

February 10, 2014

Dan Fuhrmann, Ph.D.
Professor & Chair
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
Michigan Technological University

Re: Support for ECE Biomedical Applications Concentration

Dear Dan,

I am writing to express my support for your newly proposed concentration in Biomedical Applications. Cross-disciplinary education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels is the path to the future and one that we must embrace.

The Department of Biomedical Engineering does not see this proposed concentration as a competitive program, nor as a program that is in anyway harmful to the future development of BME at Michigan Tech. In fact, we see it as precisely the opposite. This proposed program will offer new opportunities to students in both disciplines as they prepare themselves to be productive and highly employable engineers.

The medical device industry is one of the key economic drivers in the upper midwestern section of the United States. This concentration within the ECE Department will help to fill the outstanding need for engineers who are classically trained in electrical and computer engineering, while still having a firm introduction to the reality of engineering practice in and around the human body.

In summary this proposed concentration has my highest support and I look forward to working with you and your students as the program matures.

Sincerely,



Sean J. Kirkpatrick, Ph.D.
Professor & Chair
Department of Biomedical Engineering