LLNL-led Artificial Retina Team Wins R&D Magazine's Editor's Award

The LLNL artificial retina team: front row from left: Satinderpall Pannu (holding Editors' Award), Terri Delima (holding R&D100 award), Julie Hamilton. Rear: Anantha Krishnan, Emil Geiger, Bill Benett

At the 47th annual R&D 100 Awards ceremony, sponsored by R&D Magazine, eight teams of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory researchers received prestigious R&D 100 awards, often dubbed the "Oscars of invention."

And, at the conclusion, it was LLNL and its partners who were awarded the coveted "Editors' Award," signifying the utmost achievement in developing new technology.

Engineer Satinderpall Pannu, the team leader of the Lab's artificial retina program, received the plaque on behalf of the four other national laboratories, four universities and one industrial partner working on an implant that may one day restore sight to patients with impaired vision.

The Artificial Retina, a device to restore at least partial vision to optically impaired patients, uses an implant that transforms digital images from a camera into electric signals that the brain uses to create a visual image. LLNL's contribution to the collaboration with other labs, universities, and industrial partners has been the development of the electrical circuitry and retinal implant.