

Albany Med-Led Brain Mapping Research Showcased at International Workshop

ALBANY, N.Y., October 14, 2015 — Some of the world's top scientists, neurologists and neurosurgeons are convening this week at the eighth annual International Workshop on Advances in Electroencephalography, hosted by Albany Medical Center and the New York State Department of Health's Wadsworth Center in Chicago, IL.

Physicians and researchers at Albany Med and Wadsworth have pioneered many of the advances in electroencephalography (EEG), the recording and interpretation of electrical activity from the surface of the brain. Since Albany Med has been holding these international gatherings, publications in the field have significantly increased.

Electroencephalography has become a dominant method for understanding how the brain processes language, generates intention for movement and integrates our senses. EEG controlled devices, given direct instruction from the brain, could help those who are paralyzed or disabled communicate or move using only these signals.

"Over the past several years, the unique qualities of EEG have become widely and increasingly recognized by scientists engaged in basic and translational research," said Anthony Ritaccio, M.D. '84, J. Spencer Standish professor of neurology and neurosurgery and director of the epilepsy and human brain mapping program at Albany Medical Center. "Basic research suggests that EEG can decode brain function in ways that cannot be readily achieved using other imaging modalities, and translational research is producing exciting new EEG-based applications that are already becoming available in the clinic."

Dr. Ritaccio and Gerwin Schalk, Ph.D., associate professor of neurology at Albany Medical College and research scientist at the Wadsworth Center, are currently leading an international academic partnership to create a research lab in Italy modeled after the brain computer interface (BCI) lab at Albany Med/Wadsworth through a three-million euro (\$3.7 million) grant from the European Union. The new Polo di Innovazione Cyber Brain Labs will celebrate its inauguration in mid-November, 2015.

Albany Medical Center, northeastern New York's only academic health sciences center, is one of the largest private employers in the Capital Region. It incorporates the 734-bed Albany Medical Center Hospital, which offers the widest range of medical and surgical services in the region, and the Albany Medical College, which trains the next generation of

doctors, scientists and other healthcare professionals, and also includes a biomedical research enterprise and the region's largest physicians practice with more than 450 doctors. Albany Medical Center works with dozens of community partners to improve the region's health and quality of life. For more information: www.amc.edu or www.facebook.com/albanymedicalcenter.