

Greetings!

Here it is - the **HOLIDAY EDITION** of your Biodesign Alumni Newsletter and the last one of 2015! Hope to see you on Sunday at the holiday party!

Upcoming Alumni Events

BIODESIGN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

1:00-4:00pm | The lovely home of Tom & Susie Krummel

Mark your calendars for one of the best traditions of the year! This is a can't-miss event - a great opportunity to catch up with alumni and faculty over melted brie and sticky toffee pudding. Please RSVP via the invite that should be in your inboxes [or contact Mary mgorman1@stanford.edu]. **In the spirit of giving, the Alumni Association will be setting up our annual Toys for Tots drive - if you are interested in participating, please bring one new, unwrapped toy to the party!** Easy as that!

Biodesign Community Events

SVLMDC MEETING | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:00-8:30pm | Mission Hall Building, 16th St. San Francisco

Biodesign Alumni have been cordially invited to the next meeting of the Silicon Valley Lean Medical Device Council [SVLMDC], featuring guest speakers presenting on the topic of "Executing Lean Start-up Patent Strategies".

Speakers include Katie Kelleher and Jim Shay of Shay Glenn [Ideas for Executing a Lean Patent Strategy], Dan Burnett of TheraNova [Getting a Start-up off the Ground by Acquiring IP], and Mirza Baig of Aldrich Capital Partners [The Art of Buying and Selling Patents].

[Event Details & Sign Up](#)

New Biodesign Blog Posts

CONSUMER MEDTECH: IS THE GRASS REALLY GREENER?

by Ken Wu

posted December 6, 2015

Medical device development has been burdened lately by a high regulatory burden and an increasing uncertainty around reimbursement. In reaction to this, consumer medical devices with minimal regulatory burden that are mostly self-pay and self-treat, have garnered significant interest from the medical device community.

[Read More](#)

Service Corner

TOYS FOR TOTS AT THE HOLIDAY PARTY!

This month we'll focus on giving back to the community by continuing our tradition of collecting new, unwrapped gifts at the Holiday Party. Can't make the party but still want to contribute? Contact our fearless leader Holly (hrock@stanford.edu) for more information.

Policy Changes that Affect You

SENATE VOTES TO REPEAL MEDICAL DEVICE TAX

The U.S. Senate recently passed a bill that would gut key provisions of the Affordable Care Act and do away with the medical device tax, but the measure faces certain death as soon as it hits President Obama's desk. This measure could be part of a larger strategy for Republicans to roll back the Affordable Care Act.

[Read More](#)

CMS FINALIZES BUNDLED PAYMENT INITIATIVES FOR HIP & KNEE REPLACEMENTS

In 2014, more than 400,000 Medicare beneficiaries received a hip or knee replacement, costing more than \$7B for hospitalizations alone. On November 16th CMS finalized the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) model, set to begin April 1st, 2016. This model will hold hospitals accountable for the quality of care they deliver to Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries for

hip and knee replacement and other major leg procedures from surgery through recovery.

[Read More](#)

Alumni SPOTLIGHT | Aimee Hammonds ['02-'03]

Our second alumni spotlight features **Aimee Hammonds** ['02-'03 Fellow], who you may remember better as **Aimee Angel**. The change in last name isn't the only exciting thing that this international explorer has been up to since Biodesign - read on to find out more!



Current Location: Sydney, Australia

Current Position: Senior Practitioner and Teacher, AcuEnergetics

Time in Current Position: 3 years

What are you working on? I have a clinical practice where I treat patients with a variety of health problems. While I don't "specialize" in any clinical area, approximately 1/3 of my patients are in cardiology, 1/3 are fertility-related issues, and 1/3 are everything else (e.g., knee, hip, neck, shoulder, and back pain, bladder problems, headaches, depression, learning difficulties, etc.).

Position held directly following Biodesign: Venture Associate, De Novo Ventures

How did you make this career shift? When I lived in Hong Kong (doing Marketing for Abbott Vascular across Asia Pacific), I became fascinated by the ancient Chinese Medicine concepts of meridians and other energetic structures in the human body that I'd never heard of despite years of thinking about how the human body stays well or becomes ill. I took several courses whilst in Hong Kong, then enrolled in four years of study when I initially came to Australia (my role at the time was National Sales and Marketing Manager for Abbott Vascular). The reason that I decided to shift my career is because I repeatedly saw effective resolution of physical and emotional problems for patients, often where they had tried accepted (and generally effective) approaches for years with no resolution. Learning about the energetic system of the body showed me an additional understanding of illness and a way to approach those problems that was not previously available to me or my patients. I decided that immersing myself in treating patients would teach me the most about how the energetic system works. I love how I was taught to always address the underlying cause rather than the varied presenting symptoms, and to look at the person as a whole rather than individual physical complaints.

Most important thing you got out of Biodesign: Looking for the unmet need! During my years in devices, the Biodesign approach guided me to always think about why certain patients don't get good results using approaches that are generally effective. I became really interested in the percentage of people who are refractory to the accepted treatment approaches, and even more interested in the techniques that helped them to resolve their problems. Every year when I would come back to Stanford for a visit, I would tell Paul Yock about what I was studying, and every year he would say, "Aimee, have you considered making this your career instead of your sideline?" It took me a few years, but eventually I made the leap - I really don't think I would have done it without Paul's constant support!!

Biodesign principles that you still find useful in your current job: Biodesign taught me to look at the intersection points - how clinical understanding interacted with what's possible from an engineering perspective, to what's practical from a business (and regulatory!) perspective. My job now needs similar thinking in order to treat effectively - understanding their history of what has/hasn't worked, who they are as a person, and how their varied symptoms are all connected.

The fields you are currently excited about: I am interested in the energetic system of the body, of course, and how the knowledge can be applied more broadly to how we treat disease. I think there are huge opportunities in terms of devices and personalized medicine when we understand not only the mechanical and chemical components of the body, but the energetic ones as well.

Advice for new Biodesign grads: Work with people who excel in their field, articulate which skills you want to learn in each new role, and prioritize making a career out of the things that fascinate you, rather than just the things that you've done before or are good at. You can't replace passion and curiosity with anything else!

Personal Notes: I have lived in Australia since 2008 and became a citizen last year. My husband and I are expecting our first child in April!

Got Announcements?

Want to publish something in the *next* Biodesign Alumni Monthly Newsletter? Please email btangy@stanford.edu with announcements and / or activities of interest. The deadline for submission will be one week before publication (the last Monday of every month). This month's deadline? **December 28th!**

Got Feedback? Let us know how we can make this newsletter better! Just hit 'reply' and send in your thoughts!

Until Next Month!

The Biodesign Alumni Board

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