Dear Friends,

I am pleased to return from my year’s sabbatical spent in Italy with my family, and would like to express special thanks to Professor William Tang who served as the interim chair during my absence. Professor Tang did a remarkable job moving our programs forward, and we are indebted to his efforts – the research and training programs of the Department are developing with tremendous energy, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight just a few recent and future activities.

The Department has settled into the first new and contiguous space in Natural Sciences II. With more than 17,000 square feet allotted for research and administration, this building features an open lab, designed to stimulate the exchange of ideas across faculty laboratories. Biomedical engineering celebrated the official opening in June.

This year, we plan to recruit two faculty members in the area of neuroengineering, with particular interest in new imaging modalities, computational algorithms, the brain-computer interface, and neural stem cells. These two new members will complete our initial cluster of faculty in this specialized area.

Our undergraduate and graduate programs continue to attract top talent from California and across the nation. Our incoming freshman undergraduate class is the largest major in The Henry Samueli School of Engineering, and the fourth largest major on campus, maintaining the utmost quality. Our incoming first-year graduate students, which total 18 doctoral candidates and 13 master’s students, also demonstrate the highest average test scores and grades to date.

I invite you to take a few moments to read about our Department’s research activities, faculty and student accomplishments, including our faculty profile on Professor Abraham Lee, and upcoming events. For additional information, please visit our website at www.bme.uci.edu.

Best Regards,

Steven George
William J. Link Professor and Chair

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**Upcoming Events 2006-07**

- Digital and Phase Contrast Mammography
  - **BME Seminar**
  - Featuring: Hong Liu, University of Oslo
  - Oct. 17, 2006, noon – 1 p.m.
  - Location: McDonnell Douglas Engineering Auditorium

- Cell-Loops for Biomedical Applications
  - **BME Distincted Lecture Series**
  - Featuring: Mehmet Toner, Harvard Medical School, Surgery – Massachusetts General Hospital
  - Nov. 16, 2006, noon – 1 p.m.
  - Location: McDonnell Douglas Engineering Auditorium

- BME distinguished lecture series: Molecular and Cellular Biology in Alzheimer’s Disease
  - Featuring Dr. James G. Hensler, University of California, San Francisco
  - Jan. 30, 2007, noon – 1 p.m.
  - Location: McDonnell Douglas Engineering Auditorium

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**BME Discovery**

- **Brain on a Chip: Engineering Form and Function in Cultured Neuronal Networks**
  - **BME Distinguished Lecture Series**
  - Featuring: Dr. Shane Whibley, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
  - Jan. 29, 2007, noon – 1 p.m.
  - Location: McDonnell Douglas Engineering Auditorium

- **Systems Approaches to Radiation Analysis of Childhood Ovarian Dicorpus**
  - **BME Distinguished Lecture Series**
  - Featuring: Dr. Scott Boyd, University of California, Santa Barbara
  - March 8, 2007, noon – 1 p.m.
  - Location: McDonnell Douglas Engineering Auditorium

- **Engineering and Clinical Implementation of a Dedicated Breast CT Scanner**
  - **BME Distinguished Lecture Series**
  - Featuring: Dr. John M. Gliedt, University of California, Davis
  - April 10, 2007, noon – 1 p.m.
  - Location: McDonnell Douglas Engineering Auditorium

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**Inside This Issue:**

- **Research Profile:** Dr. Abraham Lee
- **Outstanding Graduate Student Profiles**
- **Undergraduate and Graduate News Highlights**
- **Upcoming Events**

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**Fall Semester**

- **BME Seminar Series**
  - Featuring: Dr. Thomas Starke, University of Virginia
  - Nov. 2, 2006, noon – 1 p.m.
  - Location: McDonnell Douglas Engineering Auditorium

- **BME Distinguished Lecture Series**
  - Featuring: Dr. Mehmet Toner, Harvard Medical School, Surgery – Massachusetts General Hospital
  - Nov. 16, 2006, noon – 1 p.m.
  - Location: McDonnell Douglas Engineering Auditorium

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**Brain on a Chip: Engineering Form and Function in Cultured Neuronal Networks**

- **BME Distinguished Lecture Series**
  - Featuring: Dr. Shane Whibley, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
  - Jan. 29, 2007, noon – 1 p.m.
  - Location: McDonnell Douglas Engineering Auditorium

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**University of California, Irvine**

- **BME Distinguished Lecture Series**

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GRADUATE PROGRAM

A Growing Undergraduate Class

The biomedical engineering undergraduate program continues to attract qualified students to our program. The focus of our research is biologically motivated and draws from the increasing interest in the biomedical engineering major program this year. We have seen an increase in the number of high school students who have applied to our program.

UM-SORF of Summer 2006

This year, two biomedical engineering undergraduate students were funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) in their summer research programs. The students were able to work with highly skilled mentors in order to gain valuable research experience. These students were able to work on cutting-edge research projects and to develop new skills.

The students also had the opportunity to present their research at two national conferences: the Biomedical Engineering Society's Annual Meeting and the Society for Biomolecular Engineering's Annual Meeting. These presentations allowed the students to share their research findings with other researchers in the field.

Outstanding Graduate Student Profiles

David Cuccia, a PhD candidate in biomedical engineering, has been selected as a recipient of the 2006-07 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Predoctoral Fellowship. This fellowship will provide him with funds to continue his research on the development of new diagnostic tools for cancer detection.

The fellowship will allow him to pursue his research under the guidance of Dr. Tim Tromberg, a professor of biomedical engineering at the Beckman Laser Institute. The fellowship will also provide him with the opportunity to collaborate with other researchers in the field.

David Cuccia graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a BS in biomedical engineering. He then went on to work as a research associate at the University of California, San Francisco, where he conducted research on the development of new diagnostic tools for cancer detection. He then pursued his PhD in biomedical engineering at UC Irvine, where he worked under the guidance of Dr. Tim Tromberg.

David Cuccia is currently a PhD candidate in biomedical engineering at UC Irvine. He is working on developing new diagnostic tools for cancer detection. He is also an active member of the Biomedical Engineering Society and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

Biomedical Engineering Welcomes New Graduate Students

The Department of Biomedical Engineering is pleased to welcome a new class of graduate students this fall. The department offers a broad range of research opportunities and is committed to providing a supportive and stimulating environment for our students.

The department offers graduate degrees in biomedical engineering, including Master's and PhD programs. Students are encouraged to explore different research areas and to develop their own unique research projects.

The department is committed to providing students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the field of biomedical engineering. We offer a wide range of courses and seminars, as well as opportunities for students to engage in research projects.

The department is also committed to providing students with the resources necessary to succeed in their careers. We offer a wide range of scholarships and fellowships, as well as opportunities for students to engage in internships and other forms of professional development.

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