

# WHERE ARE THE EMERGING FRONTIERS OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION?



**SOHI RASTEGAR**

SENIOR ADVISOR FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES  
*DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING*  
***NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION***

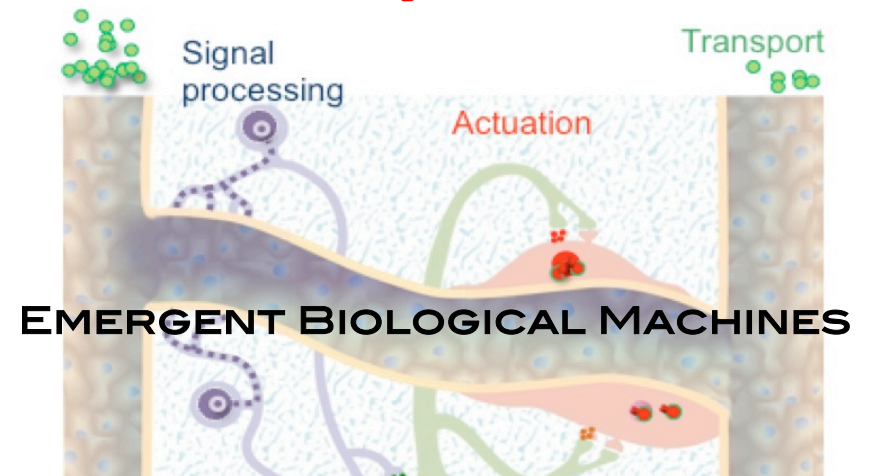


2013 NAE FRONTIERS OF ENGINEERING SYMPOSIUM  
DUPONT, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE  
19 SEPTEMBER 2013

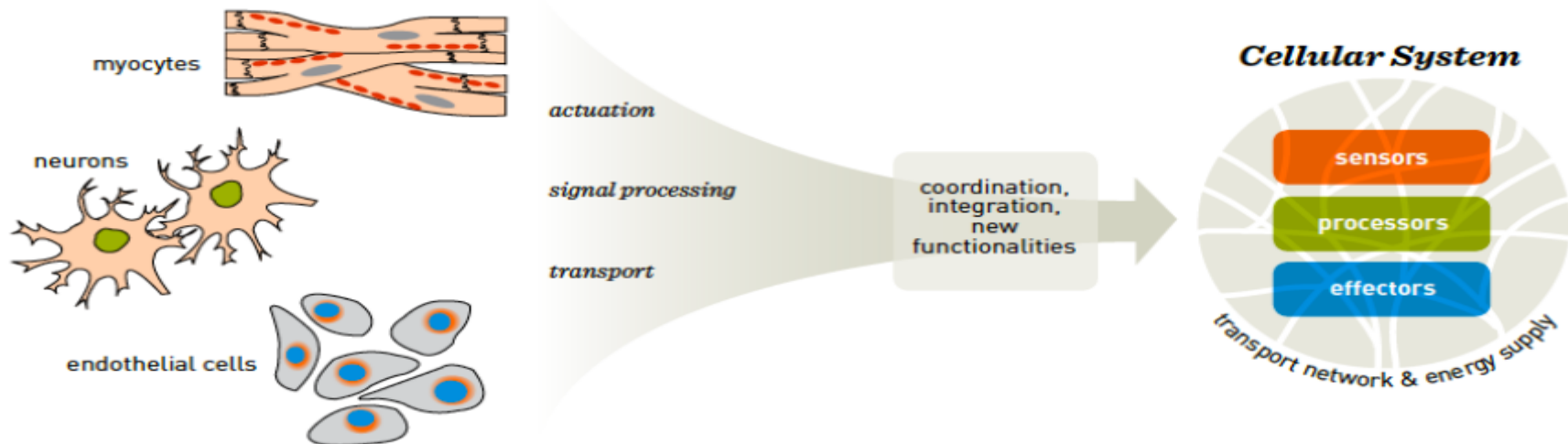
[www.nsf.gov/eng/efri](http://www.nsf.gov/eng/efri)

# STC on Emergent Behavior of Integrated Cellular Systems

- Roger Kamm (MIT)
- CoPIs: Bob Nerem (Ga Tech), Jimmy Hsia (UIUC)
- Major ‘high-risk, high-payoff’ investment by NSF



***To understand the complexities of integrated cellular systems so that we can ultimately develop unified functional machines***



## EFRI- *In One Slide*

- **MANDATE** - Serve a critical role in helping the Directorate for Engineering focus on important emerging areas in a timely manner.
  - **COMMUNITY DRIVEN** - Engages the research community (through DCL) and ENG/NSF PDs to identify and fund a portfolio of projects in strategic emerging interdisciplinary areas that may not be supported with current NSF programs and in which ENG researchers play the leading role.
  - **PTR AND IDR** - Uses PTR (Potentially Transformative / High risk, High reward) and IDR (interdisciplinary) as criteria for project selection
  - **MIDSCALE BUDGET** - It is the main Midscale funding mechanism in ENG (\$2M / 4-year projects)
- **EFRI TOPICS:**

FY 2007	Auto-Reconfigurable Engineered Systems ( <b>ARES</b> )
	Cellular and Biomolecular Engineering ( <b>CBE</b> )
FY 2008	Cognitive Optimization ( <b>COPN</b> )
	Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructures ( <b>RESIN</b> )
FY 2009	Biosensing and Bioactuation ( <b>BSBA</b> )
	Hydrocarbon from Biomass ( <b>HyBi</b> )
FY 2010	Science in Energy and Environmental Design ( <b>SEED</b> )
	Renewable Energy Storage ( <b>RESTOR</b> )
FY 2011	Engineering Multicellular and Interkingdom Signaling ( <b>MIKS</b> );
	Mind, Machines, and Motor Control ( <b>M3C</b> )
FY '12,'13	Flexible Bioelectronics Systems ( <b>BioFlex</b> ), Origami Design for the
	Integration Of Self-assembling Systems For Engineering Innovation ( <b>ODISSEI</b> );
	Photosynthesis Biorefineries ( <b>PSBR</b> )
FY'14	2-Dimensional Atomic-Layer Research and Engineering ( <b>2-DARE</b> )
- **TOPIC LEADERS** - Program Directors from ENG Divisions in collaboration with PDs from other NSF Directorates and other Federal agencies when appropriate  
[http://nsf.gov/staff/staff\\_list.jsp?org=EFRI&from\\_org=EFRI](http://nsf.gov/staff/staff_list.jsp?org=EFRI&from_org=EFRI)
- **CONTACT** - Sohi Rastegar, [srastega@nsf.gov](mailto:srastega@nsf.gov), (703) 292-8305.  
<http://nsf.gov/eng/efri> and <http://efri.org>



**\$32M**  
**FY 14 Request**

WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK?

# NAE GRAND CHALLENGES

**RESTOR**

Make solar energy  
economical



Provide energy  
from fusion



Develop carbon  
sequestration  
methods



**A  
R  
E  
S**

**SEED**

Manage the  
nitrogen cycle



Provide access to  
clean water



Restore and  
improve urban  
infrastructure



**RESIN**

**CBE**

Advance health  
informatics



**BioFlex**

Engineer better  
medicines



Reverse-engineer  
the brain



**M3C**

**COPN**

**BSBA**

Prevent  
terrorism



Secure  
cyberspace



Enhance virtual  
reality



**2-DARE**

Advance  
personalized  
learning



Engineer the tools  
of scientific  
discovery



**HyBi**

**MIKS**

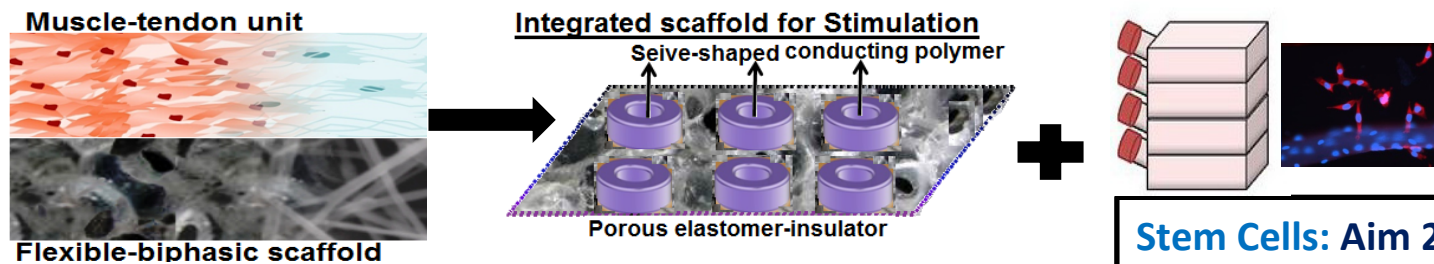
**ODISSEI**

**PSBR**

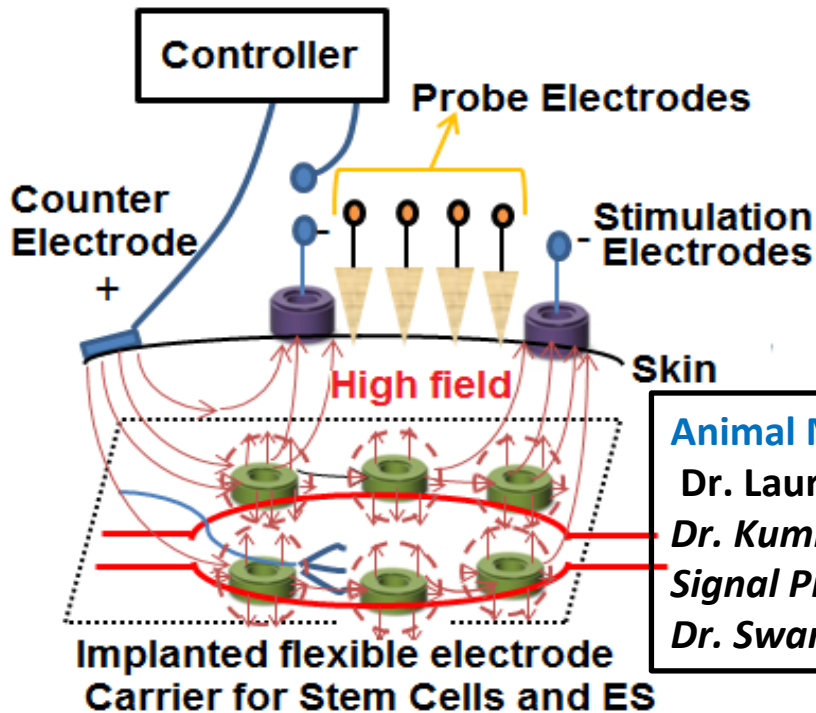
PI: Laurencin, Cato, M.D., Ph.D., Proposal # 1332329

## EFRI-BioFlex Full Proposal: “Electrically Stimulated Complex Tissue Regeneration”

**Flexible Bioelectronics:** Aim-1 and 3 Dr. Kumbar/Dr. Laurencin/Dr. Swami/Dr. Faghri/Dr. Khan



**Animal Studies: Complex Tissue Regeneration: Muscle-Tendon**



**Animal Model : Aim 4**  
Dr. Laurencin/Dr. Khan/  
Dr. Kumbar/Dr. Lo  
Signal Processing/ES  
Dr. Swami/Faghri

**Stem Cells: Aim 2** Dr. Lo/  
Dr. Goldhamer/Dr. Carlson

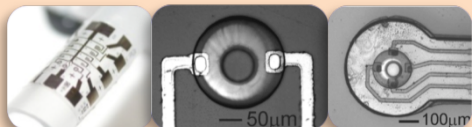
**Purpose:** The role of the bioelectronics system in enhancing muscle-tendon tissue regeneration will be evaluated using an integrated system comprised of a flexible biodegradable electrically conductive scaffold, stem cells, and an electrical device capable of applying electrical stimulation (ES) to the repair site.



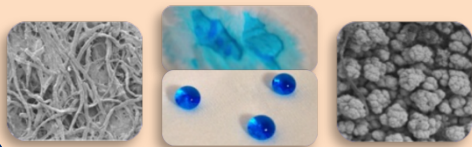
# PI: Meng EFRI BioFlex: Hybrid polymer-paper based multi-sensor implants for continuous remote monitoring

## Intellectual Merit

### SCIENCE OF DEVICES



### INTERFACIAL ENGINEERING



### PROCESSING/SCALING-UP TECHNIQUES



### ACTIVE SENSORS FOR HYDROCEPHALUS



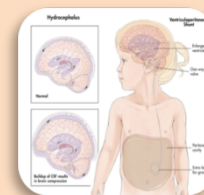
### Polymer-Paper Multi-sensor Flexible



### Wireless remote monitoring

## Broad Impacts

### REDUCE HEALTHCARE COST FOR HYDROCEPHALUS



**\$2B/year problem**

### EXPAND WIRELESS HEALTHCARE



### EDUCATE WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE



## Technical Team



Meng

Gupta

Weiland

## Medical Advisors



Krieger

McComb

Koh

Saxon

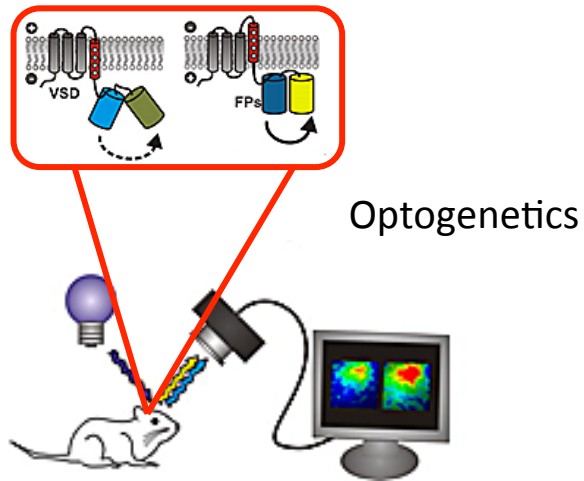
Crandall

Liker

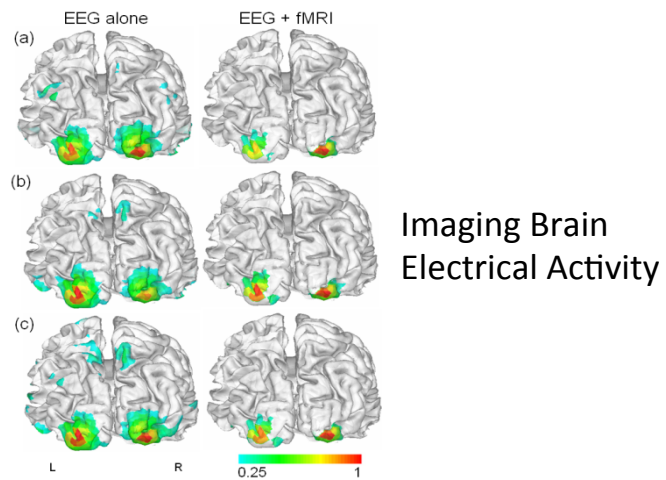
Humayun



# Neural Engineering and Human Brain Mapping



Knöpfel T et al. *J. Neurosci.* 2010;30:14998-15004



Imaging Brain  
Electrical Activity

Im et al, *J. Neurosci. Meth.*, 157: 118-123, 2006

- Technologies and tools to interrogate neuron activity at high spatiotemporal resolution
- Experimental methodologies and computational approaches to investigate brain structure and function and to repair damaged neurons and neural circuits

## Vision:

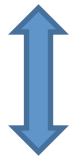
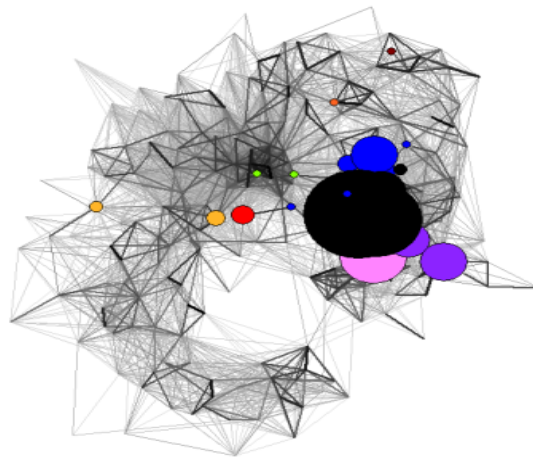
- To incorporate engineering design and methods in advancing our understanding of the structure and function of neurons, neural networks and the brain
- To generate improved diagnostic methods and treatment modalities

**Objective:** To meet the major challenges and opportunities in mapping, modeling, and ultimately understanding the brain over the next 10 years and beyond, through advanced neurotechnology

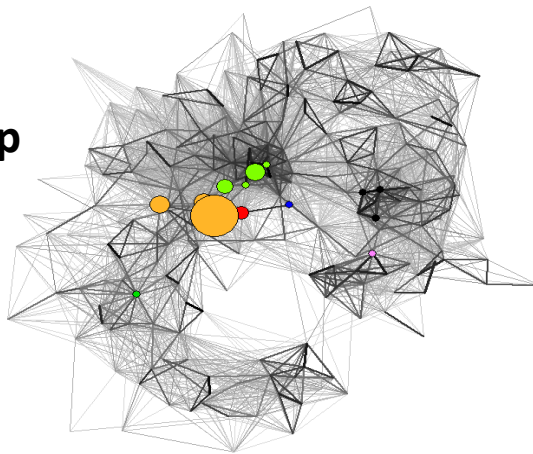
# Profile of a Typical Successful Interdisciplinary Proposal

PIs vs Proposals 'Map' in relation to Web of Science

An EFRI PI Map



EFRI Proposal Map  
Led by same PI



*Successful EFRI PIs typically engage co-PIs with expertise beyond their own to solve a complex interdisciplinary problem*



TOPIC  
SELECTION

# EFRI TOPIC SELECTION

## (next cycle: Fall 2014)

- Continuous Community Input (Publications, Conferences, Advisory Committee, Committees of Visitors, Panels, Workshops, ...)
- Explicit Community Input through Website (Dear Colleague Letter)
- Fall Advisory Committee (October)
- EFRI Community Series Meeting (Jan)
  - **INCLUDED EXTERNAL EXPERTS THIS YEAR** (per External Evaluation recommendation)
- Program Directors Frontier Ideas Meeting (Feb)
- ENG Leadership Retreat (March)
  - **TOPICS ARE FINALIZED**
- Spring Advisory Committee (April)
  - **TOPICS ARE ANNOUNCED AND MADE PUBLIC**



***Program Directors are the Kernel of Integration  
and Leaders for EFRI Topics***