

# Newsletter

October 2007

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## RESEARCH SUCCESS AT NSCCH

### *Rehabilitation Glove*

Loss of hand function affects every aspect of a person's life but if Continuous Passive Motion (CPM) is applied during rehabilitation of the hand, the benefits for long term hand function are greatly improved. A collaborative team including the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute at the University of Wollongong, Dr Tim Scott, PhD student Mr Peter Abolfathi and Ms Veronica Vare, Research Physiotherapist of RNS's Quadriplegic Hand Research Unit developed a dynamic glove to provide improved hand and arm rehabilitation following trauma, surgery, burns scarring and high spinal cord injury.



The smart glove will be portable, cosmetic and provide secure finger placement, flexible programming and specialised therapy to specific joints.

The technology was licensed in 2007 to BES Rehab, a UK firm with a range of products in the rehabilitation field. Development of the technology is remaining in Australia with BES Rehab selecting Design+Technology, a major industrial design and prototyping firm, to develop five industrial prototypes. Approximately AU\$1.3 million will be invested by BES Rehab in development, and clinical trials – possibly at RNS – are anticipated to commence in June 2008.

## Inaugural IP Conference Success

In May 2007 three peak groups - BioMed North Limited, the Northern Sydney Central Coast Health Office of Commercialisation and the Sydney West Area Health Service Office of Commercialisation presented the inaugural 'IP Management and Commercialisation for Hospitals' conference at Royal North Shore Hospital. The Federal Health Minister, Tony Abbott opened the conference. Professor Carol Pollock, Chairman of Research at NSCCH welcomed attendees and provided an overview of commercialisation successes.

Case studies included:

- ∞ *Commercialisation of PAPP-A (NSCCH);*
- ∞ *The Laryngoscope Story - From Clinical Need to Medical Device (SWAHS);*
- ∞ *Commercialisation of Stem Cells – the Journey so far (SESIAHS)*

There were also presentations on the importance of Intellectual Property, insights into the process of establishing an Office of Commercialisation and other vital elements of commercialisation. Those attending included hospital-based executives, medical researchers from both health and university sectors, clinicians, support staff and policy makers including 20 interstate visitors and one from overseas. Industry representatives included investors and advisers, lawyers, patent attorneys, and health commercialisation professionals.

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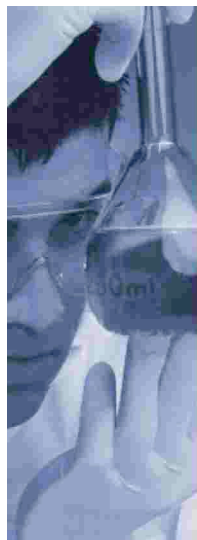
Contributions to the Office of Commercialisation NSCCHS Newsletter - We are happy to publish your contributions, articles, press releases or calls for collaboration. Email the Publisher Ms Lindy Ferris [lferris@officeofcommercialisation.com](mailto:lferris@officeofcommercialisation.com) or call 02 9926 8348.

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## RESEARCH SUCCESS AT NSCCH *Systolic Hypertension - Novel Drug Combination to Reduce Blood Pressure in Older People*

There are a growing number of people over 65 years with raised systolic blood pressure that is notoriously unresponsive to conventional treatment. Professor Gordon Stokes, formerly of the Hypertension Unit at RNSH and an international expert in hypertension, devised a novel drug combination that reduces systolic blood pressure in these patients. The combination drug consists of at least one angiotensin II inhibitor and a long lasting nitrate. Despite initial rejection of the patented technology by large players in the pharmaceutical industry, Professor Stokes continued to put his research findings in front of the international scientific community. Over a three year period the scientific community came to recognise the potential value of this innovative treatment which has been trialled in a small sample of target patients over 65. The treatment successfully reduced systolic hypertension in patients whose existing treatment options had a failure rate of up to 75%. NSCCH is now in detailed discussions with a US company which is seeing the combination therapy as an opportunity to build upon the success of its existing angiotensin II receptor blocker drug for this important niche market comprising 16 million people in the US.

## BREAKING NEWS - 2008 IP CONFERENCE



2008 CONFERENCE  
Intellectual Property (IP)  
Management  
and Commercialisation  
for Hospitals

ONE DAY CONFERENCE  
16 MAY 2008 - Sydney, NSW.

**BalMedNorth™**

NORTHERN SYDNEY  
CENTRAL COAST  
NSW HEALTH

Office of Commercialisation  
**SYDNEY WEST**  
Area Health Service  
Office of Commercialisation

Who Should Attend:  
Hospital-based executives, medical researchers,  
clinicians, support staff and policy makers.  
From industry: IP inventors and advisers,  
lawyers, patent attorneys,  
and health commercialisation professionals.

Sponsored by:



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IP Management and Commercialisation for Hospitals Conference will be held in Sydney on Friday 16 May 2008. The Conference Committee are finalising the program for release in early December.

## Disclosure Guidelines – Is this Information Confidential?

Intellectual Property (IP) is an asset that must be carefully managed and protected. Opportunities to patent or commercialise IP can be lost due to disclosure of confidential information. Disclosure includes but is not limited to publishing results before securing IP protection. To maximise the benefit from IP commercialisation, be aware of what constitutes confidential and non-confidential information.

The NSCCH Office of Commercialisation has put together a table which provides case examples of common situations where a researcher and/or commercialisation manager may need to assess the risk of disclosure, and a recommendation is given as to whether the information being considered is confidential or non-confidential information. These examples act as a guide and can be applied to various situations. This table can be downloaded from

<http://www.officeofcommercialisation.com/site/msn22.php>.

For further information and advice about the projects mentioned, please contact Ms Sandra See MBA Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service Office of Commercialisation Ph: 02 9926 7523 Email: [ssee@officeofcommercialisation.com](mailto:ssee@officeofcommercialisation.com) Level 4 Vindin House, Royal North Shore Hospital St Leonards NSW 2065

### **DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE AN INVENTION? OR DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT RESEARCH COMMERCIALISATION – CONTACT THE OFFICE OF COMMERCIALISATION**

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The Office of Commercialisation is responsible for all IP owned by NSCCH – please refer to our website [www.officeofcommercialisation.com](http://www.officeofcommercialisation.com).