

Agreements/contracts**Nexcore, GI Supply agree on endoscopic cryotherapy device****A Medical Device Daily Staff Report**

**Nexcore Technology** (Waldwick, New Jersey) reported it has reached an agreement with **GI Supply** (Camp Hill, Pennsylvania), for Nexcore to manufacture GI Supply's Polar Wand.

Polar Wand is a portable device that uses endoscopic cryotherapy to control bleeding from mucosal lesions of the gastrointestinal tract in patients resistant to conventional endoscopic therapy.

Nexcore is transitioning the product from industrial design to manufacturing.

Polar Wand distributes a freezing spray to treat bleeding in the GI tract. It is low cost, easy to operate and can target large areas. The Polar Wand was introduced in May and the product is now being shipped. The Bolt Group was the industrial designer.

"Without missing a beat, Nexcore took the Bolt Group's design and quickly set up and tested the manufacturing process," said Frank Carter, CEO of GI Supply. "Their attention to us, understanding of our product and speed in getting the product to market was vital as we had lost valuable time when we started with another company."

Nexcore is an OEM medical device manufacturer specializing in complex diagnostic and therapeutic systems.

In other agreements/contracts news:

• **Castle Biosciences** (Houston), a recently formed, biomarker-based cancer diagnostics company, has signed an option agreement for a license agreement with the **University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center** (Houston).

"In September we announced our intention to build a molecular diagnostics company that would passionately focus on serving patients with underserved orphan cancers with the intent to provide oncologists with diagnostic information that assists them in adjusting treatment plans based upon the likelihood of an individual patient's response to treatment – with the ultimate goal of improving their patient's outcome," said President/CEO Derek Maetzold. "This option agreement is the first step toward the implementation of our business."

The company said this diagnostic test, developed and validated at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center with early collaborations from other leading U.S. institutions, brings the potential to prospectively stratify a given patient's likelihood to respond to standard treatment based upon the cancer's genetic footprint. Armed with this information, an oncologist and his or her patient should be able to formulate a more customized treatment plan that is based upon the likelihood of the patient's response to the standard-of-care treatment.

Specific details on the diagnostic test will be forthcoming in the near future.

• **Power3 Medical Products** (Houston) reported that the company has been contacted by and is currently in talks with marketers of early disease detection tests and is confident that the ongoing talks and negotiations will insure the future of the company's primary focus, the commercialization of its intellectual property, and to enhance shareholder value through product sales and new revenue streams.

"The fruits of our labors are beginning to pay off, in what I would consider to be an unprecedented interest in our diagnostic blood test technologies, especially our early diagnostic test for breast cancer," said Dr. Ira Goldknopf, president/CSO of Power3.

The company attributes the recent increase of interest in its products to a lecture given by Goldknopf on Oct at a CHI *Biomarker Discovery Summit*, which addressed technologies for the early detection of breast cancer, as well as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, using Power3's protein biomarker technology.

Power3's patent-pending technologies are being used to develop screening and diagnostic tests for the early detection and prognosis of disease, identify protein biomarkers and drug targets. ■

Grants roundup**SimQuest receives funding to develop surgical simulator****A Medical Device Daily Staff Report**

**SimQuest** (Silver Spring, Maryland) a developer of technology-assisted education and training, has received grants to develop components of a surgical simulator for training in open access procedures awarded by the **National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering** (NIBIB; Bethesda, Maryland) at the **National Institutes of Health** (NIH), the **National Institute of Standards and Technology** (NIST; Gaithersburg, Maryland) and the **National Science Foundation** (NSF; Arlington, Virginia).

The outcome of each grant will be independent yet will provide complementary advances in instruction and assessment in open access surgery. These advances in simulating open procedures require more complex technology than many of the medical simulators used today by medical schools and hospitals that focus primarily on minimally invasive procedures.

When integrated as a whole, the simulator SimQuest is developing will incorporate medical content, physics-based surgical environment simulation software, force-feedback robotics and a stereoscopic screen to create an accurate, experiential learning environment that will replicate the look and feel of operating on an actual patient. This surgical simulator will meet the needs of healthcare professionals who must currently develop and sustain their surgical skills using patients, cadavers, animals or rudimentary physical surrogate training methods. ■