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National Institute on Aging Scientists Win Award

The Mid-Atlantic Region of the Federal Laboratory Consortium this year presented the Regional Excellence in Technology Transfer Award to Dr. Steven J. Sollott, Head, Cardioprotection Unit, Laboratory of Cardiovascular Science, National Institute of Aging and Dr. James Kinsella, NIH Senior Investigator Emeritus, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Madison County (NY) Department of Health for their work on "Taxus®Express2™ Bypassing By-pass Surgery with Paclitaxel-Coated Stents."

Taxus® Express2™ has the potential to benefit many of the victims of cardiovascular disease, which causes 40% of all deaths in the US. After a heart attack, patients often undergo an invasive by-pass surgery or a less invasive angioplasty procedure to open up the clogged artery. In the latter procedure, a tiny mesh-like device called a stent is inserted into the artery to keep it propped open. However, in many of the stent placement cases, the body reacts to this foreign object with scar tissue formation and the artery narrows again. Taxus® Express2™ is a medical device in which a cancer drug commonly known as Taxol® is imbedded into the interior of the stent. The drug is enclosed in a timed-release polymer so that it is dispensed into the tissue slowly and this prevents the re-blocking (restenosis) of the artery that is being treated. This device has dramatically reduced restenosis rates in patients treated with stents to just 3 to 6 percent, meaning far fewer return visits to the catheterization lab or operating room for cardiac patients.

One of the most coveted awards in the field of technology transfer, the FLC awards for Excellence in Technology Transfer recognize laboratory employees who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring Federally-developed technology to the marketplace. The award was made on September 15 at the region's annual meeting.

The Federal Laboratory Consortium is comprised of the technology transfer offices of all of the Federal laboratories throughout the country while its Mid-Atlantic Region focuses on the 70 Federal laboratories in DC, DE, MD, PA, VA and WV.