



Bioengineering Consortium

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892

Welcome to the Sixth Annual Bioengineering Research Partnership Grantee Meeting.

This February marked the eighth anniversary of the Bioengineering Consortium (BECON), which provides a focus for trans-Institute biomedical engineering research and training activities at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Active participation by almost all NIH Institutes and Centers and other Federal agencies has enabled the realization of significant advances in basic knowledge and health care by applying engineering, physical, and computational science principles and techniques to addressing problems in biology and medicine. Appropriately, the Consortium is administered by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, which is committed to integrating the physical and engineering sciences with the life sciences to advance basic research and health care.

In support of its mission, the BECON has coordinated several trans-NIH initiatives aimed at encouraging and supporting multidisciplinary and integrative approaches to biomedical research and training. One of the most successful and visible of these initiatives is the Bioengineering Research Partnership (BRP) Program, which was first announced in October 1999. The partnerships that have developed in response to this program are examples of the types of collaborations among scientific disciplines and organizations that can provide significant advances in health care and fundamental understanding. To date, more than 170 BRP awards have been made by 16 NIH research Institutes and Centers, for a total investment of more than \$800 million.

This meeting is the sixth time that BRP grantees, BECON members, and NIH Institute and Center representatives will gather to discuss research projects, bioengineering issues, and the program in general. This is the second meeting in which all grantees will present posters and more than one researcher can represent each project. This meeting is also a milestone in that some grants have successfully undergone competitive renewal. As always, your perspectives and suggestions concerning the program in general, partnership experiences, and bioengineering research and training needs are welcome and solicited. Also, please take this opportunity to meet with your NIH Institute/Center project manager to discuss progress and concerns associated with your grant.

I hope that the BRP Grantee Meeting is valuable and enjoyable to you as it has been in past years. All the BECON members and the NIH program staff look forward to your participation and comments.

Michael F. Huerta, Ph.D., Chair
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