

Cleveland Clinic Innovations, MedStar Health strike licensing deal for breathing technology

By [TIMOTHY MAGAW](#)

2:00 pm, December 2, 2013

Cleveland Clinic Innovations and MedStar Health, the largest health system in the mid-Atlantic, have struck a licensing deal with InnoVital Systems, a technology company in Beltsville, Md., for a product that could make it easier for patients with severe lung and neuromuscular diseases to breathe.

It's the first licensing deal to come out of the Clinic-led Healthcare Innovation Alliance, which is designed to help its members work together to develop medical innovations and improve patient care. The alliance includes health care providers, universities and corporate partners from across the country.

According to a news release, the licensing deal is an important milestone toward bringing an invention to market.

"When the Healthcare Innovation Alliance, including MedStar Health, was established, the goal was to extend Cleveland Clinic Innovations' model to assist alliance members in bringing transcendent ideas to the marketplace in order to extend and improve patient life," said Dr. Thomas J. Graham, the Clinic's chief innovation officer, in the release.

"This accomplishment represents the type of activity that we anticipated and it is gratifying to see these groundbreaking ideas advance toward commercialization," he said.

The device is called InVent Diaphragm Assist Device. It was invented by Dr. William Krinsky, director of the Center for Interventional Pulmonology at MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center in Baltimore. The implanted device, which could be considered an implantable ventilator, would mechanically assist the diaphragm — the large muscle that separates the chest from the abdomen and controls breathing.

"One of the foundational principles behind the creation of the MedStar Institute for Innovation is that a tremendous amount of creative and intellectual capital exists throughout MedStar Health," said Dr. Mark S. Smith, director of MedStar Institute for Innovation, in the release. "The Healthcare Innovation Alliance that we formed with the Cleveland Clinic enables us to tap into the core of that great energy and unleash it."