

AstraZeneca Joins Rochester Initiative to Further Cardiac Safety

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ROCHESTER, N.Y., Sept. 22 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- AstraZeneca purchased a one-year membership to gain access to an international repository of data designed to aid industry and academic researchers developing new technologies to improve cardiac safety. The database, called the Telemetric and Holter ECG Warehouse (THEW), helps researchers better evaluate how drugs affect the heart. Cardiac toxicity is one of the leading causes of removal of drugs from the market today, which is why ongoing research in this area is needed.

THEW is the result of a partnership between the University of Rochester Medical Center, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health. THEW consists of a digital catalogue of continuous electrocardiographic recordings from cardiac patients and healthy individuals, as well as electrocardiograms from safety studies implemented by major pharmaceutical companies.

In addition to helping industry and academic researchers better understand the electrical activity of the heart and how individual drugs may influence this activity, the data may aid the development of new tools to more easily detect drugs that can have dangerous effects on the heart. With the THEW partnership, AstraZeneca will gain full access to a wide range of electrocardiographic recordings and the associated clinical information that can be used to develop, implement and validate electrocardiographic markers of drug cardiotoxicity.

"We believe AstraZeneca's interest and involvement in our initiative is an important milestone. The support we have received from major pharmaceutical companies has grown over time and further validates our decision to develop a repository for scientific data for the development of novel technologies related to cardiac safety," said **Jean-Philippe Couderc, Ph.D., M.B.A.**, associate professor in the Division of Cardiology at the

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Published on Medical Design Technology (<http://www.mdtmag.com>)

Rochester-Initiative-to-Further-Cardiac-Safety-11099-1/