

## STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAM

Scientopia is an online **mentoring** community for high-school students with disabilities who are interested in science, engineering, and math. It provides a forum for students and professionals to come together and discuss topics of interest, learn more about careers, and share information and thoughts on disability issues.

Students have the opportunity to lead discussions and facilitate information quests. A student, with the aid of a mentor, helps lead the group for approximately one month. Everyone provides information, offers commentary, and poses questions to the group. Communication unrelated to the designated topics is also encouraged. Students have access to mentors individually as well as through the main e-mail list.

Paid internships (online and in person) are available. The next two deadlines are February 15 and 30; applications must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than midnight. Contact [ia-info@udel.edu](mailto:ia-info@udel.edu). Internships are for students with disabilities who are at high-school (grades 9-12) or university levels.

One online internship is available immediately. The position is for a science and technology writer who will interact with the Scientopia program and a new all-youth-run electronic magazine called *Disability Central*. Students must be ages 14-19 and should call (302) 831-2485.

Scientopia is a program of the Information Access Labo-

ratory, which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and is affiliated with the University of Delaware. It is an extension of the former SEM (science, engineering, and math) program.

The program also promotes education and an increased awareness of disability issues. Scientopia's goal is essentially twofold: researching and developing assistive technologies aimed at providing people with disabilities better access to the science, engineering, and math disciplines; and developing model outreach programs.

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## TRAINING PROFESSIONALS

Faculty at the Schools of Engineering and Medicine at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in Cleveland and investigators at the Cleveland Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) Center received two federal training grants. These should improve access for people with spinal-cord injury (SCI) or stroke to electrical stimulation implants, known as **neuro**-prostheses, that restore movement and function.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded the university \$750,000 over five years for an interdisciplinary program to train predoctoral biomedical engineers and postdoctoral medical doctors in novel electrical stimulation

techniques. The National Science Foundation also gave \$2.62 million to the university for an Integrated Graduate Education and Research Training grant that will train biology and engineering students in robotics and neuroprosthetics.

Through the new awards, about 30 trainees will be exposed to a wide range of biomedical research and clinical experiences, including lectures, summer symposia, specific research projects, and formal mentoring programs. Training will take place at CWRU, Metro-Health Medical Center, the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, and industrial settings.

The training program's outcome will be a cadre of biomedical engineers with the ability to apply biomedical technology to restoring function for people with central nervous system impairments.

"More interdisciplinary training is needed in rehabilitation if clinicians are to successfully integrate **assistive** technology into clinical practice and engineers are to design devices and techniques that meet real clinical needs," says Patrick E. Crago, Ph.D., CWRU department of biomedical engineering professor and chairperson and grant co-investigator.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to mold young scientists to reach this goal."

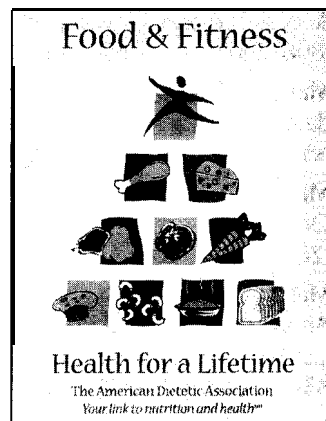
For training opportunities, contact Biomedical Engineering Department, Case Western Reserve University, (216) 368-4063 / <http://bme.cwru.edu>.

*Contact:* Cleveland FES Center, (800) 666-2353 / [www.fesc.org](http://www.fesc.org).

## NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

According to the American Dietetic Association (ADA), there is no time like the present for "Food & Fitness: Health for a Lifetime." Therefore, in March, the ADA launches National Nutrition Month®. It's the organization's annual effort to raise the public's awareness of nutrition and health's importance.

This year's message, "Food & Fitness: Health for a Lifetime," will continue to be brought to the forefront through the new millennium to motivate Americans to improve the quality of their lives.



**"Food & Fitness: Health for a lifetime" is designed to raise the public's awareness of the importance of nutrition and health.**

The campaign is designed to focus attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

*Contact:* American Dietetic Association, 216 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60606-6995. (312) 899-4759 / 899-4771 / [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org).