

DREXEL ANALYSIS SEMINAR

February 15, 2013

3-3:50 PM, Korman 245

Speaker: Marek Swoboda (Director of R&D NeuroDx Development LLC)

Title: Definition of Health. The question I have been asking myself instead of asking you.

Abstract: I have spent two decades working as a biomedical engineer on two continents in 4 different research teams. I have worked on numerous medical devices from Total Artificial Heart and heart assist devices to intracranial pressure monitors. Despite all my experience and research, very often I cannot answer such questions as: Is my device helping? If so, “how much”? Can we quantify this? I feel powerless when it comes to the very essential medical question: is the patient healthy?

Many times in my career as a biomedical engineer, I have encountered situations when the state of the subject was unclear. Even with dozens of physiological measurements, trends plotted, I have an uneasy feeling that we are missing a fundamental to human existence definition. What is health?

My talk will consist of a series of questions, rough sketches for hypothesis, anecdotes. My intention is to spark your interest and maybe push toward medical field where your expertise is urgently needed.