Northeastern University
College *of* Engineering

Please join us for a
Special Chemical Engineering Seminar

Monday, November 25, 2013
333 Curry Student Center
11:00 am – 12:00 pm

"A Career in Medical Products During the "Era of Biomaterials""

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ABSTRACT

After ten years in the non-medical "specialty polymers" field, working on new products for a variety of commercial applications, I joined my first medical products company, Medtronic, Inc. in 1976. I view this timing as being just past the "pioneering" era of biomaterials for medical devices, where barriers to trying new, mostly commercial materials were slight, but with the promise of new biomaterials-based products still to come. My observations have validated this assertion as many medical materials have been implemented over these several decades, both from commercial sources and as new "designer biomaterials." Coming from organic chemistry training, but working with polymers from day one on the job, my opportunities to develop materials and devices were many and substantive. While I tend to also describe this "era of biomaterials" as focused on "replacement medicine," I believe that we are transitioning to the era of tissue engineering where biomaterials may serve a more adjunctive, possibly temporary, function as we induce the body to heal itself. It will be my privilege to provide background information on my career during these times and to present some biomaterials principles learned along the way. I will also note some of the professional service opportunities I have had.

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Art Coury holds a B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Delaware (1962), a Ph.D. in organic chemistry (1965) and an M.B.A. (1980) from the University of Minnesota. His industrial career included positions as: Senior Research Chemist at General Mills, Inc. (1965-1976), Director, Polymer Technology and Research Fellow at Medtronic, Inc. (1976-1993), Vice President, Research and Chief Scientific Officer at Focal, Inc. (1993-2000), and Vice President, Biomaterials Research at Genzyme Corporation (2000-June, 2008). He currently is a consultant. His career focus has been polymeric biomaterials for medical products. He holds over fifty distinct patents and has published and presented widely. His teaching positions have included adjunct or affiliate appointments at the University of Minnesota, MIT and the University of Trento, Italy. His professional service has included: Chair, Minnesota Section, American Chemical Society (1989-1990); President, Society for Biomaterials, USA (1999-2000); President, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) (2003-2004) and membership on a number of university, society and corporate advisory boards. His recent recognitions have included delivery of distinguished lectureships, receipt of the 2007 Innovation and Technology Development Award of the Society for Biomaterials, being named as one of "100 Notable People in the Medical Device Industry" by MD&DI magazine, 2008, induction into the National Academy of Engineering, USA, 2009, recognition on the University of Delaware alumni "Wall of Fame," 2010, induction as an American Chemical Society Fellow, 2011, recipient of the Society for Biomaterials Founders' Award, 2012 and its C. William Hall Award, 2013 , of the AIMBE Pierre Galletti award for 2012 and of the University of Minnesota Outstanding Alumni Award for 2013.

Refreshments will be served.