

# RHODE ISLAND Bioscience Awards



2014

Recognizing Rhode Island's  
Bioscience Industry  
Leaders and Innovators

Thursday, August 28, 2014  
Kirkbrae Country Club  
Lincoln, RI



Presented by Tech Collective  
Rhode Island's Bioscience and Information  
Technology Industry Association

## Tech Collective Congratulates its 2014 Rhode Island Bioscience Award Recipients!

The Rhode Island Bioscience Awards were launched in 2013 to honor the state's industry innovators and leaders. As the Rhode Island bioscience industry association, we wanted to design and deliver a program that would allow us to bring attention to this multifaceted and impactful industry as well as celebrate the accomplishments of bioscientists right here in Rhode Island.

Last year, we were proud to honor industry researchers, quality specialists, and educators. This year we are again proud to share the achievements of our 2014 Rhode Island Bioscience Award recipients with the public. From reading their applications, supporting documents, and letters of recommendation to meeting each recipient one on one for their photo shoot - we can tell you these are four faces you will continue to see as industry and academic leaders in Rhode Island.

Megan Ranney is exploring how to use mobile technology - arguably one of the most important innovations of our life time - to deliver extended medical care outside of the ER. An intriguing side note on Megan: she was in the Peace Corps for three years and served in Côte D'Ivoire, West Africa.

John Jarrell has a visionary picture of the industry and he is working to bring it to fruition. From his antimicrobial product being applied to leg implant rods given for free to third world countries; to his prototype 3D scanner; to his plans for a wet lab and pharmaceutical lab available to the industry community - we visited with John for over an hour and still had a hard time leaving.

Greg Paquette is no stranger to Tech Collective. We are proud to have him selected by our Judging Committee as an Award recipient. Many involved in the biosciences would agree that our state, our industry, and our workforce would not be where it is today without Greg's influence, actions, and leadership.

David Vito is someone we could not help but admire. David is an educator all students want to be in class with and all teachers want to learn from. We were privileged to witness David's love of science and of sharing science first hand when we visited his lab class at CCRI. Over a 30+ year career, David has become an influential educator of students and teachers across all grade levels.

These four individuals embody the spirit, achievement, and continued potential for Rhode Island's bioscience industry. Together, in our diversity, we find strength in a common goal: to improve the world and change lives. In Rhode Island, we are doing just that.

### *Tech Collective*

**Executive Director: Kathie Shields**

**Staff: Chelsea Shaw, Cheryl DaCosta, Chris Selwyn, Giselle Mahoney, JoAnn Johnson, Joanne Birkett, Kristen Wolfe, and Melissa Punchak**



Award Category: Individual

## Dr. John D. Jarrell, PhD, PE

President - Materials Science Associates;  
Founder - BioIntraface, Inc.

One of the most impressive qualities of Dr. John Jarrell is his passion for the biosciences and the diversity of his knowledge of and involvement within them. While John will say he's really been doing the same job for more than 20 years, he has remained at the forefront of advancement within this industry.


His work with creating 3D scanning technologies is a prime example. John's pursuit of the industry's emerging work in personalized treatment discovery is another.

Ranging from the engineering and technology aspect of the industry to the truly biological, John is also the founder of BioIntraface, Inc. – a startup designing bioactive and antimicrobial medical coatings intended specifically for use in the surgical setting. As is the case with much of his work, John melds together the two separate but equally integral worlds of engineering and biology to create a business model and product in BioIntraface which are “technically feasible, clinically relevant, and commercially viable.”

In 2011 – after 18 years of a home-based business, John made the decision to expand Materials Science Associates and moved to the developing Quonset Business Park. It was a move that paid off, providing him with an 11,000 square foot space that currently houses 15 employees. Here, John and his staff provide top-notch consulting, research, testing, and analysis for biomedical product pre- and post- market. The team's current projects include artificial joint replacements, bone fracture healing, women's health, surgical instruments, drug delivery devices, implantable materials, and antimicrobial applications.

John is also committed to the growth and success of Rhode Island's bioscience community. In addition to his teaching appointment at Brown University and his involvement with MedMates, the Rhode Island Bioscience Leaders, and East Greenwich Masterminds, John is enthusiastic about creating “co-laboratory” space at Quonset. With plans already underway, the space would include web lab and chemical lab space not only to increase the capacity of his team, but also allow Rhode Island bioscientists to take advantage of local lab space, resources, and services.

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 **From John:** “I want to be at the center of a Medtech Innovation hub, here at Quonset. My vision is to enable passionate engineers and scientists to apply knowledge and pursue innovation.”

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Award Category: Individual



## Dr. Greg Paquette

Professor & Director of Biotechnology Programs -  
University of Rhode Island

Connecting academia, industry, and government leadership, Dr. Greg Paquette is a true advocate of Rhode Island's bioscience industry and the transformational role it could play in our state. Throughout his career, Greg has demonstrated his ability to foster collaboration and lead many integral bioscience

initiatives to fruition in our state.

From developing and implementing degree programs and components at the University of Rhode Island to participating in capital campaigns to support these programs, Greg has been instrumental in building Rhode Island's bioscience capacity and workforce as well as exposing thousands of students to the diverse bioscience fields and career pathways.

In 2004, Greg led what was a critical step for Rhode Island's bioscience community – the establishment of a BS Biotechnology Manufacturing Program at the URI Providence Biotechnology Center. The program provides critical support to the bioscience industry as well as helps garner public attention and understanding of the industry itself.

Under Greg's leadership as URI's Director of Biotechnology Programs – an achievement Greg identifies as his greatest – the impact and influence of URI's bioscience programs has grown to encompass all facets of the industry pipeline, from students participating at the PK-12 levels to industry workers seeking professional development and advancement training. In 2008, bioscience expansion again occurred with the establishment of the Institute for Immunology and Informatics (iCubed) at URI, one of the leading organizations of its kind.

After such an accomplished career, it would be easy to see Greg wanting to slow down. In fact, it is just the opposite. Greg cites many new educational and workforce programs he is working with URI to establish. He is also actively involved with Tech Collective, the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, and several youth initiatives engaging students in STEM. Over the years, Greg has become a highly respected voice, organizer, and leader of Rhode Island's bioscience industry. He sees a bigger picture and understands the steps needed to complete it. To the benefit of this industry, there is no sign of his slowing down.

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**From Greg:** “I have thoroughly enjoyed playing a key role in the development of programs to assure adequate workforce for the Rhode Island biosciences industry. As the industry expands and evolves, the need for enhanced and new programs will become apparent. I look forward to continuing to work in this exciting and dynamic industry.”

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Award Category: Individual

## Megan L. Ranney, MD MPH

Director, Emergency Digital Health Innovation program; Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine - Rhode Island Hospital and Alpert Medical School, Brown University

At the evolving crossroads of healthcare and technology, Megan Ranney, MD MPH is an innovator. Megan is an emergency room physician, a researcher, and an assistant professor. Her academic background boasts an MD and MPH as well as completing a fellowship and residency. A culmination of her professional and education experiences, Megan founded the Emergency Digital Health Innovation (EDHI) program in the winter of 2014. Her goal: to make a difference in the lives of not only her patients, but healthcare system at large and the professionals who serve it.

EDHI, located within Rhode Island Hospital and the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, is the “only digital health program in the nation that focuses on using digital health to transform the care of patients with acute care needs – before, during, and after their visit.” Although a young entity, Megan and EDHI are already leading several ongoing studies. Areas of care include teen depression, suicidal teens, high-risk patients, and low income patients with chronic pain. Studies utilize not only mobile and text message engagement of patients who enter the ER, but also incorporates an extensive network of caregivers for more well-rounded delivery of care, including behavioral theorists, psychiatrists, patient advocates, specialized doctors, and medical administrators and staff.

In addition to her ER and EDHI work, Megan is heavily involved in connecting the local and national bioscience industry, academic, and clinical ecosystem. Megan is a participant on many local and national committees, serves as an editor and peer reviewer for national medical journals, and is a widely published author and speaker herself. Her leadership and/or participation in several grant studies reflect multi-million dollar research investments. Megan’s student mentorship earned her the 2010 Alpert Medical School Dean’s Teaching Award; in 2014, she received its Outstanding Physician Award. These are just some of Megan’s truly amazing accolades extending beyond any one emergency room visit, classroom, or text message.

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**From Megan:** “I founded EDHI in recognition of the lack of evidence-based, effective digital health solutions for the emergency department setting. I have created this program from scratch, organized collaborations among a wide group of disparate experts, and have initiated a variety of activities. I consider it a critical scientific service, with the potential to put Rhode Island’s healthcare system at the forefront of cutting edge, evidence-based care.”

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## David R. Vito

Assistant Professor of Biology - Community College of Rhode Island;  
Coordinator & Co-PI, Amgen Biotech Experience Program - University of Rhode Island

David Vito is that teacher that every student wants to be in class with. He makes science fun, engaging, and maybe most importantly, relevant. Spanning a 30+ year career, David has utilized an innovative approach, real-world and hands on situations, and his own inquisitiveness and passion for science to both expose students to science pathways as well as foster their own interest in it.


David began his career as a biology teacher at North Attleboro High School. There, David established the school's science fair program, which has grown to become one of the most prominent programs in the region. David also established and advised the school's Biology Club, welcoming guest speakers and introducing a student-student mentor programs.

Bioscience study was an aspect David naturally saw a fit for an incorporated into his curriculum. Particularly at CCRI, David's classes include bioscience elements such as electrophoresis, forensics, and transformation and protein purification. Outside the classroom, David serves as chair of CCRI's Biology Guest Speaker program, welcoming guests to speak on topics ranging from evolution to stem cells to alternative energy.

In addition to his work at CCRI, David continues to engage younger students in the biosciences as Co-PI and Coordinator of the Amgen Biotechnology Experience (ABE) program at the University of Rhode Island. ABE provides teachers with the education, equipment, workbooks, and technical support that enable them to incorporate bioscience studies into their classroom curriculums. David ensures educators are equipped with the training and supplies they need to be successful. In addition, David works with ABE to offer student internships, outstanding student achievement awards, educator workshops, and to work with other schools and organizations to expose students to the biosciences.

David joined the ABE program from its inception in 2007-2008 school year, and he has been instrumental in the program's significant growth ever since. In ABE's first year, 11 teachers, eight schools, and 250 students participated in the program. In 2013-2014, 54 teachers, 27 schools, and 2,931 students participated. To date, nearly 10,500 students have benefitted from the work of David and ABE. Add in the lives he's impacted at North Attleboro High School and CCRI and the number grows exponentially.

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 **From David:** "I am very fortunate to have spent most of my life doing what I like best; immersed in education, thoroughly committed to advancing the biological sciences. I have strived to instill in my students an appreciation for life"

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## The Rhode Island Bioscience Awards

Tech Collective's Rhode Island Bioscience Awards honor those who are innovating and impacting our industry. These are the scientists, researchers, thinkers, and culture changers challenging the status quo. These are the innovations, technologies and break-throughs literally changing worlds and changing lives. From laboratories to production, from concept to cultivation, from individual contributor to community leader, these industry champions are strengthening the growth and influence of Rhode Island's bioscience sectors locally and globally.



**Special thanks to this year's Awards sponsor:**

**THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND**

## Rhode Island's Bioscience Industry

Rhode Island's bioscience industry is comprised of five sectors: Drugs and Pharmaceuticals; Medical Devices and Equipment; Research, Testing, and Medical Laboratories; Agricultural Feedstock and Chemicals; and Bioscience-Related Distribution. Statewide, the industry employs 4,602 bioscience professionals as well as an additional 11,847 workers in non-STEM occupations. As an industry itself, the biosciences are growing faster than the Rhode state economy. Rhode Island bioscience is one of our state's highest growth potential industries.



## Tech Collective

Tech Collective is Rhode Island's Information Technology and Bioscience Industry Association. Uniting industry, government and academic stakeholders, our mission is to inspire, engage, educate and employ a high-skill, high-wage Knowledge Economy in Rhode Island. Since its transition from the Rhode Island Technology Council (RITEC) in 2004, Tech Collective has received more than \$8M in federal, state and private grant funding to foster industry collaboration, awareness and development through events and initiatives including: the Tech10 awards, the Rhode Island Bioscience Awards, GRRL Tech, Women in Technology, Bio-Ed, and STEM-based education and training programs for K-16 students as well as incumbent and transitioning workers. Get connected to Tech Collective at [www.tech-collective.org](http://www.tech-collective.org), on LinkedIn (Tech Collective), on Twitter (@Tech\_Collective), and on Facebook (TechCollectiveRI).



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