

BEACON Newsletter

The Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium

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Special Edition

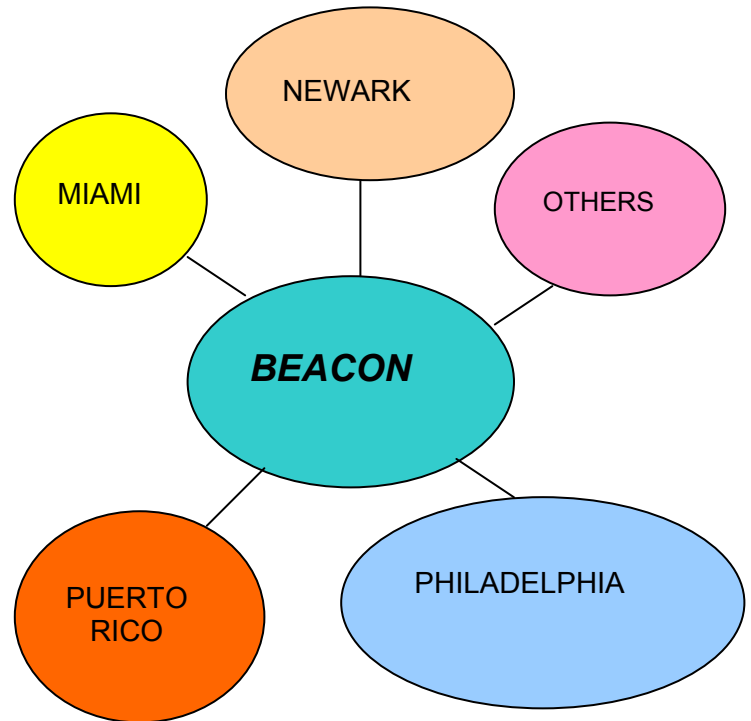
A Dynamic World

DREXEL UNIVERSITY JOINS

The Director of the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems at Drexel University, Dr. Banu Onaral, made it official at a meeting in Philadelphia in early February – Drexel University would become a BEACON member. Endorsed at the highest levels at the University, this decision paves the way for the establishment of “BEACON Philadelphia” and the inauguration of the BEACON Hub Concept. According to Dr. Onaral, “the timing is right. BEACON has successfully established a model that encourages collaborative research, industrial partnering and facilitates the development of new medical devices, systems technologies and companies that are based on commercialization. We would like to achieve the same success in the greater Philadelphia area.”

Although the details of the interrelationships between each individual Hub are still being developed, it is clear that each would have access to the expertise and facilities within each other’s network. In this “alliance of alliances,” regional culture, politics and interests can be addressed by each Hub while still taking advantage of the resources of the extended network.

Drs. Onaral and Bronzino have presented this concept to colleagues at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in Newark and the Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. These institutions have also expressed a keen interest in participating in the BEACON network as regional Hubs. As a result, efforts are underway to seek funding to implement the creation of a series of BEACON hubs at these sites and establish an extensive BEACON preferential access network that drives collaborative research, industrial partnering and commercialization throughout the network.



Founded in December 2000, BEACON is a 501(C)6 professional organization consisting of academic and medical institutions, corporations, and individuals committed to the creation and commercialization of new medical technology. BEACON serves as a "preferential access network" of, and for, its members, and it facilitates collaborative efforts and industrial partnering among them. All BEACON members enjoy access to the expertise and facilities available within the BEACON network. BEACON established a for-profit subsidiary - the BEACON Technology Network - in 2001 with the explicit and singular goal of facilitating the commercialization of new technologies – biomedical devices and systems. Early in 2003, the BEACON Foundation was established as a 501(c)(3) serving as a repository for gifts from benefactors and foundations. Using these resources, the BEACON Foundation will be able to fund R&D efforts in the BEACON network.

BEACON, the Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium 2003: 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 Community Technical College, Hartford Hospital, John Dempsey Hospital, Saint Francis Medical Center, Baystate Medical Center, The University of Stuttgart and University of Friburg Medical School. Corporate Sponsors include Pfizer, TYCO Kendall Health Care, GE Medical, Boston Scientific, Northeast Utilities, Court Square Data Group, Pepe & Hazard, Pullman & Comley, Premise Development, UBS Paine Webber, McCormick, Paulding & Huber, MicroTest, Vivax, and Ciracet (Puerto Rico).

BEACON MEMBER NEWS

Information technology has always played an important role in various disciplines within life sciences. Today, the role of IT is crucial to the advancement of drug research, security concerns and validation requirements. BEACON member company, Court Square Data Group, Inc. is right in the thick of it.

Court Square has been providing strategic IT consulting services to manufacturing and life sciences companies in the Northeast since its inception in 1995. The company is headquartered in Springfield, MA with a second office in Groton, CT. Its corporate philosophy that technology should first and foremost support the business strategy has not gone unnoticed. ***Inc. Magazine* has honored Court Square on three separate occasions including an Inner City 100 placement just last month. The company was named the Greater Springfield Small Business of the year in 2001 and CEO Keith Parent was a 2002 nominee for Connecticut Entrepreneur of the Year.** Court Square's extensive experience consulting for Fortune 100 companies provides clients the opportunity to receive the expertise of a large IT firm, without the price tag normally associated with that kind of experience.

Court Square's services range from infrastructure solutions to data management and business intelligence. Certified project managers lead project related work while other clients prefer to hire Court Square in a managed service capacity for full-time support of strategic IT areas. Security concerns are a key component for infrastructure and Court Square has developed asset protection services including complete technical disaster recovery plans. "Protection of data is even more critical today, than when we started the company," states Parent, who is also a BEACON board member.

Court Square recognizes that a growing biotech base in the region means that a lot of companies are in transition. Court Square has developed strategic service offerings based on its experience working with start-up organizations as well as established companies in acquisition mode. "Often, IT is the last area to be considered by these companies," notes Cori Rolland, Director of Business Development. "Yet, insufficient or incompatible IT systems can bring an otherwise great business strategy to its knees."

What's next for Court Square Data Group? "We hope to be the leading IT consulting company to a booming biotech industry throughout the Knowledge Corridor," Parent states. Court Square is very active within BEACON as well as similar organizations in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut. Parent is enthusiastic about what the future holds. "It is an exciting time for the region and we are glad to be a part of it."

For more information about Court Square Data Group, visit the website at www.csdg.com or call 413-746-0054.

A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

After three years as BEACON's Program Coordinator, Jane Mussehl has decided to take advantage of her increased knowledge and talents and move on to a position she could not refuse. Ms. Mussehl has been an integral part of the evolution of BEACON, serving as Program Coordinator as BEACON became a non-profit organization, established its for profit subsidiary, and extended its activities across state lines. A familiar face to all those active in BEACON, she will be missed. We are appreciative of all of her contributions and wish her well.

The new BEACON Assistant Executive Director is Theresa (Terri) Wilson. Having run the office of Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, Mrs. Wilson is an experienced administrator with extensive ties to the political arena of Hartford and the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts. We welcome her to the BEACON family and look forward to her energetic and enthusiastic approach.



Come join us!

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