

PRESS RELEASE



A Collaborative of Industry, Academia, and Medicine

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NIH AUTHORITY TO GIVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS “NEURAL ENGINEERING: STATE OF THE ART” “Knowledge Corridor” Consortium To Host Day-Long Event

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. John Haller, Acting Director in the Division of Applied Science and Technology at the **National Institute of Health's (NIH) National Institute of Bioimaging and Bioengineering** will deliver the **keynote address** at **BEACON's** day-long **Symposium and Technology Fair**. **BEACON**, a unique collaborative network of colleges, biotechnical companies and medical institutions in the **“Knowledge Corridor”**, will present its sixth annual Symposium and Technology Fair – **“ADVANCES IN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY: THE FUTURE IS NOW!”** - on Wednesday, October 22 from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Education & Resource Center at Hartford Hospital, 560 Hudson Street in Hartford, Connecticut.

In his keynote address **Dr. Haller** will speak to the issues NIH-supported research in brain imaging, function and treatment. Dr. Haller heads up the relatively new Institute of the NIH. Many of the imaging applications that Dr. Haller manages are related to some facet of clinical or tomographic imaging (MRI, CT, PET, ultrasound, etc.). One of his primary areas of interest includes image-guided interventions (minimally invasive therapies, image-guided surgery, radiation treatment) and other computer-assisted techniques. Prior to coming to NIBIB, he was on the Radiology faculty at the University of Iowa where he directed the Image Applications Lab. While there he participated in research and clinical activities related to image-guided surgery, radiosurgery, neuroimaging research, image processing, multislice CT, real-time MRI and functional brain imaging (MRI and PET). Prior to 1997, he did MRI neuromorphometry and PET studies at Washington University in St. Louis, and briefly studied brain-mapping techniques at Hammersmith Hospital in London. He began his imaging career in 1985 doing pulmonary PET studies at Washington University. Dr. Haller earned a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology in 1992 with his doctoral dissertation on “A PET study of schizophrenia before and after antipsychotic treatment.”

The **Symposium and Technology Fair** is designed to bring together all parties interested in bioscience and related developments in medical devices and systems in order to learn from nationally prominent experts in their fields. Various methodologies and innovations to detect, analyze and treat brain function will be the subject of the presentations.

Other presenters include **Dr. Brian Litt** from the University of Pennsylvania who will talk about “Implantable Devices for Epilepsy”, **Dr. Vince Calhoun** from Hartford Hospital and Yale-New Haven Hospital who will speak about “Neuroimaging” and **Dr. Gregory Stewart** from Genzyme Corporation will talk about “Stem Cell Applications”. “Restoring Function to the Disabled” will be presented by **Dr. Charles Robinson** from Louisiana Tech University, Yale School of Medicine’s **Dr. Mark Laubach** will speak about the “Brain/Machine Interface”, and **Dr. Shuguang Zhang** from MIT will present “Neural Material and Tissue Interface”.

Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez and **Allan Blair**, Executive Director of the **Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council** will greet the attendees. **Doug Fisher**, Director of Economic and Business Development from **Northeast Utilities**, will explain how the medical device industry in this region fits into the goals of the “**Knowledge Corridor**”. This area between Northampton, Massachusetts and New Haven, Connecticut contains a large concentration of activity in the bioscience and engineering field and its development has been the focus of businesses and government. The benefits of a large, truly integrated region are higher incomes, greater job growth, a more attractive place for businesses to locate, and more effectiveness in overcoming the region’s problems. **BEACON** is uniquely positioned to foster this productive and creative environment by encouraging collaborative research among academia and healthcare institutions, by promoting industrial and commercial partnering and by facilitating the development of incubating technologies and companies. The morning session will conclude with a presentation by Frank Brady regarding **Medical Mission for Children** and remarks by **Harry Freeman**, Executive Director of the **Hartford Economic Development Commission**.

The **Technology Fair** will showcase exhibits highlighting the latest advances in bioengineering and biotechnology from companies, individuals and scientists from New England and beyond. **Posters** displaying the newest ideas in every field of biosciences will also be on view. The event is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**. General Attendance is \$95 before October 1 and \$105 after October 1. BEACON members pay \$45 before October 1 and \$55 after October 1. Information about poster submission and registration may be obtained by calling BEACON at 860-547-1995 or on BEACON’s website: www.beaconalliance.org/2003symposium.htm.

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BEACON, The Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium, is an alliance of academic and medical institutions, as well as corporations, dedicated to the development of new medical technology. With this in mind, it encourages collaborative research, stimulates industrial partnering and facilitates the creation of new incubating companies focusing on innovations in bioscience and engineering. The BEACON network provides its members “preferential access” to the expertise and facilities within the BEACON community, thereby enabling its members to leverage their own capabilities with those of others in the BEACON network.