

INSPIRE MEDICAL SYSTEMS COMPLETES FIRST IMPLANT OF THE INSPIRE II SYSTEM TO TREAT OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA



Inspire Medical Systems, Inc., has announced it has completed the first human implant of its Inspire II system designed to treat Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA). The Inspire II system is an implantable device that delivers electrical stimulation to prevent the closure of the upper airway that can stop airflow in patients with OSA. The device is a unique closed-loop system that is able to sense respiratory effort and deliver stimulation to keep the airway open and breathing normal. Inspire Medical Systems collaborated with Paul Van de Heyning, M.D., professor of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck surgery and Wilfried De Backer, M.D., professor of Respiratory Medicine both at the University Hospital in Antwerp, Belgium for the first patient implant as part of the Inspire II clinical study. The company has also received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and is expected to begin implants in the U.S. next month.

The Inspire II system consists of an implantable pulse generator, a respiration pressure sensor and a stimulation lead that delivers the electrical impulses to the patient's hypoglossal nerve. The hypoglossal nerve is the twelfth cranial nerve that is located along the side of the neck and leads to the tongue. The unique closed-loop design of the Inspire II system senses a patient's respiratory effort during sleep and provides hypoglossal nerve stimulation to maintain an open airway synchronous with respiration. Patients have a programming device that is used to turn the device on at bedtime and to turn the unit off during non-sleep periods. The stimulation delivered is sufficient enough to evoke a response from the nerve but at a low enough level to not disturb the patient's sleep. A physician controller unit, used during visits to the patient's treating physician, is used to monitor the therapy and make adjustments to the device as needed for the patient's unique physiology. <http://www.inspiremedicalsystems.com/>

PRIORITY HEALTH EDUCATION TO OFFER A BOARD REVIEW/PREP CLASS FOR THE NEW NBRC-SDS



Priority Health Education is now the first to offer a Board Review/Prep class for the new NBRC-SDS (National Board for Respiratory Care-Sleep Disorder Specialty) credential. These classes are now forming in cities across the USA including Fort Lauderdale, FL; Richmond, VA; Nashville, TN; Yorba Linda, CA; Billings, MT; Opelika, AL; Starkville, MS; and more. Check the website at PriorityHealthEducation.com for additional listings or call toll free 866-942-9442.

Priority Health Education is a leader in providing sleep education programs across the USA and is soon expanding to Canada and Central & South America.

TELEFLEX MEDICAL AND RESMED CORPORATION SIGN NIV MASK DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT



Teleflex Medical, a leading global supplier of disposable medical products for critical care and surgical applications, announced today the signing of a distribution agreement with ResMed Corp. This agreement makes Teleflex Medical an exclusive distributor of the ResMed Non-Invasive Ventilation (NIV) mask portfolio for U.S. acute care hospitals not affiliated with the Veterans Administration.

Teleflex Medical is focused on providing hospital customers the choice of superior products that simply and effectively address the needs of the non-invasive ventilation patient. The ResMed NIV mask portfolio expands Teleflex Medical's offering which includes the ConchaTherm® Neptune®, a heated humidifier designed for use in NIV. As a world leader in mask design, ResMed is known for innovation and setting new standards in the design and manufacture of masks for non-invasive pressure therapy. Their offering in the NIV space displays this commitment to excellence. The ResMed NIV masks are quick-fitting, high-performance products that have earned a reputation for being easy-to-use, secure-sealing and comfortable. These are all critical factors in ensuring patient/ventilator synchrony and effective ventilation.

"At Teleflex Medical, we seek strategic alliances with leading companies that can help us bring innovative products to our customers," said Matthew Jennings, President, Teleflex Medical North America. "Working with ResMed expands our NIV portfolio and provides clinicians with access to a wider selection of respiratory products aimed at improving patient comfort and maximizing therapy compliance."

GANNON RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM REACCREDITED



Gannon University's (Erie, PA) Respiratory Care program has been recredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).

Charles Cornfield, RRT, assistant professor and director, respiratory care program, recently received the good news from CoARC, which noted that Gannon met or exceeded all thresholds for the various criteria – termed "outcome measures" – used to evaluate the program. "This is an accomplishment of which you, your staff, and institution should be proud," CoARC officials said.

In order to be recredited, Gannon was required to prepare a comprehensive report on the status of the program. CoARC, for example, assesses programs based upon factors like students' pass rates for required certification exams, students' job placement rates following graduation, students' performance in their jobs, and students' ratings of the program. Students enrolled in the Respiratory Care program at Gannon University, Erie, Pa., have the option of pursuing a two-year, associate's degree or a four-year, bachelor's degree. The associate's degree provides an excellent foundation in respiratory care, while the bachelor's degree is designed for individuals who wish to specialize in or work toward leadership positions within the profession. One benefit of Gannon's program is that clinical rotations give students direct, supervised practice with an extremely low 5:1 student-to-faculty ratio. In addition, students gain more than 800 hours of clinical practice, which exceeds national averages. For more information on the program, contact the department at 814-871-5637, or visit <http://www.gannon.edu/departamental/resp/default.asp>.

RESTECH DX-PH SYSTEM RELEASED INTERNATIONALLY



The Dx-pH Measurement System, and sleep adaptor for PSG or other acquisition devices, has received CE Mark approval. Now available throughout the European Union (EU), physicians suspecting reflux can use this evidence based test and replace empiric treatment using acid suppressing medications. The minimal invasiveness creates a comfortable alternative to conventional esophageal pH testing and provides very sensitive and specific diagnostic results for clinicians. Gastric reflux escaping to the upper airway, or laryngopharyngeal reflux, commonly takes a gaseous form that cannot be measured using conventional technology. Restech's patented miniaturized sensor uniquely measures aerosolized pH as well as liquid. The sensor is housed in the tear-drop shaped tip of a thin trans-nasal catheter; placement is aided by a blinking LED eliminating the need for manometry or x-ray. The Restech 4Fr catheter allows for titration of CPAP during a sleep test and accommodates a tight seal. Though patients are often unaware, reflux frequently occurs during sleep and is an important element to consider. Monitoring pharyngeal pH levels enables physicians to confirm or deny the presence of laryngopharyngeal reflux, and evaluate acid or alkaline levels as possible etiologies of their patients' symptoms. Call (800) 352-1512 or visit <http://www.restech-corp.com>.

PHILIPS INTRODUCES TWO NEW ACTIWATCH DEVICES TO HELP MAKE IMPLEMENTING AND USING ACTIGRAPHY EASIER



Royal Philips Electronics has introduced the Actiwatch 2 and Actiwatch Spectrum ambulatory actigraphy systems. The systems, which collect and download sleep/wake activity, help make actigraphy technology easier to use, actigraphy devices more comfortable to wear, and the data acquisition and analysis functions less complex and time consuming. The devices incorporate improved aesthetics and many advanced features which make it efficient for sleep clinicians to set up the system, gain user compliance and reliably collect and download sleep/wake data. The devices provide 24/7 wearability and can be used to analyze circadian rhythms, automatically collect and score data for sleep parameters, and assess activity in any instance where quantifiable analysis of physical motion is needed.

Both systems incorporate elements from the original Actiwatch device and include a multitude of advanced features. Depending on the model, features may include a device status indicator including off-wrist detection with real-time feedback on the display, time and date indicators, seven data channels, large memory, a backlit display, an ambient light sensor, white light illuminance and color light recording. Additionally, the appearance and design of the devices have been noticeably improved to help provide a more comfortable wearing experience and improve user compliance. Rugged durability helps enable the collection of complete data without any lapses.