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IPO Education Foundation Announces Inventor of the Year

IPO Education Foundation (IPOEF) is pleased to announce that Dr. Hugh Herr has been named its Inventor of the Year for 2014. The Inventor of the Year award is given to an inventor whose creations have made a significant impact the economy or quality of life.

Dr. Herr is head of the Biomechatronics research group at the MIT Media Lab where his research focuses on creating bionic limbs that emulate the function of natural limbs by bringing together the fields physiology and electromechanics.

Dr. Herr is being honored for his work on the BiOM® T2 System. Replacing traditional prosthetics, the BiOM system is the world's first bionic foot and calf system. It replicates an individual's lost muscle and tendon anatomy and function in order to create a more normalized gait.

After losing both legs following a rock climbing accident in 1982, Dr. Herr reasoned that his body was not broken, but that technology was inadequate. He set out to create prosthetics that mimic natural limbs. Today Dr. Herr is passionate in his belief that bionics open the possibility of eliminating disability within this century. He has worked with wounded soldiers and victims of the Boston Marathon bombing to help restore their mobility.

“Dr. Herr’s work and commitment to ending physical disability are truly inspiring,” said IPOEF President Louis Foreman. “The BiOM system has already improved the lives of numerous individuals. We congratulate Dr. Herr on his success and look forward to seeing what else he has in store.”

Dr. Herr will be honored at IPOEF’s Foundation Awards Dinner on December 9 in Washington, DC. Paola Antonelli, Senior Curator of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and friend of Dr. Herr, will present the award.

For more information about the Inventor of the Year award, Dr. Herr, or the Awards Dinner, please contact Robin Muthig at 202-507-4514 or RMuthig@ipo.org. Members of the media can arrange to attend the December 9 Awards Dinner by contacting Mike Ferrari at 202-507-4504 or meetings@ipo.org. To find out more about IPO Education Foundation programs visit www.ipoef.org or call 202-507-4500.

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