UVIC STARTUP RECEIVES FDA CLEARANCE

A new medical device created by a University of Victoria spin-off company which enhances physicians’ ability to measure, monitor and track patients’ pain has approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for sale in the United States.

Palpometer Systems Inc.’s (PSI) Sonic Palpometer is a novel biometric tool which transforms the physician’s finger from its conventional role in gauging tenderness to a precise tool for measuring pain levels to highly specific palpation pressures. The Sonic Palpometer is a small, cordless device which measures pressure applied by the practitioner to elicit a response from the patient for pain threshold and tolerance. For example, the Sonic Palpometer could be used when measuring tender joints of people who have arthritis or fibromyalgia and can be used to monitor response to treatments in practice and in clinical trials. The Palpometer can also be used as a teaching tool by health professionals to learn how firmly to press when examining patients.

"The sonic component allows for eye contact between the practitioner and the patient, thus enabling the practitioner to capture the pain response more accurately," says Dr. Christopher Atkins, president of PSI and a well known Victoria-based rheumatologist.

The Sonic Palpometer was created by UVic electrical and computer engineering professor Dr. Adam Zielinski, mechanical engineering staff member Art Makosinski, and Atkins. With the help of UVic’s technology transfer office the Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC) the trio formed PSI to help market the device. More information is available at www.palpometer.ca

Since 1992, IDC has helped found 43 new companies based on UVic research or UVic student entrepreneurial initiatives. These include B.C. businesses producing vaccines and diagnostic solutions for aquaculture, secure electronic forms, environmentally safe herbicides, laboratory information management systems and market research for e-commerce platforms. For more about IDC visit: http://idc.uvic.ca

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