



For Immediate Release

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Inner-City Middle School Students Participate in Hands-on Tissue Engineering Summer Camp

PITTSBURGH, June 20, 2006 – The Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative (PTEI), a regional non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of individuals by establishing the region as an internationally recognized center of excellence in research, education, and commercial development for the advancement of tissue-related medical therapies. To realize this objective, PTEI has developed programs that support research, provide education, and facilitate collaborations among our regions academic medical center, regional government and industry.

PTEI is holding their annual middle school tissue engineering camp during the week of June 20-23 at Oakland Catholic High School. 24 middle school students from across the Pittsburgh region participated in a hands-on approach to tissue engineering. Students learned that science is not just lists of facts and formulas, but by taking an inter-disciplinary approach, students are able to gain abilities to build scientific understanding and enhance communication skills. Students who are actively engaged in a hands-on approach to learning will be most likely to remember material and it encourages students to think by requiring interpretation of observed events, rather than memorization. Overall Tissue Engineering Summer Camp promotes fun in the classroom for students who typically do not get one-on-one interaction in science for an entire week.