

Science Watch

New developments from the LSU AgCenter

Improved catheter has great promise for the health industry

The LSU AgCenter has announced a new method for preparing a catheter that could have wide-ranging implications to human and animal health. Developed by Dr. Lee Southern, a researcher in the LSU AgCenter's Department of Animal Science, the development could improve the success rate of reverse flow catheters by more than 40 percent.

Reverse-flow catheters are small tubes inserted into blood vessels to either inject material into the blood or extract blood samples. Because some drugs can be caustic in tissue but safe in a blood vessel, it is extremely important to have a catheter accurately placed before any materials are injected. And because reverse-flow catheters remain in the body, they often become blocked by blood clots or come so close to a blood vessel wall the blood won't flow into them.

In trying to solve this problem, Southern developed a novel way to style the catheter before inserting it into the animals he worked with. Since using this method, Southern has reduced his "failure rate" from 30 percent to nearly zero.

The process holds great promise for a wide range of reverse-flow catheter applications in human health.



Dr. Lee Southern, a professor of animal nutrition in the LSU AgCenter, developed a new method of preparing catheters as part of a research in animal nutrition. The resulting technology holds great promise in human medicine.



for information

Contact: Office of Intellectual Property, P.O. Box 25055, Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5055
tel 225-578-6030 | fax 225-578-6032 | pjacobi@agctr.lsu.edu | www.lsuagcenter.com/intellectual