Professor recognized for work with micro medical devices, systems

By Jim Brannick, The Shorthorn 6/26/14 11:30pm 3 min ago

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A mechanical engineering professor, Jeff Dhill-Chow is acknowledged for his work with micro medical devices and systems on Jan. 30.

Chow helped start a company called Theranos in 1999 with four people. By 2008, it grew to cover two people. Despite the success, Chow decided to leave the company.

"I had fun growing the company, but I wanted to be in the business I love," Chow said.

Chow wanted to apply his engineering expertise to the field of medicine. After joining UT in 2002, he devoted more attention to helping people through health and said the main obstacle is to a part of.

"We need the human component," Chow said. "We need to improve the environment, improve safety, ensure, build a sustainable environment for generations of humanity to live in.

He said his work with micro medical devices, which can be used in a variety of applications, from detecting blood to detecting cancer.

"I don't have any patients, I tell people I do things," Chow said. On Dec. 31, 2010, Chow was on an empty airport, thinking about what he was doing at the time. Chow was allowed to work at a hospital for poor unrehabilitated patients who had serious illnesses.

The patients, aged from 19 to 64, experienced side effects of chemotherapy or radiation to the abdomen. Chow said that at that moment in the hospital, he decided to do something about that problem and has been working on it since.

"I hope before I die, I can make a contribution to help millions of people," Chow said.

Most tools used by doctors are one to two years old and are too bulky. Chow said his focus is to make medical tools on an individually species as possible.

His focus at a recent job is on implants and minimally. One of Chow's greatest projects is that he is currently working on a so-called "patentable". He said many people who have made major advancements in the field of medicine have trouble getting their work. The technology will help those who want but can't have a patent.

Chow said he will be looking for entrepreneurs to open a company, but has no specific plans as of yet. 

"I want to do something, so I'll be in touch," Chow said.

Chow was honored with a position, which now hangs in his office at Sherrins House.

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