Texas Instruments Supports Bioengineering and New Biomedical Device Center

AN INVESTMENT OF $13 MILLION from two donors and matching funds from The University of Texas System Research Incentive Program. “The TI gift provides funds for endowed faculty chair positions, which will allow us to recruit world-class faculty members,” said Dr. Mark Spong, dean of the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science.

The Texas Biomedical Device Center will be a collaborative effort engaging researchers from multiple disciplines working toward a common goal: creating new biomedical technology and therapies. This interdisciplinary program includes faculty members from the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, the Jonsson School and the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

The center will play an especially important role in helping to launch the University’s new Department of Bioengineering, itself a highly interdisciplinary, multi-institution initiative centered in the Jonsson School, and one of the University’s highest priorities as it continues to grow and to expand its educational and research missions. The center will also facilitate interactions among UT Dallas faculty members and clinicians at North Texas medical facilities including UT Southwestern as well as corporations to create new biomedical devices and therapies addressing a wide range of medical conditions. “The center will serve as a catalyst for North Texas Industry by creating new biomedical technologies and producing more highly skilled graduates for this critical and rapidly growing field,” said Dr. Francisco G. Cigarran, chair of the School of Engineering and Computer Science. “We believe UT Dallas and this new center are committed to this. We’re glad the UT Dallas could leverage our gift with matching funds for even greater return on our investment. Three million dollars turned into $13 million, and we think that’s only the beginning. The University is working hard to find other opportunities to leverage that gift and expand its engineering expertise in a whole new direction,” she said.

Neural engineer Dr. Robert Bemerak, associate professor of electrical engineering and neuroscience at UT Dallas, has been appointed by President David E. Daniel to serve as interim director of the center. He will work with Texas Instruments and other corporate advisors to develop the center’s research agenda while also seeking additional private support. “Funding for medical devices at early stages is hard to find,” Bennaker said. “The center will provide the oversight, engineering support and funds needed to get these ideas off the ground. Once they’re off the ground, we will oversee the clinical trial testing and commercialization to ensure the devices get to the people who need them.” Current technologies and therapies being developed target conditions such as chronic pain, tremor, multiple sclerosis, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, speech disorders and stroke.

“We know that technology can be life-changing,” Cunningham of TI said. “We don’t know what those innovations are going to be, but they will impact the lives of people.”

For his part, Dr. Spong has been appointed to the oversight, engineering support and funds needed to get these ideas off the ground. Once they’re off the ground, we will oversee the clinical trial testing and commercialization to ensure the devices get to the people who need them.”

The Hoblitzelle Foundation and the Hillcrest Foundation each contributed $1 million to the project. The Hoblitzelle Foundation, the Hoblitzelle Foundation, with the intercollegiate program established at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Hillcrest, Hoblitzelle Help Autism Center at Callier

TWO DALLAS FOUNDATIONS with a long history of supporting educational and medical advances are boosting efforts to build a new UT Dallas Center for Autism.

The Hoblitzelle Foundation and the Hillcrest Foundation each contributed $1 million to the project. The Hoblitzelle Foundation, the Hoblitzelle Foundation, with the intercollegiate program established at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Thanks to New Gifts, Campus Enhancement Continues

COMPLETED IN 2010, the Campus Enhancement Project has transformed the look of UT Dallas with the addition of more than 5,000 trees, reflecting pools, a trellis-covered plaza and a new entrance on Campbell Boulevard. The $30 million privately funded project received a boost from several new gifts.

Three campaign commitments totaling more than $7 million were made recently by anonymous donors. A $1 million gift is funding the initial design of new areas targeted for enhancement. Together the gifts will allow the architect behind the initial project, Peter Walker and his firm PWP Landscape Architecture of Berkeley, Calif., to further the vision for the UT Dallas campus.

“We are delighted to have this opportunity to continue transforming the physical setting of UT Dallas,” said President Daniel. “The impact of the recently completed areas has been tremendous. It inspires our students, as well as our faculty and staff, while making a bold statement to first-time visitors and returning alumni that we are becoming a great Tier One research university.”

The new gifts will also help the enhancement of newly traveled pedestrian areas around the Founders Building, Berkner Hall and the ECS North Building. Construction is expected to begin in 2013.

Lend Your Name to Enhance the Campus

A TOTAL OF 20 DONORS have made gifts resulting in the naming of a tree or reflecting pool since the Campus Enhancement Project was completed in 2010. These gifts, ranging from $3,000 to $1 million, have helped build the Campus Enhancement Fund, a permanent endowment that provides long-term support for the care of newly beautified spaces, and the enhancement of more areas at UT Dallas.

Donors can name trees and other areas for themselves, in memory of a loved one or in honor of a UT Dallas graduate. Learn more at utdallas.edu/enhancement.