New Jersey Health Foundation Awards First Two Innovation Stage Funding Grants

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NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J., Jan. 23, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Dr. Tomer Davidov and Dr. William C. Gause are the first two recipients of grants from New Jersey Health Foundation's Innovation Stage Funding Program to advance their medical research that could eventually be commercialized for consumer benefit.

Dr. Davidov, an assistant professor of surgery at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, is developing a novel puncture resistant surgical glove that will offer healthcare professionals the highest level of needle stick protection without compromising tactile sensation and manual dexterity.

"Needle-stick injury is a common problem among healthcare professions, with 4 million estimated injuries annually in the United States," Dr. Davidov said. "One study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that a staggering 99% of surgeons reported a needle stick injury during their training alone, 53% of which were with high risk patients. It is no wonder that 96% of surveyed surgeons are concerned about contracting HIV or Hepatitis C as a result of needle stick injuries."

According to Dr. Davidov, current tear resistant gloves use thicker standard material, but do not provide true needle stick puncture protection. He will use the grant from the Innovation Stage Funding Program to develop the prototype for a surgical glove that uses a novel manufacturing process and a newly developed puncture resistant, flexible, paper-thin material.

Dr. Gause, the senior associate dean for research at New Jersey Medical School in Newark, has developed a new approach to enhance the treatment of wound healing using compositions derived from metazoan parasites at the site of an injury. His grant will be used to further develop a potential commercial prod
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