TEWKSBURY HOSPITAL
May 3, 2007

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: MJ Marcucci, Tewksbury Hospital
978-851-7321 x2121 mj.marcucci@state.ma.us

or Dept of Public Health Director of Public Affairs,
Office of the Commissioner 617 624 5006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEWKSBURY HOSPITAL: CEO Sandra Akers announced today:
Tewksbury Hospital will participate in the MIT's Media Lab "h2.0: New Minds, New Bodies, New Identities" on May 9, 2007 in Cambridge. This one-day symposium will focus on the sweeping new research initiatives for augmenting mental and physical capabilities to vastly improve the quality of human life.

In support of this, a central part of the day will be a special presentation of the work done by Dan Ellsey, Tod Machover, Adam Boulanger, Rachel Roppolo, and the Tewksbury Hospital Expressive Arts Program. A new Hyperscore piece composed by Dan Ellsey, a Tewksbury Hospital patient who has been physically disabled since birth, will receive its world premiere by using a new computer interface specially designed by Boulanger and Machover that measures Dan's unique movements, allowing him to expressively shape the performance. This "personalized instrument" represents a new frontier in the Media Lab's Music, Mind and Health initiative.

Noted composer, Tod Machover states: "The real opportunity in Dan's collaboration with the Media Lab is to discover new techniques that capture the nuance and expressivity of the movement that Dan *does* have, so that he can communicate his ideas and feelings through musical composition and performance."

The symposium, which also features a keynote address by neurologist and author Oliver Sacks, includes a broad range of discussions and demos related to the liberating potential of technology. Presenters will explore how today's—and tomorrow's—advances will seamlessly interact with humans, giving us a glimpse into a future where all humans will integrate with technology to heighten our cognition, emotional acuity, perception, and physical capabilities.

ABOUT HYPERSCORE & TEWKSBURY HOSPITAL:
Hyperscore, created by Mary Farbood and Tod Machover at the MIT Media Lab, and now developed by Cambridge-based Harmony Line Inc., is an application to introduce non-musicians to musical composition and creativity in an intuitive and dynamic way. The "narrative" of a composition is expressed as a line-gesture, and the texture and shape of this line are analyzed to derive a pattern of tension-release, simplicity-complexity, and variable harmonization. The individual creates or selects individual musical fragments in the form of chords or melodic motives, and layers them onto the narrative-line with expressive brushstrokes. The Hyperscore system automatically realizes a full composition from a graphical representation, allowing individuals with no musical training to create professional pieces.
Tod Machover began Hyperscore at Tewksbury Hospital in May, 2004 when contacted by Clinical Social Worker, Gaye Kirshman. The Project was consequently enhanced through the efforts of Dr. Kathleen Domoto and the Expressive Arts Program.
Hyperscore and Tewksbury Hospital http://www.media.mit.edu/hyperins/projects/tewksbury.html
Hyperscore and information about Harmony Line Inc. http://www.hyperscore.com
MIT Media Lab http://www.media.mit.edu

THE MEDIA LAB at a GLANCE:

The Media Laboratory provides a unique environment for exploring basic research and applications at the intersection of computation and the arts. In the more than two decades since the MIT Media Lab opened its doors in 1985, faculty members, research staff, and students have enjoyed a reputation for innovation that, while initially considered unorthodox, has found its way into the most conventional—and useful—of applications. The Lab's extremely diverse faculty and research staff have helped to create now-familiar areas such as digital video, multimedia, and wearable computing, and have brought together disciplines such as cognition, electronic music, graphic design, video, and holography, as well as pioneering work in computation and human-machine interfaces. Current research foci include machines with common sense, viral communications, "smart" prostheses, advanced sensor networks, innovative interface design, and sociable robots. Lab researchers are dedicated to creating a future where machines not only augment human capabilities, but also relate to people on more "human" terms—a future where our devices not only respond to commands, but also understand them. The Lab is supported by approximately 100 sponsors, including some of the world's leading corporations.

ABOUT TEWKSBURY HOSPITAL:

Tewksbury Hospital provides comprehensive treatment, care and comfort to adults with chronic medical and mental illness. Tewksbury Hospital serves its patients with dignity and respect, emphasizing active treatment in the least restrictive setting with a goal of assisting the patient in reaching the highest level of independent functioning possible. Its services reflect the complex needs of the clients. Tewksbury Hospital's full range of services include 24 hour on site physician and registered nurse coverage, and on site laboratory, radiology and pharmacy services.