

**Dr. Peterson**

**Welcome: Centers for Disease Control Collaboration Meeting**

9 a.m. Wednesday, March 12, 2014, Centergy Tech Square, Hodges Room

We would like to extend a warm Georgia Tech welcome to our friends and colleagues from the Centers for Disease Control. For years we have had informal collaborations in numerous areas, sort of ad hoc researcher-to-researcher relationships that resulted in numerous good things. We're delighted that Georgia Tech and the CDC now have a formal agreement, which has the potential for great things.

When envisioning the potential for this partnership, I think of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. In June 2012 we announced a \$20 million joint investment, strengthening a research commitment to develop technological solutions to improve children's health. The common vision is to become the global leader in pediatric technologies. Georgia Tech and Children's have 125 collaborations to develop new products and processes that will create economic opportunities and improve quality of life.

One aspect of this collaboration is Georgia Tech's Sim-Tigrate design lab, which gave Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Sibley Heart Center doctors and nurses the opportunity to test various devices to implement electronic medical records during a simulated patient encounter.

Georgia Tech has a wealth of expertise, along with tools and innovations to address Big Data, something you will be talking about this afternoon.

You will also hear from those who have been engaged in collaborations with the CDC in the past. Among them is Dr. David Ku, a physician and professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech. He is also the executive director of the Atlantic Pediatric Device Consortium. A little over three years ago, Dr. Ku had a conversation with a friend at church, Dr. Larry Anderson, then Director of Virology at the CDC. He knew David's background, and told him he had a fluid dynamics

problem. He challenged David to work with students and come up with an inexpensive device that could be used to diagnose pneumonia, especially in developing countries where the disease is so deadly for children because of the time lapse before diagnosis. Georgia Tech students worked with them to develop Pneumonia Check, made of recycled and recyclable materials. It has been in clinical trials for pneumonia diagnosis, and now trials are being done to use it to diagnose cystic fibrosis, tuberculosis, and cancer. He will talk this afternoon about a new product, PneumoKazoo, which adds an element of fun for children.

Pneumonia Check has an inter-institutional patent agreement between Georgia Tech and the CDC, and it has the potential to save millions of lives.

Two years ago this week Georgia Tech awarded its Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage to Dr. William Foege, who as you know served as director of the CDC from 1977 to 1983. It was my pleasure to get to know this man of vision and perseverance who was committed to collaboration. His vision to eradicate smallpox and Guinea worm disease was amazing.

In doing research on Dr. Foege, I was struck by two things about him. He is uncomfortable taking public credit, for he believes any great accomplishment is the result of teamwork. He also said in his current book “House on Fire: the Fight to Eradicate Smallpox” that the belief that it could be done seemed like the most important factor in the global eradication effort. He wrote, “We all know the adage that some things have to be seen to be believed. In fact the opposite is often true: some things have to be believed to be seen.”

It is my hope that today’s meeting of very talented and committed people in multiple disciplines of our two organizations will be the beginning of great things — for our organizations, but more importantly, for the world.

Thank you for joining us.