Young Clinician Research Award Recipient

CIMIT Names James Ellsmere, MD, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, for Johnson & Johnson Young Clinician Research Award: Seeks to Improve Care Management for Obesity Patients

Boston, Mass., May 1, 2006 -- It was announced today by CIMIT director, John A. Parrish, MD, that James Ellsmere, MD, will be among the first of the new recipients of the CIMIT-Johnson & Johnson Young Clinician Research Award. The funding was made possible through the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Office of Science and Technology (COSAT).

A Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellow at BIDMC, Dr. Ellsmere is focusing on a method that will make it safer to easily access implanted ports. In the past few years, the number of implanted ports has been increasing rapidly. Much of this has been driven by Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding (LABG). In order to limit the amount of food a person can take in at a single meal, with LABG, a small pouch is created in the upper part of the stomach. Then by wrapping a band around the stomach, only a narrow passage from the new pouch remains.

Dr. Ellsmere said: "Since obesity affects 25 percent of the population and causes serious medical conditions, as well as some 300,000 deaths each year in the US alone, I felt it was important to give patients a more manageable option for their health. Our long term goal is to make port access sufficiently safe and reliable so that it can be easily accomplished in an office setting without imaging system support."

Dr. Ellsmere received his MD from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and his MSc from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Medical Infomatics.

The Patient Care Impact

The work of Dr. Ellsmere can be broadly applicable, not just to LABG, but also other ports. Steven C. Schachter, MD, professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School and CIMIT Liaison to BIDMC noted: "It is anticipated that Dr. Ellsmere's efforts will not only improve the care of patients who undergo LAGB, but also patients whose medical care depends on other ports, including long-term venous access, soft tissue expanders and analgesic pumps."

Dr. Parrish States Award Goal

"With this award, we were looking to attract innovative clinicians in the Boston area, passionate about patient care and willing to dedicate part of their time for translational research," said Dr. Parrish. "It is our mission to accelerate the work of physicians who stay awake at night thinking about how to solve complex medical problems using minimally invasive technology."

Dr. Parrish noted: "I am pleased that Dr. Ellsmere was selected. His work will greatly impact those who are seek surgery to manage obesity."

The opportunity to assist young clinicians came through $250,000 in funding from Johnson & Johnson to identify rising clinical stars dedicated to patient care and translational research. One physician was selected from each of four member hospitals of the CIMIT Consortium.

CIMIT: Overcoming Barriers to Innovation

CIMIT is a Boston-based research consortium of the major teaching hospitals and engineering schools dedicated to advancing the standard of patient care through collaboration and development of novel technologies and therapies.

Each year CIMIT selects some 40 new research projects from multidisciplinary teams to receive science awards ranging from $25,000 to $250,000. There are 150 active projects from more than 300 awarded to date. Additionally there have been 400 peer-reviewed publications. CIMIT-supported projects have led to the formation of 170 invention disclosures, 80 patent applications, and 30 options and license agreements. Ten small businesses have been created or strategically impacted by CIMIT technology. With enabled funding of more than $120 million, CIMIT has significantly impacted the standard of care.

As part of CIMIT's Award Program, the Office of Technology Development and the Industry Liaison Program help investigators overcome hurdles in business, law, intellectual property protection, and product development. By doing so, this team of experts enables investigators to rapidly move ideas from bench to bedside.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center is a member of the CIMIT consortium. It is a patient care, teaching and research affiliate of Harvard Medical School, and ranks fourth in National Institutes of Health funding among independent hospitals nationwide. BIDMC is clinically affiliated with the Joslin Diabetes Center and is a research partner of Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center.

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