

CIMIT Names Michael J. Davidson, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Johnson & Johnson Young Clinician Research Recipient: Seeks To Help Improve Cardiac Care

Boston, Mass., May 1, 2006 -- It was announced today by John A. Parrish, MD, director of CIMIT, that Michael J. Davidson, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, will be among the first of the new recipients of the CIMIT-Johnson & Johnson Young Clinician Research Award. The funding was made possible through Johnson & Johnson's Corporate Office of Science and Technology (COSAT).

Dr. Davidson, who received his MD from Yale University School of Medicine, is working to solve the problem of heart valve repair. Repair for valve disease most often requires open-heart surgery, which is Dr. Davidson's clinical expertise. However, open-heart procedures carry serious risk for those who are frail, elderly, or have other health issues. Dr. Davidson's work to develop percutaneous (catheter-based) approaches for valve disease will offer a safer alternative.

Dr. Parrish States Award Goal

"With this award, we were looking to attract innovative clinicians in the Boston area, passionate about patient care, and willing to dedicate part of their time for translational research," said Dr. Parrish. "It is our mission to accelerate the work of physicians who stay awake at night thinking about how to solve complex medical problems using minimally invasive technology." Dr. Parrish added: "I am pleased that Dr. Davidson's work was selected; it will have a lasting impact on cardiac care."

The Patient Care Impact

Dr. Davidson, a cardiac surgeon, has been working on valve repair and replacement techniques that can be done using a catheter approach. "There are over 93,000 valve procedures performed each year and degenerative valve disease is the prevalent source of hospitalization and procedural intervention. Thus far, open heart surgery has been the mainstay for treating symptomatic heart valve disease. The availability of viable techniques for catheter-based heart valve repair and replacement will allow more patients to choose a less invasive option."

Dr. Davidson is also a current recipient of a CIMIT Career Development Award for cross-training with the hybrid OR. His fellowship has also inspired a new paradigm in training of both cardiac surgeons and interventional cardiologists at the BWH, whereby each group will have the opportunity to spend time working in the other group's environment. This will foster interdisciplinary collaboration.

The Johnson & Johnson funding will allow Dr. Davidson to extend his cross-training experience and mentor other cardiac surgical trainees, as well as continue his work

developing unique percutaneous techniques for repair of the heart valve.

Donald. Baim, MD, Interventional Cardiologist and Dr. Davidson's mentor noted: "The hybrid OR will allow teams of cardiologists and cardiac surgeons to work together to

mix and match open surgical and percutaneous therapies for coronary artery disease and heart valve disease in a single procedure; this will be particularly valuable in the early clinical trials of the percutaneous heart valve procedures."



CIMIT: Overcoming Barriers to Innovation

CIMIT is a Boston-based research consortium of the major teaching hospitals and engineering schools dedicated to advancing the standard of patient care through collaboration and development of novel technologies and therapies.

Each year CIMIT selects some 40 new research projects from multidisciplinary teams to receive science awards ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000. There are 150 active projects from more than 300 awarded to date. Additionally there have been 400 peer-reviewed publications. CIMIT-supported projects have led to the formation of 170 invention disclosures, 80 patent applications, and 30 options and license agreements. Ten small businesses have been created or strategically impacted by CIMIT technology. With enabled funding of more than \$120 million, CIMIT has significantly impacted the standard of care.

As part of CIMIT's Award Program, its Office of Technology Development and its Industry Liaison Program help investigators overcome hurdles in business, law, intellectual property protection, and product development. This team of experts enables investigators to rapidly move ideas from bench to bedside.

About Brigham and Women's Hospital

Brigham and Women's Hospital is a founding member of CIMIT, and is recognized internationally for its innovation and excellence in patient care, medical research, and training of outstanding young health professionals. As one of the nation's top hospitals, BWH is a 755-bed teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School. Along with its modern inpatient facilities, BWH boasts extensive outpatient services and clinics, neighborhood primary care satellite centers, state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment technologies, and innovative research laboratories.

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