



Healionics Awarded \$1.3 Million Phase II NIH SBIR Grant to Advance Development of a Next-Generation Hemodialysis Access Device

Seattle, WA (April 22, 2015) — Healionics Corporation, a Seattle-based medical device company, has been awarded a \$1,300,000 Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop new bloodstream access devices for hemodialysis patients. Healionics' Chief Technology Officer, Andrew Marshall, Ph.D., is the Principal Investigator for the 27-month project.

The award provides funding to continue development of STARport™, a device that can potentially permit frequent access to the bloodstream long-term without the need for painful needle punctures or the safety risk associated with infection-prone catheters.

In the United States, more than 400,000 End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients – those with irreversible kidney failure – rely on thrice-weekly hemodialysis treatment at dialysis centers to survive, with each treatment requiring either punctures through the skin with large needles or the use of high-risk catheters. Due largely to the high rate of complications associated with current vascular access methods, the cost of caring for ESRD patients exceeds \$45 billion per year, of which the majority is covered by Medicare.

“If we can successfully bring the STARport to market, it will offer an improved quality-of-life option for a significant population of dialysis patients,” says Dr. Marshall. “In addition to offering a reliable and pain-free mode of vascular access, the proposed device would facilitate transitions to in-home hemodialysis, which is more cost-effective, more convenient for the patient, and more clinically effective than standard in-center treatment.”

About Healionics Corporation

Healionics develops and manufactures STAR® Biomaterials for implanted medical devices. The precisely controlled pore structure of the innovative STAR technology induces a favorable integrated healing response, overcoming fibrotic reactions and infection issues to enhance medical device performance and longevity. www.healionics.com

About the National Institutes of Health (NIH): NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.

Disclaimer: Research reported in this press release is supported by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health under the award number R44HL126256. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

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Contact:
Julie Rathbun
Rathbun Communications, Inc.
T : +1.206.769.9219
Julie@rathbuncomm.com