

# Newsletter

March 2008

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## *Update on A Catheter-Antenna based Microwave-energy Tissue Ablation System (MC-A)*

The microwave catheter-antenna tissue ablation device (MC-A) is a potential new surgical tool to treat cardiac-arrhythmias, cancer-tumors and other diseases. The subject of patent applications, the MC-A will have superior maneuverability, and novel antenna radiation and feedback-control systems designed to deliver precision, deep, linear ablations with minimal patient invasion; thus aiming to provide a permanent cure for selected common cardiac arrhythmia. The MC-A was co-developed by innovative Cardiologists at SWAHS and by the University of Technology Sydney's inventive Biomedical Engineers.

The owners of the device, Sydney West Area Health Service, and the University of Technology are finalising agreement with an Australian Venture Capital group to establish a start-up company and to fund Proof of Concept for the MC-A, as the first stage in bringing this innovative invention to market.

## *CE Innovation Forums*

The Chief Executive's Innovation Forums were a great success last year with a lot of new projects being generated and current projects being progressed. Just to reiterate, the Chief Executive's Innovation Forum is about showcasing work at SWAHS with a theme of 'Innovation' and how it is contributing to patient care. The stimulating presentations are intended to engage staff, explore commercialisation of innovations and promote lively discussions. Previous forums have also resulted in new joint projects being proposed between different groups within SWAHS, their partners and stakeholders. All staff are welcome to attend.

The second forum for 2008 is on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008, 8.30-9.30 am in Lecture Theatre 2, Education Block, Westmead Hospital.



The presenter is: Professor Carol Pollock, Professor of Medicine, University of Sydney, Royal North Shore Hospital; Chairman of Research: Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service; Chairman of the Area Health Advisory Council of Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service.

Her presentation is entitled *The Research Business Model at NSCCH & The Model for the new Research Building.*

**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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## 2008 IP CONFERENCE –

### Confirmed Date



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IP Management and Commercialisation for Hospitals Conference will be held in the Loewenthal Auditorium at Westmead Hospital, Darcy Road, Westmead, Sydney on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Further details will be available shortly.

### *Successful Trial at Westmead Fertility Centre*

The Westmead Fertility Centre has almost completed a HREC approved clinical trial of the use of a new piece of technology - an electrophoretic - membrane sperm sorter which is used to prepare sperm for assisted reproduction therapy. The clinical trial, sponsored by NuSep Ltd, was a proof of principle study to confirm that this technique was not deleterious to sperm function. It is also expected that this sperm sorter will separate sperm with DNA fragmentation which is now recognised as an independent parameter of sperm function.

The Westmead Fertility Centre based in Westmead Hospital, moved into new premises earlier this month and is celebrating 23 years of IVF treatment. It is one of Sydney's largest fully-independent fertility clinics and is a non-profit making service. They have a strong emphasis on medical and laboratory research to continuously improve all aspects of their service.

### *Infection Control Takes a Computerised Leap*

Controlling infections in our hospitals is a serious business and up to a third of hospital-acquired infections are preventable. The impact of these infections is considerable: the patient may need longer hospital treatment, re-admission, or even further surgery, thereby increasing time off work, and use of hospital and community resources. A recent Australian study reported that a surgical wound infection after coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery added an average A\$12,419 to the cost of CABG. If the infection was a deep wound infection, then the extra cost was a staggering A\$31,597. Preventing the spread of infection in hospital settings

is also crucial to ensure the good health of healthcare workers and the wider community.

For over 12 years, Dr John Gallagher of SWAHS has been dedicated to improving infection control practices in clinical environments. His concept for improving practices in hospital environments has evolved into an automated system that may be used as a tool for teaching 'best practices' in infection control to health care workers. In addition, this system is capable of alerting relevant personnel when infection control standards become compromised in real-life settings. With the assistance of Dr John Iredell of SWAHS and consultant Rob Wilkins, Dr Gallagher has computerized the concept of infection control to produce a system which allows for the measurement and confirmation of infection control practice and workflows.

Every hospital could justify the purchase of at least one system and consequently the potential market size is large. In US hospitals alone, healthcare-associated infections account for an estimated 2 million infections, 90,000 deaths and US\$4.5 billion in excess health care costs annually. The Center of Disease Control believes that adherence to recommended infection control strategies can protect patients by reducing infections substantially. Other predominant markets are expected to be within Australia, United Kingdom, Europe, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and most countries worldwide.

#### **AusMedtech 08 National Conference Program**

Taking Australian Medical Technology To The World  
12 – 13 May 2008, Four Points by Sheraton  
Darling Harbour, Sydney

This conference focuses on driving the export driven success of Australian medical technology companies; commercialisation; innovation; and the development of a major, sustainable Australian industry delivering high quality, innovative solutions to medical technology needs around the world. It will bring together members of the national and international Medtech community. For details visit: <http://www.ausmedtech08.com.au/>

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Contributions to the Office of Commercialisation  
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