual Property Workshop** delivered by staff of **McCormick, Paulding & Huber, LLP**

May 9, 2002, 3:00-5:00pm at 1 Congress Street,
Hartford, CT

Topics include: Patents, Trademarks, Copyrights,
Trade Secrets

To register please contact Jane Mussehl. See contact info below.

- **BEACON Symposium, "Cardiovascular Technology: Medical Devices and Tissue Engineering", and Technology Fair**

Thursday, October 31, 2002, 8:30am - 5:00pm

To reserve poster space contact Jane Mussehl at
(860)297-5364 or jane.mussehl@beaconalliance.org

To reserve exhibit space contact Bob Miller at
(860)297-4017 or robert.miller@beaconalliance.org.

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