The Cornell BEST Program is pleased to offer the opportunity to speak in an intimate setting with

**Jeffrey Schwardt**  
Vice President and General Manager  
*of*  
**Simpirica Spine**  
*a California based medical device startup that provides solutions for lumbar pain and instability*

Simpirica Spine is developing and commercializing a new spinal implant that is designed to provide minimally invasive, flexion-restricting, dynamic stabilization.

**Friday, May 9, 2014**  
**9:30-11:30am**  
**224 Weill Hall**

**Who should attend?**  
Any Cornell graduate student or postdoc who is  
- interested in industry, entrepreneurship, or management  
- thinking of a career step at a small company from the point of view of founder or of joiner (as an early employee)  
- wondering what a career path with a bioengineering PhD could look like

**Why attend?**  
- Get an inside scoop on how to take charge of your own future, even if your program doesn’t offer all the solutions  
- Hear unadulterated career advice from a mentor who has been in development and commercialization and who has led R&D efforts at various biotech related companies, most recently [www.simpirica.com](http://www.simpirica.com)  
- Hear about the obstacles and solutions encountered along a career trajectory  
- Learn about the business side of science and engineering  
- What are the pros and cons of joining a small biotech company?  
- See whether an internship at Simpirica Spine is possible and a fit for you

**This is not a scientific seminar.** For more than engineers.  
- We expect lots of informal interaction and time to answer your questions  
- Yes, Jeffrey will talk briefly about Simpirica’s cool lead product

**Questions?**  
Please contact Susi Varvayanis [sv27@cornell.edu](mailto:sv27@cornell.edu) or 607-253-4304