

'ThoraShield' - An Aspiration Device for Safer Pleural Tapping

A novel safety pleural tapping device has been developed under the Stanford India Biodesign (SIB) Programme by a multidisciplinary team of SIB interns under the guidance of faculty members of AIIMS. The SIB programme is a Biomedical Technology Innovation programme of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, implemented at AIIMS - New Delhi, and IIT-D in collaboration with the Stanford University (USA) and in partnership with Indo-US Science and Technology Forum. Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) with necessary experience and expertise in IP management and technology- transfer is the management agency of this programme.

Thorashield - a technology for performing safer pleural tapping in patients with pleural effusion was invented at SIB Centre, AIIMS by Dr. N.J. Vaisakh, Ankita Kashyap, Nitesh Jangir and Saarang Jain during their internship in the Year 2013. Dr. Randeep Guleria and Dr. Karan Madan from AIIMS are the faculty inventors for this invention. Lung and tissue injury along with chances of complications like pneumothorax are expected to be significantly reduced by this invention. Therefore, commercialization of this product is expected to add an important tool in addressing the unmet need of pleural tapping. The current prevalence rate of pleural effusion in India is 3 million cases and globally it is more than 100 million cases, which is likely to increase over the next few decades. Therefore, this invention is expected to have a significant social impact, nationally as well as globally.

The technology for Thorashield is being licensed by BCIL to M/s. Mecmaan Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., Haryana which is indigenously developed company working successfully in the domain of disposables from last 17 years. Their latest technology, in-house modern infrastructure, ISO certified manufacturing facilities & sincere efforts to improve quality will lead to further development and commercialization of Thorashield both in India as well as other countries in a duration of 2.5 to three years.

