

April 11, 2008 - Rep. Slaughter Secures \$3.2 Million for Development of Breast Cancer Scan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep.
Slaughter Secures \$3.2 Million for

Development of Innovative Breast Cancer

Scanner

Rochester, NY

- Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today announced \$3.2 million in federal funds to accelerate the development and production of Koning's breast cancer scanner, the Koning CT for Breast. The funding was secured as part of the FY 2008 Department of Defense Appropriations bill.

Rep. Slaughter was joined by Dr.

Ruola Ning, Koning Corporation's founder and CEO, Dr. Bradford Berk, CEO of the University of Rochester Medical Center, Dr. Avive O'Connell, Director of Women's Imaging for the University of Rochester Medical Center, and Dr. Posy Seifert of the Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic at the Women's Health Pavilion in Rochester.

"One

in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime," said Rep. Slaughter. "Early detection significantly increases the odds that treatment will be successful and I am very proud to have secured federal funding to help develop this life saving device. I applaud Koning Corporation and the University of Rochester for their commitment to combating breast cancer."

"One

of my chief priorities in Congress has been to promote growth and job creation within our local economy," Slaughter continued. "As I have done throughout my career, I will continue to support cutting edge companies like Koning to ensure that revolutionary technology like the Koning CT scanner is developed and manufactured in Rochester."

"We are most grateful to Congresswoman Slaughter

for her tireless efforts in helping us gain this important funding," said Dr. Ruola Ning. "We believe that our technology will not

only improve the early diagnosis of breast cancer for thousands of American women, but will also reduce health care costs by reducing the number of unnecessary biopsies without missing an early cancer. Just think of the reduced anxiety for women. With our technology, women and their physicians may more readily know that they are not at risk for this terrible disease."

"Koning's design of a breast scanner that

further improves on the latest technology is a terrific example the University's push to bring real innovation to patient care by transferring new technologies to the private sector," said Dr. Bradford Berk. "This critical federal funding will help Koning to expedite the technology's approval and widespread adoption in ways that bring an economic benefit to Rochester."

This scanner, using Cone Beam CT technology, will revolutionize the way in which clinicians evaluate breast tissue and screen for breast cancer. The Koning CT for Breast produces a clearer image than mammography and identifies small masses in the breast that would otherwise go undetected. Researchers believe that breast CT technology like Koning's will eventually replace mammography and become the tool of choice for breast cancer screenings.

With the funding secured by Rep. Slaughter, Koning expects to immediately create at least ten engineering and research jobs followed by an additional 60 manufacturing positions once production begins. Koning will manufacture the scanner in Rochester.

The technology utilized by the Koning CT for Breast was developed at the University of Rochester Medical Center and has been licensed to Koning Corporation, a University of Rochester "spin-off" firm.

BACKGROUND

Advantages of Koning CT for Breast:

Comfort: Unlike mammography which requires the breast to be painfully compressed, the Koning CT allows patients to comfortably lie face down on the table with the breast suspended through an opening cut into the table. Under the table, a camera takes a 360 degree image of the breast. The entire image is taken in just ten seconds and no equipment comes in physical contact with the breast.

3-Dimensional

Imaging: In ten seconds, Koning's scanner takes 300 image shots which are merged and presented in both 3-D and multi-slice, multi-plane formats with high resolution.

Conversely, mammography only produces a 2-D image. Koning's device produces images that are much clearer than x-ray mammography so clinicians can more easily detect problems.

Detects

cancer around the breast: The Koning scanner does not require the breast to be compressed and therefore provides better images of the tissue around the ribs and near the armpits. Since 50 percent of cancers are found in these "outer breast" areas, the Koning CT is a breakthrough over mammography which

often misses cancers in these areas.

Allows for earlier detection: The Koning scanner produces such a clear image that small masses, that would otherwise go undetected with mammography, are visible in Koning's images. Despite advances in treatment, early detection is widely recognized as the most effective method to reduce breast cancer related deaths.

Low-radiation: Koning's CT scanner gives off less radiation than conventional CT scanners. Koning's device exposes a patient to the same radiation they would receive from a digital mammogram.

Limits the Need for Biopsies and Saves Money: Koning's CT Scanner will dramatically reduce the number of breast biopsies performed in the United States to evaluate suspicious or unclear mammography findings.

Each year, 1.3 million biopsies are performed, eight out of ten of which prove to be benign, burdening patients with excessive anxiety and the health care system with tremendous costs.

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