



## Oregon medical device company plans Cleveland office

By **CHUCK SODER**

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An Oregon medical device company partially owned by the Cleveland Clinic has raised \$600,000 and plans to open a small office on the Clinic's campus.

Clear Catheter Systems Inc., which is developing a technology to prevent blood clots from forming in surgical drainage tubes, aims to open an office with a small number of employees to gain better access to business development and clinical resources at the Clinic.

The company most likely will locate the office within CCF Innovations, the Clinic's technology commercialization arm, said CEO Edward Boyle, who is the company's sole employee.

The \$600,000 investment was led by X Gen Ltd., a family venture fund based in Cleveland. It also includes funding from the Clinic's Global Cardiovascular Innovation Center as well as a group of individual "angel" investors in Oregon.

Clear Catheter Systems will use the money to design a manufacturing process for its PleuraFlow tube. It aims to start clinical trials by the end of the year, Dr. Boyle said.

The PleuraFlow tube uses an "internal flossing mechanism" to break up blood clots while it drains fluid and air from a patient during surgery.

Clots can cause injury or death in rare cases, Dr. Boyle said, noting that nurses currently have to tap or squeeze tubes to break up clots.

The technology also is allowing the company to develop a smaller tube. Current tubes, PleuraFlow included, are built almost as wide as garden hoses because larger tubes are less likely to clot.

The Clinic and a Bend, Ore.-based business incubator called MDI Partners formed the company with about \$334,000 about a year ago.

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