

DNA Electronics CEO Professor Chris Toumazou Wins 2009 World Technology Award for Health and Medicine

Professor Chris Toumazou FRS has won the 2009 World Technology Award in the Health and Medicine category. Professor Toumazou was named as this year's recipient at the award ceremony held at the TIME Conference Center, Time and Life Building, in New York, at the culmination of the two-day World Technology Summit.

Professor Toumazou, CEO of DNA Electronics and Director of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering at Imperial College, London, was recognised for his work in adapting semiconductor technology, which is used in electronic devices such as computers, to provide devices which will improve people's health and life style. Past winners of the award include Craig Venter for his work in understanding the genetic make-up of humans in the Human Genome Project and Sir Tim Berners-Lee who invented the world-wide web.

Recently, Professor Toumazou has been demonstrating how silicon chip technology can be used to mimic or replace biological functions and is currently developing an implantable silicon chip for patients with Type 1 diabetes, which mimics the role of beta cells inside the pancreas in order to help patients to regulate their insulin.

He and his team have also developed a digital plaster that enables doctors to carry out round-the-clock observations of their patients. This means that patients can have vital signs such as ECG, body temperature and respiration monitored remotely, while they recuperate in the comfort of their own home, instead of in hospital.

DNA Electronics is commercialising research which created a new silicon chip device that should enable doctors to test their patient's DNA from a saliva swab. This will enable them to determine whether their patient's have a high or low tolerance to a particular prescription medication, and ensure that they are given the most effective treatment.

The prestigious World Technology Awards are given in recognition of those individuals and companies doing innovative work of "the greatest likely long-term significance" in their respective fields. Nominees are proposed by Fellows and Founding Members of the World Technology Network (WTN) – a global community of the key players working in technology, from technologists, financiers and entrepreneurs to government officials, policy analysts and futurists. Other recipients of an Individual award this year include Facebook Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg and corporate winners include YouTube (in the category of Communications Technology). The corporate winner in the Health and Medicine category was the Mayo Clinic.

World Technology Network Founder and Chairman James P. Clark commented: "The World Technology Network was conceived to bring together the most innovative and impactful people and organisations in science and technology today. Professor Chris Toumazou is a great example of an extraordinary individual working tirelessly on technologies and businesses that are actively creating the future. "

Commenting on his award, Professor Toumazou said, "I am very grateful to the members of the World Technology Network for this honour. The focus of my professional endeavour has always been to accelerate the development and adoption of technology that can benefit and improve the lives of people around the world. I am delighted to become a part of a community of innovators that share this vision."

Professor Toumazou (FRS FREng FIEEE FIEE CEng PhD) founded DNA Electronics whose patented Genalysis™ platform is capable of delivering real-time, disposable, accurate on-the-spot tests for any target nucleic acid sequence (DNA/RNA).

Professor Toumazou currently holds the Winston Wong Chair in Biomedical Circuits at Imperial College London and is Director and Chief Scientist of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering at Imperial. In recognition of his outstanding research, he was made a Professor at Imperial at the age of 33 – one of the youngest ever and is a Fellow of the Royal Society

and a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. He holds 23 patents, many of which are now fully granted in key territories throughout the world, and has published over 320 research papers in the field of RF and low power electronics.