To be sure, Ken Maddock and David Braeutigam have different working styles and responsibilities at Baylor Health Care System in Texas. But both men share a passion to advance the medical technology field—and that passion is paying off.

Maddock and Braeutigam are winners of prestigious AAMI awards—the first time in recent memory that two employees from the same institution have won an award in the same year.

Maddock, corporate director for biomedical technology services, serves as the primary contact for Baylor’s executive leadership for medical equipment technology issues. Braeutigam, director of biomedical engineering, leads the technicians and managers that support the system’s inventory of equipment.

“My focus is very much big picture,” says Maddock. “I have an understanding of many areas of healthcare, and I use it to help ensure that we are heading in the right direction. Meanwhile, Dave runs the day-to-day operations of the biomed side of the business. He has a deep technical understanding of medical equipment, and he understands the best way to provide service.

“I provide a vision that supports Baylor’s mission, and I use my passion for the field to try to lead our staff. Dave takes my vision and turns it into reality. Simply put, I draw the outline and Dave fills in the details.

“We share a passion for our field, we want our department and organization to be recognized as one of the best, we want employees who have the ability and desire to be the best, and we believe that work should be fun.”

From writing articles in industry publications to giving presentations across the country, both have demonstrated a commitment to advancing their field well beyond Baylor’s reach.

When the AAMI Awards Committee convened recently to select the 2008 AAMI/AAMI Foundation Award winners, they chose Maddock as recipient of the AAMI Clinical/Biomedical Engineering Achievement Award, and Braeutigam as recipient of the AAMI/GE Healthcare BMET of the Year Award. The Awards Committee also selected four other medical technology leaders to receive 2008 awards.

Jack Harrington: Pioneer of Clinical Engineering/IT Integration

Over his 30-year career, Jack Harrington has “sculpted the foundations of medical device standards for communications and interoperability,” says Ray Zambuto, CCE, president of Technology in Medicine, Inc. and leader of the American College of Clinical Engineering (ACCE).

Throughout his career as a developer of clinical systems, Harrington has led international efforts to develop medical informatics standards “that will profoundly affect the cost of connecting medical devices; improve safety and reduce medical errors; and enable the accurate, repeatable transmission of patient data,” says Zambuto.
For his significant contributions to the advancement of medical device interoperability, Jack Harrington has been named winner of the 2008 AAMI Foundation Laufman-Greatbatch Prize.

Ronald Newbower: Innovative Mentor

Ten years ago, Ronald Newbower, PhD, founded a consortium called the Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology (CIMIT), which today includes many of the major academic medical centers and engineering schools in the Boston area.

Newbower launched CIMIT by “using his knowledge and credibility as senior vice president for research and technology at Massachusetts General Hospital to convince hospital leadership to devote millions of dollars’ worth of space and millions more in startup funds for this novel idea,” according to Jeffrey Cooper, PhD, professor of Anesthesia at Harvard Medical School.

Today, numerous medical technology innovators thank Newbower for the guidance and mentorship he showed them earlier in their careers.

Ronald Newbower, PhD, is the winner of the 2008 AAMI/Becton Dickinson Career Achievement Award.

Yadin David: International Humanitarian

Many in the clinical engineering field are familiar with Yadin David, CCE, thanks to his 25 years of dedication as director of biomedical engineering at Texas Children’s Hospital. Fewer know of David’s efforts to improve the safety of patients in developing countries.

David “regularly travels to China and South America to help those countries use medical technology more safely, and has traveled the world educating clinical engineers,” says Wayne Morse, CCE. David serves as a consultant to the Pan-American Health Organization and the World Health Organization.

David recently left Texas Children’s Hospital to launch a biomedical equipment consulting business. He has been named recipient of the 2008 ACCE Robert Morris Humanitarian Award.

John Noblitt: BMET Educator

John Noblitt’s leadership and mentoring, and his dedication to the biomedical field, “have influenced hundreds of biomedical equipment technicians throughout the United States,” says Glenn Scales, CBET, patient safety specialist with Duke University Health System.

As the BMET program director at Caldwell Community College and AAMI News
Technical Institute in Hickory, NC, Noblitt “has significantly improved the operation of every institution in which he has placed students,” says Scales. “His former students still talk about their experiences as a student of John’s, even years after graduation.”

An active member of AAMI and the North Carolina Biomedical Association, Noblitt has published articles in industry journals and publications. He is “one of the most caring and supportive individuals I have ever known,” says Scales. “His concern and compassion for his students and fellow BMETs is well-known. He is one of those few individuals we have the luck to meet who changes those he touches.”

For his contributions to the education of tomorrow’s biomedical equipment technicians, John Noblitt is the winner of the 2008 AAMI Foundation Educational Advancement Award.

AAMI Honors Leaders in Standards Development

Three AAMI members and two committees have been selected the winners of 2008 AAMI Standards Awards. The recipients of 2008 Standards Developer Awards—given to individual contributors—include Joyce Hansen, Ed Kimmelman, and Klaus Neuder.

“All three are experts in their fields, with excellent leadership and consensus-building skills, who exemplify volunteerism at its best,” says Theresa Zuraski, AAMI’s senior vice president of standards policy and programs.

Meanwhile, AAMI’s Medical Device Software Committee and AAMI’s Application of Risk Management for Medical Devices Working Group will receive Technical Committee Awards, which are presented to AAMI technical committees or working groups.

Winners were selected by AAMI’s Committee on Standards Strategy (individual awards) and AAMI Standards Board (committee awards), which created the awards to recognize outstanding contributions to the development of medical device standards.

Joyce Hansen: 24 Years of Service

Joyce Hansen has participated in AAMI’s sterilization standards program for nearly a quarter-century, leading the development of numerous AAMI standards and distinguishing herself among her peers as an expert in sterilization.

Hansen’s “exemplary leadership skills have resulted in her ability to consistently bring members with opposing viewpoints to consensus,” says William Young, co-chair of AAMI’s Sterilization Standards Committee. In all, Hansen has served on 20 AAMI standards committees or working groups.

Ed Kimmelman: Quality Systems Expert

Ed Kimmelman is being honored for his outstanding contributions to medical device quality system standards.