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National two-day technology conference heading for Hamilton



Joseph Engelhardt

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March 12, 2013

A Hamilton research centre is bringing its annual conference home for the first time.

Called [Innovation Nation](#), the event is run by the [Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation](#) (CSii), a federally funded centre that focuses on developing new robotic surgical techniques, said Debra Vivian, director of communications for the centre.

Happening July 8 and 9 at [LIUNA Station](#), the conference focuses on encouraging innovation in a variety of fields, she said.

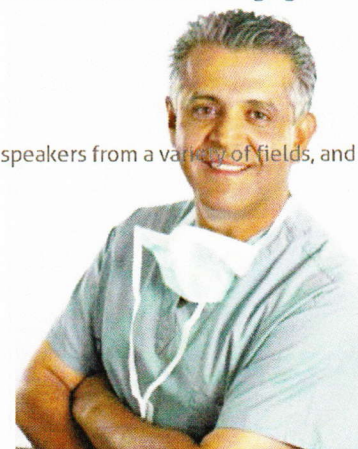
"It's about innovation in all its forms," she said.

The first day of the conference features a series of speakers from a variety of fields, and in the past have included scientists, doctors, astronauts and musicians, she said.

"It's sort of done the way [TED Talks](#) are done, with a new speaker every half hour," she said.

The conference's second day features a robotics competition, with entries from high school, college and university students, and again features the theme of innovation, she said.

"Our robotics competition is different," she said. "University, college and high school



Dr. Mehran Anvari is the Chair of the Conference, and CEO and Scientific Director of CSii

students are to build a product that serves a purpose, that has commercial potential, that helps people in some way.”

Past entries have included robots that help with recycling, rovers, and devices that help direct the blind, she said.

Top prize in the competition is \$10,000, and all the entries will have a chance to meet and network with industry professionals at the conference, she said.

It’s the third year for the conference, which has drawn about 200 people in the past two years, she said, though she’s expecting those numbers to go up this year.

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[Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation](#) [Competition](#) [CSii](#) [Hamilton Innovation](#) [Innovation Nation](#) [Liuna Station](#) [Robotics](#) [Speakers](#)

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