



MENU

Rangayyan (07-24-07)

- Contact Us
- Experts Online
- In the News
- Publications
- Rangayyan (07-24-07)
- Japan (07-24-07)
- Langhan (07-19-07)
- CIHR institute (07-12-07)
- Order of Canada (07-05-07)
- Pheromones (07-03-07)
- Dean (06-28-07)
- Science Fair (06-28-07)
- Syed award (06-26-07)
- Kinetix (06-26-07)
- Diet for Diabetes (06-25-07)
- Zamponi Pain (06-20-07)
- Research Prize (06-19-07)
- CAME awards (06-14-07)
- BHSc Grads (06-12-07)
- Spoor Tragedy (06-05-07)
- M-Cap (05-29-07)
- Aspirin (05-28-07)
- CAVEman (05-24-07)
- Santamaria JDRF (05-24-07)
- Watanabe (05-24-07)
- CMSA Awards (05-24-07)
- Heart-Stroke Grants (05-10-07)
- Master\_teacher (05-03-07)
- AHFMR funding (04-19-07)
- Burnstick (04-19-07)
- NeuroArm (04-17-07)
- Yong Research (04-12-07)
- Rotary Club (04-11-07)

PAGE TOOLS PRINT EMAIL

## University professor the first in Canada to receive acknowledgement from major international society

By Laurie Wang  
Posted July 24, 2007



A University of Calgary engineering professor and adjunct professor in the Faculty of Medicine was recognized by two major international societies in the areas of medical imaging and biomedical engineering in June.

Dr. Raj M. Rangayyan is the first and only member outside the United States to be elected as a Fellow of the Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine (SIIM). He's also the second in Calgary to become an elected Fellow of the Canadian Medical and Biological Engineering Society (CMBES).

Recognized by the SIIM for his contributions in developing techniques for computer-aided diagnosis of breast cancer and many other achievements, Rangayyan says the SIIM is the first society he's a part of that isn't strictly for engineers.

"I'm thrilled by this special recognition. SIIM is more of a medically oriented society, and to be recognized by such a society, it's certainly an honour," he says.

The SIIM is a multidisciplinary group made up of members of the computer science, radiology, physiology, engineering and medical community. The society is devoted to advancing information technology in medical imaging through education and research.

As for his new membership into the CMBES, Rangayyan says it shows Calgary is stepping up in the area of biomedical engineering and research.

"It's growing in a very big way in Calgary, in research as well as undergrad teaching."

CIHR funding (04-05-07)  
Master-teacher (04-03-07)  
Parkinson's-study (03-29-07)  
Chaconas-research-award (03-29-07)  
Forzani-Colon-Cancer (03-28-07)  
Gold-Star (03-22-07)  
Verjee-CARE (03-15-07)  
Crest-study (03-13-07)  
U-Difference (03-08-07)  
Observership (03-06-07)  
Pregancy-MS (02-22-07)  
New Dean (02-20-07)  
Zinkernagel (02-15-07)  
Hemmelgam-award (02-08-07)  
Kids-cancer (01-24-07)  
Cohen-award (01-18-07)  
Colon-cancer (01-17-07)  
PCL-donation (01-16-07)  
ABJHI-move (01-09-07)  
News Archive  
Quick Facts  
Support model (06-19-07)

The CMBES was founded by Dr. John (Jack) Hopps, the Father of biomedical engineering in Canada, also the inventor of the heart pacemaker. As Canada's principal society for engineering in medicine, the CMBES is devoted to the development and practice of medical device technology.

"I've been active in the biomedical engineering community here for a long time," says Rangayyan, who's been at the University of Calgary since 1984.

Currently a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering as well as an adjunct professor in the Departments of Surgery and Radiology, Rangayyan received his PhD in biomedical engineering from the Indian Institute of Science.

He says he's happy to have been the first to introduce an undergraduate course in biomedical signal analysis here at the University of Calgary. He also introduced a graduate course in digital image processing.

Rangayyan says he enjoys teaching aspiring engineers, and he continues to work hard to advance computer technology in medicine.

Perhaps he'll be asked to speak as an honoured guest at next year's SIIM conference?

"We'll have to wait and see," he smiles.

#### **About the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary**

The U of C's Faculty of Medicine is a national leader in health research with an international reputation for excellence and innovation in health care research, education and delivery. Through its educational programs, the Faculty of Medicine trains the physicians and scientists who will lead the next generation of health practitioners. Through its clinical work, continuing medical education programs, and close relationship with the Calgary Health Region, the Faculty of Medicine moves new treatments and diagnostic techniques from the laboratory bench to the hospital bedside efficiently and effectively, improving patient care.

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