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Biomedical pioneer at U. receives award

By [Josh Loftin](#)

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A former University of Utah researcher was honored for his contributions to the medical field Thursday.

Dr. Homer Warner was one of the innovators for the field of biomedical informatics and one of the first to develop computers and computer programs for medical use. He also founded the U.'s department of medical informatics in 1972.

He was given the Pathfinder Award during a luncheon at the Edison Showcase at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, which gave inventors and researchers a chance to demonstrate products ranging from lightweight composite materials to unmanned flying sensors.

During his speech, in which he recounted a life of research that included the development of a monitoring system for intensive care units, Warner urged the upcoming researchers and inventors to look at medical technology.

"There are so many opportunities in this field," he said. "It is really off and running."

Jack Brittain, vice president for technology venture development at the U., said the Edison Showcase is a unique opportunity to honor people like Warner who are creating technologies that push the world forward.

"In addition to showcasing our technology industry, what I like is that this is a celebration of our inventors and researchers," he said.

Many of the technologies on display at the showcase were developed as part of the Utah Science, Technology and Research economic initiative at the U., Brigham Young University and Utah State University. The goal was to help build "close ties" between the research labs and capital investors, said Devin Thorpe, president of MountainWest Capital Network, which sponsored the event.

"The technologies and companies that are born in university labs have the potential to become industry leaders, hiring hundreds of well-paid professionals, raising venture capital, making acquisitions and going public," Thorpe said in a news release. "Sometimes this process starts simply by putting all of the right people together in the same room."

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