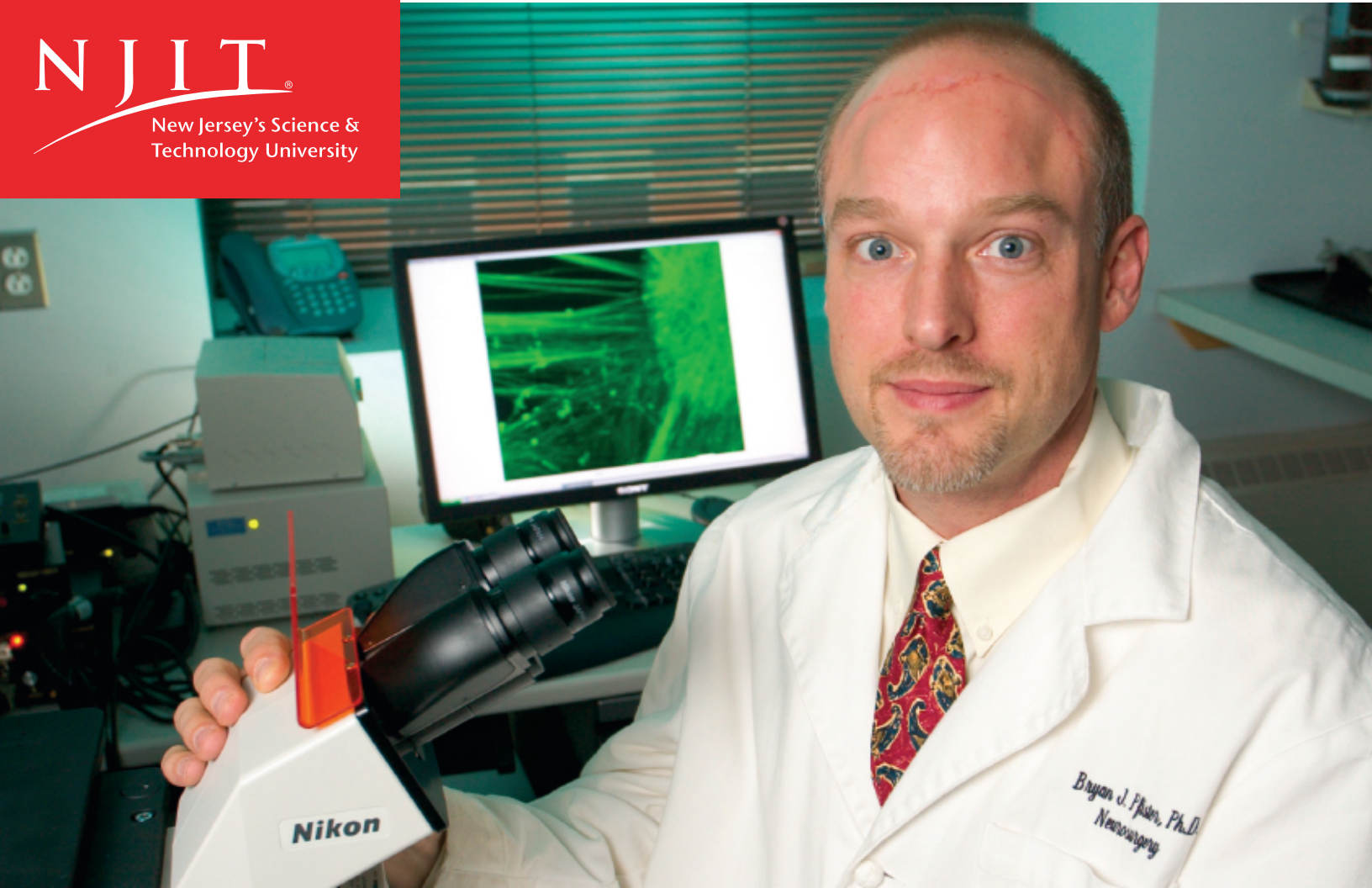


NJIT[®]

New Jersey's Science &
Technology University



*Bryan J. Fisher, Ph.D.
Neurosurgery*

NJIT BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER RECEIVES NSF CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Newark College of Engineering Research at the Edge in Knowledge

Bryan J. Pfister, a specialist in neural tissue engineering, has been awarded a prestigious Faculty Early Career Development Award by the National Science Foundation. Pfister, who is an assistant professor of biomedical engineering at NJIT's Newark College of Engineering, received the award to support and expand his research into rapid axon stretch growth, a technique for regenerating damaged or diseased nerve cells.

In collaboration with a team of physicians at the University of Pennsylvania, Pfister has recreated in the laboratory a natural form of axon growth that occurs through stretching as an individual grows from embryo through early adulthood. By studying the tissue grown through the stretching technique, he hopes to find clues to repairing traumatic injuries to the spinal cord and other nerve tissue. The team also hopes to develop a nerve-tissue interface that would allow for a thought-controlled prosthesis that would behave like a natural limb.

As part of the CAREER program, researchers incorporate educational programs into their investigation. In addition to the seven graduate students on his research team, Pfister has a team of six undergraduates who are helping him build a device that uses live imaging techniques to study axon growth.



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