

For Immediate Release
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UPDATE:

POUNGING THE PAVEMENT FOR RESEARCH: THANKSGIVING DAY MARATHON BRINGS SUPPORT, SORE MUSCLES -- AND IMPROVED TIME

Dr. Philip R. Kennedy's run in the Atlanta Track Club's Thanksgiving Day Marathon generated support from more than 45 contributors -- along with sore muscles and an overall time of four hours and 16 minutes for the 26.2-mile marathon. The time was better than his four hour and 28-minute completion time last year.

"It was a great day to run -- sunny, cool and just great," said Kennedy, "but the last part was tough going. My leg muscles were sore and I had a couple of big blisters on my foot."

A senior research scientist in the Bioengineering Center at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Kennedy was running to help raise money for his research in neural prosthetics. The work focuses on a "cone electrode" which could one day help severely disabled persons communicate with a computer -- and perhaps allow quadriplegics to regain limited control of their limbs.

Pledges totaled approximately \$600, which will be matched by the non-profit Georgia Tech Research Corporation for a total of \$1,200. Kennedy said the money will be used to purchase supplies for the work as he continues efforts to gain new funding from a variety of corporate and federal sources.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Color slides of Kennedy completing the marathon, along with slides and prints of him running, are available. For more information, contact John Tonn or Lea McLees in the Research Communications Office, (404) 894-3444.