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The VANDERBILT MEDICAL SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM

ERIC J. TOPOL, M.D.
HOW DIGITIZING HUMAN BEINGS
CHANGED THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

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Dr. Eric Topol is a practicing cardiologist at Scripps Translational Science Institute and Scripps Health Scripps Health in La Jolla, California. He cemented his reputation as a healthcare leader by his contributions at the Cleveland Clinic that contributed to its rise to an internationally recognized center for heart care. During his time at the Cleveland Clinic, he also started a new medical school, led many worldwide clinical trials to advance care for patients with heart disease, and spearheaded the discovery of multiple genes that have been shown to increase susceptibility for heart attacks. Since moving to La Jolla in 2006, he has led the flagship NIH-supported Scripps Translational Science Institute and is a co-Founder and Vice-Chair of the West Wireless Health Institute. Dr. Topol also serves as Chief Academic Officer of Scripps Health and as Professor of Genomics at The Scripps Research Institute.

Dr. Topol pioneered the development of many medications that are routinely used in medical practice including t-PA, Plavix, Angiomax, and ReoPro, and was the first physician to raise safety concerns on Vioxx. Dr. Topol was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 2004 and is one of the top 10 most-cited researchers in medicine. In 2009, along with Francis Collins and Harold Varmus, Topol was selected to be one of the country’s 12 “Rock Stars of Science” in Gentlemen's Quarterly magazine. In 2011, the University of Michigan, where he had served on the faculty, initiated the Eric Topol Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine to recognize his many significant contributions. The University of Rochester, his alma mater medical school, awarded him the Hutchison Medal, the University’s highest honor. He has published over 1100 peer-reviewed articles and more than 30 medical textbooks. His book The Creative Destruction of Medicine (Basic Books) is due out at the end of 2011.