



\$200K to Clarkson to develop smokers' quitting aid

POTSDAM -- Clarkson University will receive nearly \$200,000 for the school to develop a device with the goal of increasing the success rate for those trying to quit smoking.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded Clarkson University \$198,525 to fund the development of a noninvasive monitoring system for cigarette smoking, Rep. Bill Owens' office says.

Project director Dr. Edward Sazonov will work with Dr. Stephen Tiffany at SUNY Buffalo on the task.

The objective of the project is to develop a non-invasive wearable system called the Personal Automatic Cigarette Tracker (PACT), a completely transparent monitoring device that does not require any conscience effort to achieve reliable monitoring of smoking behavior.

"We hope to develop a wearable device that can objectively capture and characterize cigarette smoking. Such a device can be used to evaluate effectiveness of behavioral and pharmacological smoking cessation programs and potentially be used to improve outcomes," said Dr. Sazonov.

Engineering of the device will take place in the Laboratory of Ambient and Wearable Systems at Clarkson University, and a human trial will be conducted at SUNY Buffalo.

"Each year, we lose more than 400,000 lives and spend more than \$165 billion in health care costs from the effects of cigarette smoking," Rep. Owens said. "This type of innovation is an important step toward helping those who want to quit smoking succeed, and improving the overall health of our communities."

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