



John G. (Jack) Keimel

Jack is the co-founder and president of the New Hope Research Foundation, a non-profit operating foundation dedicated to research and development of gene therapies for treating central nervous system aspects of lysosomal storage diseases. (www.NewHopeResearch.org)

Jack led research and development programs at Medtronic, Inc. for more than 31 years. Positions held while at Medtronic include Vice President of Research & Advanced Concepts managing worldwide device research on cardiac arrhythmias. Jack was also Vice President of Systems Operations managing the design, development, and manufacture of implantable cardiac defibrillator systems. During his career at Medtronic, Jack directed the research, technology, and development of innovative concepts intended to bring full life to patients with cardiac rhythm and neurological abnormalities. Primary among these were the world's first tiered therapy implantable defibrillator. The Medtronic Tachyarrhythmia business, which he helped initiate in the early 1980s, now helps protect over 100,000 new patients each year with implantable defibrillator technology.

Jack holds 30 granted US patents in the areas of gene therapy delivery methods, implantable drug delivery systems, gene expression promoters, noninvasive electrophysiologic testing, implantable defibrillator systems, implantable sensors, and telemetry communication systems. In 1990, he was awarded the Medtronic Wallin Leadership Award for his work in developing the PCD implantable defibrillator product line, and in 1997, was inducted into the honorary Bakken Society for his technical contributions to Medtronic. In 2004, Jack was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

Prior to joining Medtronic, Jack conducted research on devices for the physically disabled at the University of Minnesota Hospital. He also served as a captain in the US Air Force. Jack has completed advanced coursework in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Minnesota, holds a MS degree in Electrical Engineering with interdisciplinary work in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Minnesota (1979), and a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame (1973). Continuing education includes completion of the Minnesota Executive Program at the University of Minnesota and course work from Harvard University Business School.

Jack is a leading advocate for extending life, improving the quality of life, and reducing the cost of health care through the use of biomedical technology. His current areas of interest include research and technology that will permit broad distribution of gene therapy vectors to the central nervous system.