May 22 2019 IMDA eNews

Hospital-bred innovations

An OhioHealth Corp. physician's invention is one of several inventions backed by the Columbus system's Innovation Development Fund, a $5 million fund launched five years ago by Rev1 Ventures, reports Columbus Business First. Innovations developed within both OhioHealth and Nationwide Children's Hospital were featured during a recent technology showcase by Rev1, which also manages a $5.5 million Life Sciences Fund dedicated to technology coming out of the pediatric hospital. The MyoGlove, which will be one of the first technologies backed by OhioHealth's fund to enter the market, is designed to relieve chronic and acute pain by aiding in thumb fatigue. Other technologies highlighted at the technology showcase were: a disposable device that protects patients' lips against burns and lacerations during oral surgeries; sensors to collect data to provide guidance to surgeons and patients leading to improved outcomes in spinal surgery; and a product to maintain the integrity of standard patient respiratory access ports during periods of temporary disconnect

'Cheaper' doesn't mean less costly

Smiths Medical lobbied the White House on May 9 to boost Medicare reimbursement for its non-opioid pain pump, reports MedTech Dive. The effort seeks better reimbursement for use of an ambulatory infusion pump through continuous peripheral nerve block (cPNB) for acute post-operative pain. At issue is how Medicare provides payment for drugs and supplies to treat post-surgical pain. Hospitals receive the same payment if they provide more expensive non-opioid treatment under the current hospital outpatient rule instead of cheaper opioid treatment. A representative from Smiths Medical who attended the White House Office of Management and Budget meeting was quoted as saying, "The way the bundled payment is set up right now incentivizes use of opioids because they are, on their face, the cheapest thing -- if you don't look at addiction and other costs they are incurring."

What does the patient say?

The FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) reports that it makes every effort to include patient-reported outcomes measures (PROMs) in the evaluation of medical devices. According to the FDA, a patient-reported outcome is "a measurement based on a report that comes directly from the patient about the status of a patient's health condition without amendment or interpretation of the patient's response by a clinician or anyone else." For regulatory purposes, information from PROMs can provide evidence for benefit-risk assessments and can be used in medical device labeling to communicate the effect of a treatment on patient symptoms and functioning. PROMs can be used to determine who should be included in a clinical study, measure effectiveness of a device in

treating or diagnosing the condition, and determine the safety of the device in terms of symptom and functional impacts.

AI and medical technology

What's the connection between artificial intelligence and the medical technology industry? And while we're at it, what exactly is AI??? At this July's IMDA/HIRA Annual Conference in suburban Chicago, Mark Fergason of Cardinal Health will demystify the buzzwords and provide insight into why so many people view AI as a revolutionary technology. Find out how healthcare providers are leveraging – or trying to leverage -- the technology to transform patient care and improve efficiencies. Learn about the implications for medical specialty dealers, from "smart" contracting and increased compliance requirements, to value analysis decisions. Learn more about the Annual Conference, to be held July 21-23, at www.imda.org or www.hira.org.