

MetroHealth Researchers Awarded \$2M Grant to Develop Device that Monitors Hydration Status

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Mary Joan Roach, PhD; Joseph Piktel, MD; and Eamon Johnson, PhD

Mary Joan Roach, PhD, staff scientist in the Population Health Research Institute, the MetroHealth Center for Rehabilitation Research and the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R), and Joseph Piktel, MD, attending physician in the Department of Emergency Medicine, are Multi-Principal Investigators (MPI) on a \$2 million Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant entitled "Clinical Effectiveness of a Wearable Hydration Device."


STTR grants are based on partnerships between industry and academic institutions. The contact PI is Eamon Johnson, PhD, CEO of Triton X, the industry partner. MetroHealth is the lead academic partner for this clinical trial and commercialization project for a "Device that Recognizes the Need to Intake Water" (currently codenamed the DRINK band). The project has two phases: in Phase 1, investigators will conduct a comparative study of the device among acutely ill dehydrated older adults being cared for in the Emergency Department. In Phase 2, the investigators will conduct a clinical trial of continuous home monitoring of fluid levels among patients returning home after an acute care episode for dehydration.

Dr. Roach is Associate Professor of PM&R and Dr. Pikel is Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Co-investigators include Adam Perzynski, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Sociology; Nathan Makowski, PhD, Assistant Professor of PM&R; and Lance Wilson, MD, Professor of Emergency Medicine.

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