



## Dr. Steven Beyea

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Dr. Steven Beyea is the lead scientist at the Biomedical Translational Imaging Centre (BIOTIC), a research facility located in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Alongside his research, Dr. Beyea is a professor in the Department of Radiology at Dalhousie University. Dr. Beyea completed both his undergraduate and doctorate degree in physics at the University of New Brunswick. Under the supervision of Dr. Bruce Balcom, his research at this time focused on using magnetic resonance imaging as a non-invasive way to study concrete. After attending a conference where he met Dr. Eiichi Fukushima, a leading scientist in the field of magnetic resonance imaging, Dr. Beyea moved to New Mexico to conduct his post-doctorate under the supervision of Dr. Eiichi Fukushima. Although Dr. Beyea was becoming an accomplished researcher in his field, he felt there was something missing. Dr. Beyea longed to see his research become intimately linked with the medical field.

In 2003, Dr. Beyea moved to Halifax to help found the National Research Council's Institute for Biodiagnostics (Atlantic). However, in 2013, the federal government closed the Institute, and Dr. Beyea made the decision to found BIOTIC as a hospital-based imaging research centre focused on innovation and commercialization of diagnostic imaging technologies. This was a perfect fit for Dr. Beyea as BIOTIC is a hospital-based research facility that intertwines physics with clinical needs. Dr. Beyea's day-to-day involves interacting with professionals from various disciplines including physicists, biomedical engineers, and clinicians to develop and validate novel imaging technologies. The result of Dr. Beyea's research has the potential to improve clinical



decisions and diagnosis; thus, his research has the potential to provide individuals with better healthcare. To Dr. Beyea, the most rewarding aspect of his research is seeing the immediate impact his research can have on clinical care.

While it was a significant challenge to find a research position in Atlantic Canada, Dr. Beyea had a strong desire to stay and provide job opportunities to individuals within Atlantic Canada. When Dr. Beyea moved to Halifax to help found the National Research Council's Institute for Biodiagnostics (Atlantic) he knew this position was a perfect fit for him as it melded physics with medicine and was located within Atlantic Canada. When the institute closed Dr. Beyea, instead of giving up, made the decision to found BIOTIC to continue to provide better healthcare and jobs to individuals within Atlantic Canada.

In terms of what advice Dr. Beyea would give to students looking to start their scientific career, he said getting exposed and building connections with individuals both in and around your field of interest is critical. He also advised that students maintain an open-mind to other disciplines as they can add perspective on an idea or issue. Finally, Dr. Beyea stressed the importance of fostering critical thinking and going beyond memorization.