

**Dr. Peterson****Welcome: Emory/Georgia Tech Predictive Health Symposium**

Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

- On behalf of Georgia Tech, let me add my welcome to that of Dr. Brigham and Dr. Caughman. Georgia Tech is proud to partner with Emory University for The Predictive Health Institute. It is one of a growing number of institutional partnerships between the two universities, building on a track record of working together for decades.
- This conference continues to attract national attention with an increasing focus on health. By bringing together national healthcare leaders and biomedical scientists at this conference, we can explore a variety of perspectives on a new model of healthcare for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- There is limitless potential to combine interdisciplinary strengths in public health, policy, biosciences, and biotechnology to help facilitate the transformation from a disease care system to a health care system.
- Most of the world's most pressing problems will require an interdisciplinary approach, and Emory and Georgia Tech are leading the way. Between the two campuses, we have an estimated 200 faculty and 400 to 500 students involved in health-related activities and research.
- The Predictive Health Institute is an example of a partnership that allows us to bring together the expertise from multiple disciplines at two institutions to usher in a new era in healthcare. The research that we are doing together will help us develop the tools for a new century of medicine. Technology plays a key role in what we will be able to accomplish together to help people, possibly throughout the world. Let me share a couple of examples.
- The Center for Health Discovery and Well Being created a unique, multi-dimensional approach to predictive and preventive healthcare. As a research program, this effort has created a unique collection of data, with more than 3000 data points for each of the some 700 participants in the program. It also offers a

unique approach to engaging individuals about their health with the goal of lowering their risk of disease.

- This past year a research team from the Tennenbaum Institute at Georgia Tech sought to help Emory, as the employer of most of these participants, understand the economic benefits as part of consideration of ramping the program up to all Emory employees. Georgia Tech researchers created a novel, multi-level simulation that models and visualizes the healthcare journey from the Predictive Health Institute, patient and Emory (as the payee) perspectives.
- Another project under discussion is a novel project at Shaw Women's Center in Thomasville that could move the approach out to some of the most medically underserved areas of our state. This collaborative effort between Emory and Georgia Tech that started at the Predictive Health Institute has the potential to transform healthcare systems from costly, disease-oriented activities to outcome-focused systems that invest wisely in predictive medicine and preventive healthcare.
- A newly launched project with our School of Interactive Computing studies how the participants at Emory's Predictive Health Clinic find, share and use health information online. The predictive health assessments conducted by the Center for Health Discovery and Well Being provide a wealth of information to participants, sowing the seeds for online health search. We will be developing a tool that health professionals and their patients use together exploring the capacity of collaborative search to support a patient-centered or “horizontal” care environment. This research will help empower people to become productively engaged in their own health, a vital step to reducing the impact of costly chronic diseases.
- Both of these recent projects are supported by GT's new Institute for People and Technology. This Institute represents our commitment to multi-disciplinary research that will lead in the transformation of the future of healthcare systems.

- Of all the issues and challenges facing our society today, I think we can all agree that health is the most fundamental. Maintaining health, and hopefully delaying disease onset, is a key to reducing healthcare costs and improving quality of life.
- What we are doing at Georgia Tech and Emory, and what each of you do in the field of predictive health and healthcare, is transformational. Thank you for what you do every day to impact so many lives. We're glad you're here today, and we're looking forward to great things from you.