

BEACON Newsletter

The Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium

November 14, 2003

SPECIAL ISSUE: SYMPOSIUM AND TECH FAIR 2003

A GREAT SUCCESS!

For the sixth year in a row, BEACON was host to a stellar group of experts in the field of biomedical engineering that brought with them a message of hope for those who suffer with neurological disorders. More importantly, attendees to the Symposium were able to view new developments in all areas of biomedical and biotechnology from a myriad of vendors, inventors, developers, and companies. The "Advances in Medical Technology" event on October 22nd, held at the Heublein Education and Resource Center of Hartford Hospital, was an excellent opportunity for everyone to learn new techniques and ideas.

Opening the event was Mayor Eddie Perez of Hartford, who welcomed everyone present by offering thanks to the bioscience and bioengineering community for taking the lead in developing new ideas that will save lives and make life better for all. Greetings were also given by Mr. Allan Blair, of the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Commission and Mr. Doug Fisher of Northeast Utilities who spoke on "The Importance of the Knowledge Corridor for Medical Technology."

Moderated by Dr. Gerald Maxwell of the UCONN Health Center, speakers included Dr. John Haller, NIH, Institute of Bioengineering and Bioimaging who gave the keynote address entitled, "Neural Engineering: State of the Art." Following Dr. Haller were discussions on the topic by Dr. Brian Litt, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Vince Calhoun, Hartford Hospital; Dr. Greg Stewart, Genzyme Corporation; Dr. Charles Robinson, Louisiana Tech University; Dr. Mark Laubach, Yale School of Medicine; and Dr. Shuguang Zhang, MIT. A lively presentation was made by Frank Brady, Founder and Chairman of Medical Missions for Children which brings medical education to the third world countries through global communication. Concluding remarks and wrap up was given by Mr. Harry Freeman, Executive Director, Hartford Economic Development Commission who stressed the continued importance of the medical device industry in the Knowledge Corridor and beyond.

The afternoon was an interactive time for attendees to visit with the over 25 vendors who showcased their products, ideas and theories in all fields of biomedical engineering and related sciences.



Mayor Eddie Perez delivers greetings to the attendees of the "Advances in Medical Technology" Symposium and Technology Fair held October 22nd in Hartford.

One of the more popular events of the day that always stimulates lively conversation is the Poster Session. This year was no exception. Over 30 posters were submitted ranging in topics from automatic respiration monitors to optical monitoring of the human brain. They were submitted by medical students, scientists, business people, designers and others who are exploring new avenues to making life better for all individuals. One of the reasons for the excitement of the Poster Session was the first ever-monetary awards given to the best in category. The winners were: \$500 to Jason Cromer, PhD Candidate, University of Connecticut Health Center; \$300 to Shu Chin Ma, PhD Candidate, Yale School of Medicine; \$200 to Sarah St. Germain, Hartford Hospital.



Dr. Bronzino with poster winners: Shu Chin Ma and Jason Cromer

BEACON, the Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium 2003/2004: 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, Asnuntuck Community College, Hartford Hospital, John Dempsey Hospital, Saint Francis Care, Baystate Medical Center, and The University of Stuttgart. Corporate Sponsors include: Pfizer, TYCO Kendall Health Care, GE Medical, Boston Scientific, Northeast Utilities, Court Square Data Group, Pepe & Hazard, Pullman & Comley, Day, Berry & Howard, Premise Development, UBS Paine Webber, McCormick, Paulding & Huber, MicroTest, Vivax, Electron Technologies, The CT Center for Advanced Technology, Robinson & Cole LLP, Applied Software Technologies and McAndrews, Held and Malloy in Chicago.

NU COMMISSION'S STUDY

This fall an exciting project has come to BEACON thanks to the one of its largest corporate members, Northeast Utilities. NU has commissioned BEACON to be the lead organization to conduct a strategic assessment and marketing plan in support of the biomedical/engineering life sciences industry in the Hartford/Springfield region, commonly referred to as the "Knowledge Corridor." With NU's support, BEACON seeks to: validate this industry's potential in the interstate region vis a vis other parts of the United States; inventory the assets, capabilities and resources of the primary industries and organizations engaged in the Knowledge Corridor's biomedical engineering/life sciences field, including major teaching hospitals and research universities; identify existing biomedical companies that need financial, technical or other support to grow or stay in this region, as well as others located elsewhere and clearly define and articulate the region's competitive advantages and its value proposition, to enable the region's economic development organizations to position this area as effectively as possible.

In order to accomplish this important task, BEACON is working with BETA, the Bio-Economic Technology Alliance of Western Massachusetts, and others to complete these goals by mid-January 2004. A project manager has been hired and is starting to survey the region. It is anticipated that this study will finally accomplish what BEACON has been suggesting for several years – that biomedical engineering/life sciences industry is a strong economic engine in the Knowledge Corridor. A full report will be issued when the study is completed.

SPRING 2004 EVENT

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 25, 2004, to join in an informative evening with Dr. John B. Reiss, author of, *Bringing Your Medical Device to Market*, just published by the Food and Drug Law Institute of Washington, DC. Dr. Reiss's book provides a practical description of the steps necessary to take your idea for a medical device, develop it into an actual product, and market it successfully. It explains legal forms, business plans, FDA approval and product liability. You'll learn how to obtain Medicare and other payments while avoiding legal pitfalls, and how to market your product without violating special healthcare fraud laws. The event will be held at the Springfield Technical Community College Technology Park, One Federal Street, Springfield, MA. It is being co-sponsored by BETA,

Bio-Economic Technology Alliance of Western Massachusetts. It will begin with a reception at 5:30pm followed by the lecture at 6:30pm. All BEACON members are invited to attend this event at no charge. Watch your e-mail for final details during the winter months. It is an event not to be missed!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

BEACON WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS OF THE 2003 SYMPOSIUM AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THIS SPECIAL ANNUAL EVENT:

VERNON AND FLORENCE ROOSA FAMILY FOUNDATION



Day, Berry & Howard LLP
COUNSELLORS AT LAW



The Human Touch of Innovation™



HOW TO REACH US:

BEACON, One Congress Street, Hartford, CT 06114

Phone: (860) 547-1995 Toll-Free: (877) 723-2266

Fax: (860) 727-0311

www.beaconalliance.org