INSIDE THE NAE

Quick Search GO

NAE Home
Engineering Projects
Publications
News
Press Releases <
Speeches and Remarks <
Engineering in the News <
WTOP Radio Series <
Media Relations <

Calendar
About the NAE
Awards
Giving to the NAE
Related Links

Member Login
Member Directory

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Online Ethics Center <
Grainger Challenge <
Engineer Girl <
Technically Speaking <
Great Achievements <
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Frontiers of Engineering <

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Brain Engineer (Print This)

04/05/2009

Listen

It's the most complex organ in your body. As science reveals more about how the brain works, engineers are devising fixes for when it doesn't..

Randy Atkins: Ed Boyden, of MIT, calls himself a "neuroengineer." While he studies nerve cells, his focus is broader.

Ed Boyden: I think of the brain as a system that can break in many ways.

Randy Atkins: Causing difficult-to-treat problems like epilepsy, depression, Parkinson's disease.

Ed Boyden: And, like any system that we can think about from an engineering standpoint, we can try to devise strategies for improving its function.

Randy Atkins: Using tools ranging from magnetic stimulation to light waves, Boyden hopes to engineer targeted treatments within active brains…

Ed Boyden: …that will correct aberrant activity while preserving as much of the normal computations as possible.

Randy Atkins: With the National Academy of Engineering, Randy Atkins, 103 point 5 F-M and WTOP-dot-com.

- Ed Boyden's site at MIT
- Boyden's blog at *Technology Review*
- Multimedia presentations of Boyden's work
- More about the brain

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