Stanford eCorner

Interdisciplinary Biomed Education and Clark Center at Stanford

Paul Yock, *Stanford University*

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Yock talks about next generation of Medtech and biotech innovation at Stanford. The idea behind the Clark Center is to put something physically at the interface between school of engineering, school of medicine and H&Sand draw people in to start interdisciplinary collaboration between the sciences. The new department of Bio-engineering, under both school of engineering and medicine, will be housed here. Yock also talks about the BioX program at Stanford.

Transcript

Well, we're thinking a lot at Stanford about the next generation of Medtech, biotech innovation. I just wanted to take an opportunity to tell you a little bit about what's going on because I give the leadership at Stanford huge credit for really trying to significantly reinvent what's happening in the biomedical sectors. One exciting initiative is shown here at the James Clark Center for Biomedical Engineering and Sciences. This is the new building that's going up on campus drive that's causing you to reroute your cars all of the time. The idea for this building is that to put something physically at the interface between the school of engineering, H&Sand school of medicine and draw people in to start an interdisciplinary collaboration between the sciences. What I like they're being very strategic about this, they figured out that the most important thing to do is put good food in this building so there'll be a high quality cafeteria, big cafeteria right on the ground floor. Now, housed next to the cafeteria will be, as some of you have heard, a new department of bioengineering. We haven't had a department of bioengineering here before and the board of trustees approved it last summer so we will be over the next five years ramping up a whole new department that will work in parallel with the bio divisions in the E and ME and chemical engineering and so on to create sort of a new presence. Interestingly, this department is being put under both the school of engineering and the school of medicine. It's a thing here about interdisciplinary connections.

Then, some of you have heard about Bio-X. This is the granddaddy of interdisciplinary connections on campus. This is a 500 to 600 investigator consortium with these clusters of themes of biocomputation, gene and proteomics by physics, the chemical biology with generative medicine that's kind of tissue engineering. And then biodesign which corresponds to the Medtech sector and that, as Tom mentioned, is the area that I've been involved with a number of colleagues. At the bottom, you see some of the technology domains, materials and MEMS were expanding out beyond medical devices; sensors, image guidance, robotics and so on. So I'd call your attention to this site biodesign.stanford.edu that will give you kind of a landscape of the investigators in this area. There is a student biodesign group that's just shot out of the blocks in the last year. They have 450 members now and their website is SSB, Stanford Student Biodesign, ssb.stanford. We've created a new fellowship program under the biodesign umbrella and we're bringing in people who we think may be significant Medtech inventors. We're looking for the next generation of Tom Fogarty and bringing them in to Stanford, having them work as a team to try to invent some new medical technologies.