

Anders Halvorsen

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Sent: Sunday, September 4, 2016 2:30 AM
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Subject: WITSA Eminent Person's Award request (respond by Sept. 6th)
Attachments: Dr BILL MAGEE EMINENT PERSONS NOMINEE.DOCX; Miguel Ângelo Laporta Nicolelis.docx
Importance: High

September 03, 2016

TO: WITSA Board of Directors
FR: Dr. Jim Poisant, Secretary General
RE: **WITSA Eminent Person's Award request (respond by Sept. 6th)**

Dear Colleagues,

As most of you are aware, WITSA established its highest award called *WITSA's Eminent Persons Award* in 2010. Since establishing the award, its recipients have been Dr Nelson Mandela, Dr Mike Lazaratis, Dr Vint Cerf, Dr. Robert Khan, Dr John O'Sullivan & Dr Percival. The intent of the Award is to recognize individuals who have made or continue to make significant contributions to mankind. These contributions are not necessarily ICT related.

At our Awards Ceremony in Brasilia on October 4th, we plan to bestow this award to two additional persons who have made significant contributions to humanity:

- Dr. William Magee, Jr., CEO and Co-Founder of Operation Smile and
- Dr. Miguel Ângelo Laporta Nicolelis, M.D., P.hD

Dr. William Magee, Jr., CEO and Co-Founder of Operation Smile, has dedicated the past 32 years to helping improve the health and lives of children and young adults around the world. As a leading plastic and craniofacial surgeon, Dr. Magee has trained thousands of physicians worldwide, delivered hundreds of keynote speeches for corporate and national meetings, holds honorary doctorates from many prominent universities, and has appeared in numerous national publications, documentaries and news shows. Under Dr. Magee's leadership, Operation Smile has grown to be the largest volunteer-based organization providing free cleft surgeries in the world with over 5,400 volunteers. Operation Smile has provided over 220,000 free surgeries for children and young adults born with cleft lips, cleft palates, and other facial deformities in over 60 countries since 1982. In his home state of Norfolk, VA, Dr. Magee maintains a private practice and is Co-Director of The Institute for Craniofacial and Plastic Surgery in the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters. See the attached bio for further information or go to:

<http://www.tribecadisruptiveinnovationawards.com/dr-bill-magee-operation-smile/#sthash.zYvAlGI2.dpuf>

Dr. Miguel Ângelo Laporta Nicolelis, M.D., Ph.D., is a Brazilian scientist and physician, best known for his pioneering work in "reading monkey thought". He and his colleagues at Duke University implanted electrode arrays into a monkey's brain that were able to detect the monkey's motor intent and thus able to control reaching and grasping movements performed by a robotic arm. This was possible by decoding signals of hundreds of neurons recorded in volitional areas of the cerebral cortex while the monkey played with a hand-held joystick to move a shape in a video game. These signals were sent to the robot arm, which then mimicked the monkey's movements and thus controlled the game. After a while the monkey realized that thinking about moving the shape was enough and it no longer needed to move the joystick. So it let go of the joystick and controlled the game purely through thought. A system in which brain signals directly control an artificial actuator is commonly referred to as brain-machine interface or brain-computer interface.

On January 15, 2008, Dr. Nicolelis' lab saw a monkey implanted with a new BCI successfully control a robot walking on a treadmill in Kyoto, Japan. The monkey could see the robot, named CB, on a screen in front of him, and was rewarded for walking in sync with the robot (which was under the control of the monkey). After an hour the monkey's treadmill was turned off, but he was able to continue to direct the robot to walk normally for another few minutes, indicating that a part of the brain not sufficient to induce a motor response in the monkey had become dedicated to controlling the robot, as if it were an extension of itself. For further information, please see the attached bio.

With Board approval, WITSA will grant these awards in Brasilia on October 4th. If you have any objections to the granting of this award to Dr Sullivan, **please let me know NLT September 6, 2016**. If we do not hear from you by this date, we will assume that you approve this request. Assuming the request is approved, the award will read:



Eminent Persons Award
Awarded to

Dr. William P. Magee, Jr.

Improving the Health and Lives of children and young adults around the world
Presented in Brasilia 2016



Eminent Persons Award
Awarded to

Miguel Ângelo Laporta Nicolelis

For his Pioneering Work in Neuroscience in the *Digital Age*
Presented in Brasilia 2016

Thank you for your kind attention.

Best Regards,
Jim

Dr. James H. Poisant
Secretary General

World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA)

"Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age"



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