

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE**November 20, 2019****FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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LECOM Seeking Patients for an Innovative Research Study into Musculoskeletal Health

Erie, PA. –November 20, 2018 – Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) announced today the start of research into one of the most disabling and costly afflictions suffered by Americans. Musculoskeletal disorders, such as acute joint pain, arthritis, osteoporosis, sports trauma, and other ailments accounted for 18% of all health care visits.

Using new technology developed by medAppraise, Inc. of Sarasota Florida, LECOM researchers will be able to track and rate joint movement in injured and non-injured test subjects. This will set a baseline before the research team begins therapeutic treatment using physical therapy and osteopathic manipulation. Eventually, the research will determine the effectiveness of these treatments.

According to the US Bone and Joint Initiative, 126.6 million Americans are affected by a musculoskeletal condition, costing approximately \$213 billion per annum to treat. Worldwide, musculoskeletal conditions are the most common cause of severe long-term pain and the most costly of all disease categories, accounting for one-fourth of the total global cost of illness.

The researchers will investigate better treatment options for musculoskeletal disorders starting with a study of shoulder injuries. The study will take place at LECOM's John M. & Silvia Ferretti Medical Fitness & Wellness Center in Erie, Pa. under the direction of the study's principal investigator Joshua Tuck, D.O. Dr. Tuck is an orthopedic surgeon and director of the LECOM Musculoskeletal Institute with Medical Associates of Erie, the clinical practices of LECOM Health.

The study seeks to enroll 100 people with no shoulder injuries to create a baseline and 100 with impaired shoulder function and mobility related to arthritis, trauma, and sports injuries to be included in the treatment group. Those in the treatment group will receive either hands-on treatment with Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) or Physical Therapy shoulder treatments. The evaluation and treatment will start in January 2019.

Working with the wellness center staff, Dr. Tuck will evaluate these patients using technology developed by medAppraise, Inc., which has developed a proprietary system designed to measure the musculoskeletal (MS) health of an individual. According to medAppraise CEO Robert Bilkovski,

M.D. the Musculoskeletal Disorder Reporting System (MSDR®) can provide measurement of MS function across four body quadrants: cervical, lumbar, upper extremity and lower extremity. The MSDR® is a software system that

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LECOM MSDR® Study - 2

delivers objective information on biomechanical function and risk of musculoskeletal disorder through its proprietary algorithms.

The MSDR® consists of two components. The first is a questionnaire that evaluates the subjects' risk factor for MS dysfunction, including but not limited to prior surgery, current pain medication therapy, anatomic location and frequency of pain. The second component has the research subject complete a series of range of motion movements. With 3D sensors attached to a subject's joints, MSDR® collects quantitative biometric information that will combine with the qualitative assessment to generate the MSDR® results. As the subject runs through various range of motion tests, the MSDR® provides a linear score that ranges from normal/absent risk (100) to very high risk (399) and changes in response to deterioration or improvement in MS condition. The MSDR® is completed in less than 30 minutes.

Dr. Tuck is working with LECOM Wellness Center Fitness Director Jake Johnson and the wellness center staff to recruit test subjects starting with non-injured members of the wellness center. The staffs at the LECOM Wellness Center and the Musculoskeletal Institute are also seeking test subjects with shoulder injuries who can start participating in treatment in January. Joining Dr. Tuck in the treatment phase of the study are LECOM Sports Medicine physician Chris Rial, D.O. and Steve Burke, Director of Physical Therapy at Millcreek Community Hospital. Faculty from the LECOM Masters in Health Services Administration will help with the evaluation of data collected by the research team.

For more information call the LECOM Orthopedic office at (814) 868-7840 or visit the LECOM Medical Fitness and Wellness Center, 5401 Peach Street, Erie, Pennsylvania, 16509 or call (814) 868-7800. For taking part in the study, all participants will receive gift cards to Coffee Culture Café in Erie.

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About the Technology

The medAppraise MusculoSkeletal Disorder Reporting system –MSDR® is a sophisticated, web-based platform technology that assesses an individual's musculoskeletal wellness using self-reported health information and objective biometric data. Use of the MSDR® is aimed to reduce occupational injuries and Workers' Compensation claims, but may also assist clinicians in improving treatment of MS disorders.

The MSDR® assessment's proprietary, clinically derived algorithms identify complicating factors resulting from vocational and avocational activities reported by the individual; 3-D motion capture technology measures range of motion, determines when pain occurs and assesses body symmetry or asymmetry.

The MSDR® assessment is designed to identify an individual's weakest physical link and its effect on the individual's musculoskeletal condition. Unlike most risk forecast methods, MSDR® is not based on any one theory or on any single school of thought. Instead, the algorithms used in the assessment were developed by focusing on medical research in multiple medical disciplines, including orthopedics, occupational medicine, neurology, chiropractic, physical therapy and general practice to determine the existence of a musculoskeletal injury or the risk of incurring one in the future.

About LECOM

In just over 25 years, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) has grown to become the largest and one of the most affordable medical colleges in the country. Enrollment in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, School of Pharmacy, School of Dental Medicine and Master's Degree Programs has surpassed 4100 students at campuses in Erie and Greensburg, Pa. and Bradenton, Fla. More than 11,000 LECOM graduates are providing health care to patients across the United States.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Pharmacy attract more applicants than any other programs in the country by offering innovative, student-centered and affordable degree programs. LECOM medical college tuition is the second lowest private college tuition in the U.S and LECOM consistently ranks in the top ten programs for graduating primary care physicians. In addition to providing healthcare providers to serve patient needs, the College also offers master's degree programs to prepare professionals who can run the business of health care, serve the patient's best interests and teach future physicians, pharmacists and dentists.

LECOM is the core of an osteopathic academic health center. LECOM Health is a highly innovative health care and education system that strives to add to the quality of life of our neighbors by bringing total health care to the community. Members of LECOM Health include the College, Millcreek Community Hospital, Corry Memorial Hospital, the clinical practices of Medical Associates of Erie, LECOM Senior Living Center, LECOM Senior Living Communities, LECOM Medical Fitness and Wellness Center, LECOM Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Lifeworks Erie, and Visiting Nurses Association of Erie County.

As LECOM continues to contribute to health and wellbeing for everyone, it looks forward to continued growth and preparation of future healthcare providers to provide quality care for generations to come.

Company Overview

Headquartered in Sarasota, Florida, medAppraise, Inc. is a start-up formed to study musculoskeletal disorders (“MSDs”). medAppraise’s MS DR[®] system is an affordable web-based technology that provides, through a brief and non-invasive assessment, objective information about an individual’s biomechanical function and risks of incurring MSDs. The system can identify the risk of MSDs before injury onset, monitor changes in physical health over time and determine the effectiveness of rehabilitative care. Data analytics are used to benchmark and compare a company’s ergonomic safety performance across facilities, jobs, geographies and industries.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a musculoskeletal testing protocol that enables effective monitoring of MSD risks and cost reduction through treatment planning, decisive interventions and measurement of efficacy. It is our vision to be the leader in risk assessment, data mining, and forecasting services for musculoskeletal conditions.

Markets

Employer: Services for industrial health, safety and wellness markets include workforce baselining and re-baselining to identify where mitigation solutions can be employed; prevention and pre-rehabilitation opportunities; pre-hire testing; employee wellness programs; and injured worker assessments.

Worker’s Compensation Insurers: Baseline benchmarks at the time of injury allows carriers to (a) measure improvement from physical therapy, (b) determine objectively when an injured worker reaches maximum medical improvement and (c) close claims more quickly to limit medical costs.

Athletics: Evaluations performed throughout the season can identify changes in athletes’ biomechanical function resulting from the stresses of training and competition and measure the effectiveness of injury rehabilitation programs.

Clinical Medicine: The MS DR[®] system can quantify the impact of osteopathic manual manipulation and physical therapy in the treatment of acute MS conditions and provide a means to assist clinicians in reducing use of addictive narcotics during recovery from injuries.

Leadership

Robert Bilkovski, M.D., MBA is medAppraise’s Chief Executive Officer. He has broad experience in leadership roles at Fortune 500 companies overseeing medical affairs in pharmaceutical drug and medical device development. His leadership at GE Healthcare brought innovative medical technology to drive improvements in the fields of critical care, anesthesiology and clinical decision support.

Milestones

medAppraise published its findings on the use of the MS DR[®] system to quantify the risk of osteoarthritis in the Journal of Medicine. The Company is currently engaged in a joint clinical study with Lake Erie College of Medicine to use the MS DR[®] system to evaluate the effectiveness and efficacy of osteopathic manual manipulation in treating individuals with shoulder injuries.

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