

**Innovative Pulmonary Raises \$10.6M for COPD Therapy Trials, Names New CEO***Timothy Hay**September 20, 2012*

Innovative Pulmonary Solutions Inc., a company developing a catheter-based device to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, said it raised a \$10.6 million Series B round in March to move its technology through human-clinical trials and more recently brought aboard a new chief executive.

The funding was led by new investor **Advanced Technology Ventures**, joined by previous investors **Versant Ventures**, **Split Rock Partners** and **Morgenthaler Ventures**, company spokeswoman Lorraine Marshall Wright said.

The funding brings Mike Carusi of **Advanced Technology Ventures** to the board of directors at the Seattle-based company. The Series B brings the company's total venture backing to \$19 million, Ms. Wright said. Valuation wasn't disclosed.

The company has developed an altogether new treatment for COPD, which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Depending on its severity, COPD is today treated with bronchodilators, inhaled corticosteroids, oxygen therapy or surgery to remove diseased lung tissue.

Innovative Pulmonary is bringing denervation--or the blocking of nerve signals--to the COPD space for the first time, Ms. Wright said. The company's catheter-based devices block nerve signals to the lungs, which regulate how and when the lungs open and close, she said. By blocking nerve signals, the company's devices make the patient's airways relax, thereby helping the patient breathe more easily.

The company is currently recruiting patients for its first human clinical trials, and raised the Series B to move the devices through what will likely be several rounds of trials, the spokeswoman said.

Innovative Pulmonary also announced that its founding chief executive, Steve Dimmer, has transitioned to the role of executive vice president of the company, making way for a new CEO to lead the company through the trials-and-commercialization phase of the company's life.

Dennis Wahr, the company's new CEO and a cardiologist, has a track record of leading start-up medical-technology companies to successful outcomes, Ms. Wright said.

Dr. Wahr was a founder of specialty interventional cardiology device company Velocimed Inc., which in 2005 was acquired by **St. Jude Medical Inc.** in a cash deal valued at \$74 million.

Dr. Wahr also played a central role at Minnesota-based **Lutonix Inc.**, which last year was acquired by **C.R. Bard Inc.** for \$225 million up front and an additional \$100 million on the completion of milestones. Lutonix developed a drug-coated balloon angioplasty device to treat and prevent coronary and peripheral artery stenosis, VentureWire records show.

<http://innovativepulmonary.com>

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