



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Renata G. Bushko
Future of Health Technology Institute
508-497-2577
bushko@fhti.org

**2013 Future of Health Technology Summit
Will Explore Leading Edge of Medicine, And Include Topics
Related to the Boston Marathon Bombing**

HOPKINTON, Mass., May 2, 2013 – A wide range of leading edge medical technologies, along with several touching directly on consequences of the Boston Marathon bombing, will be presented at the annual Future of Health Technology Summit™ at the MIT Faculty Club on Monday.

Those topics include "Biomechatronics: Changing the Face of Disability," with a presentation by Ernesto Martinez-Villalpando, Ph.D. of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University.

Dr. Martinez-Villalpando has been working on a novel biomimetic active knee prosthesis capable of emulating intact knee biomechanics during level-ground walking. This architecture attempts to resemble the body's own musculoskeletal design using actuator technologies that have muscle-like behaviors and control methodologies that exploit the principles of human locomotion.

Hermano Igo Krebs, Ph.D., principal research scientist at MIT and co-founder of Interactive Motion Technologies will discuss the future of robotics in rehabilitation and regeneration. He employs robotics, not as an assistive technology for the disabled as is most often the case, but to support and enhance the clinicians' productivity as they facilitate a disabled individual's functional recovery.

Also, Cogito Corp. will give a presentation touching on some of its data related to the Boston Marathon Bombings. CEO and co-founder Joshua Feast says "our passive monitoring systems can be configured to monitor how adverse events affect the psychological wellbeing of local populations, supporting effective and efficient outreach."

The theme of the summit is to "Unite medicine, art, science and technology for happier, longer lives."

“We need to design future healthcare the way consumers like it, smart and connected. Mobile virtual health coaches and assistants are here to stay for the simple reason that they are inexpensive, accurate, tireless and available 24/7,” said Renata Bushko, head of the Future of Health Technology Institute.

Other presenters include Dr. Thomas Morrow, medical director of Genentech Inc., who will engage in a conversation about personal health avatars and how they might militate against the health costs that push tens of millions below the poverty line. And Stephen Wolfram, Ph.D., author of "A New Kind of Science" will give updates on his creations Mathematica and Wolfram Alpha.

Also from MIT, Joseph Paradiso, Ph.D., will discuss how people connect to the electronic nervous system that covers the planet - sensor browsers, tools as 'prosthetics', smart lighting and heating systems as extensions of your sense of comfort. He is director of the Responsive Environments Group, co-director of the Things That Think Consortium and associate professor at the MIT Media Laboratory.

MIT Professor Marvin Minsky, author of "The Emotion Machine" will reflect on health in 2050. And his colleague at MIT, Professor Alex (Sandy) Pentland, author of "Honest Signals," will reflect on health habits.

Others whose companies have been key participants in the summit over the years include Jeff Fuschberg, intellectual property manager at Blue Highway, Mike Dunkley, vice president of product development for the Advanced Systems division of Continuum, Joe Kvedar, founder and director of the Center for Connected Health at Partners' HealthCare, and Albert Goldfain of Blue Highway will lead a panel on big data and m-health.

The 2013 Future of Health Technology Award will be presented at the conference dinner to Dr. Lorraine Gudas, Chairman of the Pharmacology Department and Revlon Pharmaceutical Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City for her research on new drugs for cancer treatment and prevention.

And Next IT's Alme platform for development of virtual health assistants and Cogito's Social Signal Platform for early distress detection will receive FHTI Lead Product recognition.

Next IT will provide a demonstration of Alme in a specialty pharmacy environment, where a virtual health assistant will take a patient through key procedures.

"Alme inspired virtual health assistants will help organizations achieve an 80 percent or higher success rate in facilitating conversations that have previously been conducted only by humans and, importantly, will exceed 99 percent accuracy in managing those conversations," said Fred Brown, Next IT founder and CEO.

Cogito's Social Signal Platform (SSP) for call centers and mobile platforms is the only real time, scalable solution for automatically and continuously measuring and monitoring the engagement and behavioral health status of populations.

The arts portion of the summit will feature an original composition by pianist Kai-Ching Chang and art by Walter Gilbert, a photographic artist who also is a molecular biologist and a Nobel Prize laureate.

Video from the summit will be available at the FHTI Future of Health Technology Channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/FutureofHealthTech>

About The Future of Health Technology Institute

The Future of Health Technology Institute in Hopkinton, Mass., is the leading health technology think tank dedicated to defining the health technology agenda for the 21st century. The institute was established to identify the most promising technologies to improve the quality of health care and to define promising health technology research areas needed to meet future health challenges. Renata Bushko (Bushko@fhti.org) has chaired annual Future of Health Technology summits since founding the institute in 1996. These summits engage creative minds from the technology and health fields in envisioning the future of technology for global healthcare and happier, longer lives. For further information, visit the Web site at www.fhti.org. Twitter @FutureofHealth #FHTI

###