Spinout of Spectral MD™

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Spectral MD, like most companies, started with a problem that needed a solution. Dr. Michael DiMaio, cardiothoracic surgeon at UT Southwestern Medical Center, was troubled that patients after surgery developed problems - specifically decubitus ulcers - due to their lack of movement. In fact, DiMaio concluded that too many patients who had undergone surgery would develop decubitus ulcers, most commonly known as bed sores.

Dr. DiMaio realized that bed sores affected patients not only physically but financially; furthermore, the hospital's resources weren't properly prepared to handle problems that arose out of the patient's immobility. The mounting pressure for change in hospitals came to a head in October 2008 when Medicare issued a notice to 3,500 U.S. hospitals stating that they would no longer reimburse for so-called "never events," events that should never occur while a patient is in the hospital. Among others, many types of bed sores were listed in that category.

With the help of Dr. Jose Melendez, Dr. DiMaio discovered that by using infrared light, clinicians could view up to two centimeters below the patient's skin to identify decubitus ulcers without causing further pain to the patient. The collaborative efforts of Dr. DiMaio, Dr. Melendez and UT Southwestern students spawned the unprecedented and innovative technology, DeepView™, a mobile imaging unit which allows clinicians to see deep under the patient's skin using a non-invasive, digital illumination approach. The unit is highly portable, allowing patients who are immobile to be properly examined for bed sores and other internal problems.

With assistance from UT Southwestern's Office for Technology Development, Dr. DiMaio and Dr. Melendez formed Spectral MD™, a medical imaging company dedicated to improving healthcare delivery, operations and patient health.

James Watson, a member of the Spectral MD Board of Directors and instrumental in founding the company, says Dr. DiMaio is the true star of this effort.

"He works 18 hours a day. He was someone who had a vision of a way to improve a very serious problem of his patients and he did it," said Watson.