

EMBLA SYSTEMS IN COLLABORATION WITH BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS MEDICAL CENTER TO DEVELOP CARDIO-PULMONARY COUPLING TECHNOLOGY



Embla Systems has announced the signing of an exclusive agreement with the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) for the distribution of the Cardio Pulmonary Coupling (CPC) technology developed by Drs. Robert Thomas, Ary Goldberger, C-K. Peng, and Mr. Joseph Mietus.

CPC technology represents a breakthrough in how sleep can be visualized, by presenting a simple and accurate picture of sleep oscillations and interactions instead of the tedious manual sleep stage scoring and counting of respiratory events that has been the standard for the last 40 years. The analysis has been validated using over 10,000 sleep studies. "The CPC technology is not a sleep-stage or respiratory event detector but [it] does provide a dynamic measure of sleep state-modulated cardio-pulmonary interactions," says Dr. Robert Thomas. "As the technique is automated, inter-scorer reliability is eliminated as a problem. The technique can track dynamic sleep physiology, and provide a unique ambulatory measure of sleep quality."

ALPHA-1 FOUNDATION, AARC COOPERATE ON STUDY TO TEST 5,000 COPD PATIENTS FOR ALPHA-1



Some 5,000 COPD patients will be tested to determine the prevalence of Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) in a study marking a major cooperative effort between the Alpha-1 Foundation and the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC).

The principal investigator is Robert A. Sandhaus, MD, PhD, of the Division of Pulmonary Medicine, National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver. Sandhaus is also the Clinical Director of the Alpha-1 Foundation.

According to Sandhaus, "If the current literature is correct, the study should identify about 50 to 100 individuals who are unaware they have COPD due to Alpha-1. In addition, the study should identify about 300 people who are carrying a single abnormal Alpha-1 gene. All will be counseled about the potential risk to their children and family members."

Sandhaus points to an intriguing possibility. "If this study confirms what much smaller studies have suggested about Alphas hidden in the COPD population, there could be as many as 400,000 individuals in the US who have lung disease due to Alpha-1 and don't know it."

NSPIRE HEALTH ANNOUNCES HDPFT™ – THE FIRST COMMERCIAL HIGH DEFINITION RESPIRATORY DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEMS PLATFORM WITH ACCURACY AT 3X THE STANDARD



nSpire Health today announced a new generation of pulmonary function testing systems. HDpft™ incorporates the world's latest gas and flow sensing technologies including iFlow, which improves accuracy over non-HD systems by as much as 300%. The new HD family of PFT systems include nSight™ 2008, a new software and data base architecture permitting unparalleled workflow and exclusive quality assurance monitoring. Most Collins® systems manufactured after December 2003 are upgradeable to the new technologies.

"Since the company's acquisition of Ferraris Respiratory in November of 2006, we have continued our vision of Inspiring Respiratory Health through recognition as the world class leader in life-changing products and data services for respiratory disease management and clinical trials," said Michael Sims, President and CEO. "The extremely low variability in testing results of HDpft™ combined with user-specific/configurable workflow of nSight 2008 result in the industry's fastest yet most precise PFT Diagnostics. Complement the testing capabilities of the HDpft platform with the exclusive ability to grade every pulmonary test type (both automatically and retrospectively by clinicians) and it is clear that HDpft is redefining the standards and moving one step closer to revolutionizing the way that the world detects and treats respiratory diseases."

RESMED INTRODUCES EASY-BREATHE COMFORT TECHNOLOGY



ResMed introduced its new Easy-Breathe technology into the United States and other Americas markets with the launch of the VPAP Auto bilevel device. Easy-Breathe technology combines a new motor with advanced software to make therapy nearly silent and extremely comfortable. First launched in Europe and Asia-Pacific in September, Easy-Breathe responds to patient breathing patterns with heightened sensitivity and reduces noise to less than 25 dB, more than 80% quieter than the leading competitor.

"The September launch of Easy-Breathe at the European Respiratory Society conference created a sensation with its innovative, quiet motor technology," stated Michael Farrell, Senior Vice President, Sleep Strategic Business Unit. "We expect similar enthusiasm with the launch in the Americas market. The combination of whisper-quiet comfort in a compact system is truly a unique offering, and adding the ultra-comfortable Easy-Breathe waveform for the launch of the VPAP Auto in the Americas is icing on the cake. These features increase compliance, which benefits patients, HMEs and sleep specialists."

"The VPAP Auto offers comfortable bilevel therapy in ResMed's compact S8 platform," stated Drew Terry, Director of Product Management. "With our new Easy-Breathe technology, the VPAP Auto is able to deliver nearly silent therapy and greater pressure stability so patients sleep comfortably throughout the night. The VPAP Auto synchronizes with the patient's normal respiration so that breathing feels more natural and comfortable."

ROYAL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS TO ACQUIRE RESPIRONICS FOR USD \$66.00 PER SHARE



Respironics announced it has entered into a definitive merger agreement pursuant to which Royal Philips Electronics (Philips) will commence a tender offer to acquire all of the outstanding shares of Respironics for USD 66.00 in cash per share, or a total purchase price of approximately USD 5.1 billion. The offer price represents a premium of approximately 31% over Respironics' average closing share price for the thirty trading days ended December 20, 2007. The Board of Directors of Respironics has unanimously approved the transaction and recommends that Respironics shareholders accept and tender their shares into the offer. The tender offer is expected to commence by January 8, 2008 and is subject to customary conditions, including the tender of at least a majority of the shares and the receipt of U.S. and European regulatory approvals. The offer is not subject to any financing contingency, and the transaction is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2008.

NEUPRO(R) FILED WITH FDA FOR THE TREATMENT OF RESTLESS LEGS SYNDROME

UCB announced that the supplemental New Drug Application (sNDA) for the use of Neupro(R) as a treatment for moderate-to-severe restless legs syndrome (RLS) has been accepted for filing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Neupro(R) is a patch designed to provide continuous drug delivery. Restless legs syndrome is a chronic neurological disorder that affects between three and ten percent of the population.

"The acceptance of the sNDA underscores our ongoing commitment to provide innovative therapies for patients living with debilitating central nervous system disorders," said Troy Cox, President CNS Operations, UCB.

The submission is based on two fixed-dose, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled efficacy and safety studies that evaluated rotigotine for the treatment of moderate-to-severe idiopathic RLS in approximately 1,000 patients over six months. In these trials, rotigotine produced statistically significant reductions in RLS symptoms and was generally well-tolerated. The efficacy of rotigotine was evaluated by monitoring the International Restless Legs Severity Scale (IRLS), a clinician-administered tool considered to be the best scale for evaluating the severity and frequency of RLS symptoms and the degree to which they affect sleep and daily life. The most frequently reported adverse events associated with rotigotine in these studies were application site reactions, nausea, dizziness, somnolence and headache.