
The council has about 300 members and serves as an innovation hub and network for the North Texas technology community. The Tech Titans awards are in their 11th year of recognizing outstanding technology companies and North Texas individuals who have made significant contributions to their industries during the past year.

“It is a tremendous honor to have our research recognized, especially because all of the finalists were so deserving and prestigious,” Chiao said.

Chiao was honored for his achievements in developing wireless miniature gastrostimulators called BLESS, or BatteryLess EndoScopically-implantable Stimulators. The devices can help treat gastroparesis in patients battling diabetes, cancer and obesity. The implant eliminates the need for major surgery and can be positioned during a 30-minute outpatient procedure.

“I am fortunate to have a world-class team at UT Arlington: high quality students, excellent support staff and administrators,” Chiao said. “UT Arlington is not just a top-tier institute for scientific discoveries but also a University full of synergy between research and commercialization because of great professional supports in tech transfer, IP protection and commercialization.”

Hernan Giraldo, vice president sales for applications software at Alcatel-Lucent and chair of the MTBC’s Tech Titans steering committee, offered his congratulations to all award winners.

“The Tech Titans awards are the premier recognition of fast-growing, highly innovative companies that contribute to the vibrancy of the North Texas economy and make our region an exciting place to live and work,” Giraldo said.

Ron Elsenbaumer, UT Arlington vice president for research and federal relations, said Chiao’s research is representative of the kind of innovation that is the hallmark of a national research university.

“J.-C. produces research that will translate to the marketplace,” Elsenbaumer said. “His work has the potential to help millions of people.”

In addition to Chiao, UT Arlington’s TMAC facility at the Automation & Robotics Research Institute was a finalist in the Technology Advocate Award category. Debra Wawro, chief executive officer and chief scientist, was a finalist in the Emerging Company Horizon Award Category. Wawro earned her doctorate at UT Arlington.

Chiao joined the UT Arlington faculty in 2002 and was the University’s first O’Donnell Award recipient for his work in advancing science and technology research. Chiao also was one of five Texas researchers honored this year by The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas.

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