

CIMIT Announces Gift from Argosy Foundation: Forum to Develop Convening Experiment

Boston, MA, November 21, 2005: Through a generous gift from John Abele and the Argosy Foundation, the CIMIT Education Program will be launching an “Experiment in Convening.” This gift enables development of an experimental design at the CIMIT Forum to assess strategies for stimulating speakers, moderators, and audience to think creatively and differently about a particular issue or topic.

The weekly CIMIT Forum hosts speakers from around the world and from the rich research community of local institutions. Guests are invited to discuss their pioneering work on new procedures, new applications, new technologies, or to disclose a clinical challenge. Often a lively dialogue follows during the question and answer period. CIMIT Forum conversations have fostered successful new collaborations. According to Lynn Osborn, CIMIT Education Program Director, “With this gift, our goal is to foster an environment where participants expect to be interactive and challenged.” She is working with John Abele to develop and implement the concept and recruit an intern to oversee the process.

The Argosy Foundation

The Argosy Foundation was founded by John E. Abele, the founding chairman of Boston Scientific Corporation, a pioneer in the less-invasive medical device industry.

CIMIT Innovation

John A. Parrish, MD, director of CIMIT, said “The Forum is a place where ideas are exchanged and nurtured. It is often an entry point for new individuals and institutions to become involved. This is important for CIMIT which is dedicated to giving investigators the opportunity to explore novel ideas for patient care, while connecting them to experts who can help them solve difficult patient care problems and develop solutions.”

The Forum bolsters the CIMIT mission of bringing together clinicians, scientists and engineers to educate and motivate investigators to benefit patient care, encourage the exchange of ideas and information, promote collaboration between diverse communities, and provide an arena where interdisciplinary discussion can lead to breakthroughs.

The Convening Experiment

Lynn Osborn, who can be reached at losborn@partners.org, noted: “With this gift from John Abele, we expect to bring the Forum to a new level. As such, the intern we bring on board will be versed in the art of convening including logistics, preparation, expectation setting, communications strategies, data collection, analysis, display, and assessment techniques.”

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