

BEACON Newsletter

The Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium

December 1, 2000

A New BEACON

BEACON Accomplishments

As the end of the year approaches, it is important to review the major accomplishments of BEACON. Supported by the Whitaker Foundation from January 1, 1997 – December 31, 2000, BEACON achieved its educational goal of integrating the Biomedical Engineering programs at participating institutions in a tuition transparent manner. There are now BME undergraduate programs at Trinity College, The University of Hartford, and The University of Connecticut and one BME graduate program at the University of Connecticut. Another major goal was achieved by the hiring of four (4) new BME faculty, one each in Biomechanics at Trinity College and The University of Hartford, and two in Biosensors/Bioinstrumentation at The University of Connecticut. The third major goal of facilitating technology transfer is presently underway in full swing.

With the end of Whitaker support, and upon the advice of The BEACON Board of Advisors, **a new BEACON has evolved.** While still committed to educational initiatives and opportunities, BEACON's efforts during the next 3-5 years will focus on establishing industrial partnering and encouraging collaborative research efforts. To meet these new goals, BEACON has:

- Hired Jeffrey L. Horn as its Industrial Liaison officer.
- Become incorporated as a non-profit organization.
- Moved its headquarters to One Congress Street in Hartford (see photo & address).
- Elected a new member board of directors that will oversee the evolution of BEACON (see below).
- Appointed Dr. Joseph Bronzino the first President/Executive Director of BEACON

BEACON Grand Opening

BEACON is proud to announce the opening of our new headquarters in Hartford. From this central operating site BEACON will promote collaboration between universities, hospitals and industry in the field of biomedical engineering. BEACON continues to expand and presently works to combine the academic strengths of Trinity College, The University of Hartford, The University of Connecticut, The University of Massachusetts at Amherst and the University of Stuttgart with the healthcare skills of St. Francis Healthcare, Hartford Hospital, John Dempsey Hospital, Baystate Medical Center and the University of

Frieburg Medical School, plus the corporate prowess of GE Medical, Kendall Healthcare, Pfizer, Neurogen, Boston Scientific, Pepe & Hazard, Noble, Young & O'Connor, Premise Development, Bletchley Park Advisors, LLC, and The Steinbeis Foundation (Germany). BEACON has expanded well beyond Connecticut's borders, not only in adjoining New England states, but also to universities, medical centers and corporations worldwide. BEACON's goal is to use this network to facilitate collaborative research, professional education and technology transfer within the Medical Devices arena.

Our new administrative offices in Hartford, Connecticut are pledged to assist our partners achieve these goals and work to facilitate the incubation of emerging medical technology companies within the heart of the "New Atlantic Triangle" (New York, Boston and Albany) which possesses the highest concentration of economic, institutional and research facilities in the world.



**New Offices at:
1 Congress Street
Hartford, CT
(860) 297-5364**

Mission Statement:

BEACON pledges to facilitate a collaborative alliance among its academic, industrial and clinical members. Our goal is to promote partnering within the Alliance that stimulates collaborative research and fosters the incubation 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: Trinity College, The University of Connecticut, The University of Hartford, The University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Hartford Hospital, John Dempsey Hospital, Baystate Medical Center and The University of Frieburg Medical School. Corporate Sponsors include Pfizer, Kendall Health Care, GE Medical, Neurogen, Pepe & Hazard, Noble, Young & O'Connor, The Steinbeis Foundation (Germany), Boston Scientific, Premise Development, and Bletchley Park Advisors, LLC.

BEACON Incorporated

On November 30, 2000, the certificate of incorporation for BEACON was filed with The State of Connecticut and BEACON has become a non-profit institution. On December 1, 2000, the incorporators, Jonathan Shapiro and Eileen Roche from the University of Connecticut Law School, assembled the "Members of BEACON", i.e. representatives of the BEACON partners, and elected its first nine member Board of Directors.

Mr. Ray Huey, Chairman

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Dr. Jon Goldberg, Vice Chairman

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At this meeting, Dr. Joseph Bronzino was elected the first President/Executive Director of BEACON.

During the general discussion of the "Members of BEACON", Dr. Bronzino highlighted the major characteristics of "networked incubators" which have received significant press as a result of a recent article in The Harvard Business Review. First, networking is institutionalized, meaning that this approach fosters networking. Second, the networking leads to preferential access, not preferential treatment – a subtle but critical distinction. Preferential access means being able to call a meeting and receive the full attention of busy people. BEACON's value to all of its members lies in the connections/network of contacts that it provides so that individual researchers/clinicians can obtain valuable information regarding how to proceed in taking an idea and having it emerge as a commercial product. BEACON can provide assistance to the individuals in a timely and efficient manner. For corporate members, BEACON can provide a quick response to inquiries regarding the identification of specific expertise required to solve a problem of interest. Finally, BEACON can bring together individuals from participating institutions and companies to create a team capable of conducting a "theme-related" research and/or development project. Both Dr. Bronzino and Ray Huey, the Chairman of The Board of Directors, reaffirmed BEACON's major goal will be to stimulate the creation of new medical technology, and assist individual researchers/clinicians to attain business advice and funding to create new companies and promote the formation of research teams to further the acquisition of new knowledge, methodologies and materials that will lead to the development of new medical technology.

<p>c/o One Congress Street Hartford, CT 06114 President/Executive Director: Joseph D. Bronzino Industrial Liaison Officer: Jeffrey Horn Program Coordinator: Jane Mussehl Phone: (860)297-5364, FAX (860)727-0311 e-mail: jane.mussehl@beaconalliance.org web address: www.beaconalliance.org</p>
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