Awarded with the "Prize for Patient Safety in Medical Technology"
Patented pIOM® technology from inomed convinces the jury

This year's "German Prize for Patient Safety in Medical Technology" of the German Society for Biomedical Engineering (VDE) and the “Aktionsbündnis Patientensicherheit” (an alliance for patient safety) goes to Dipl.-Ing. Karin Somerlik-Fuchs, employee of inomed Medizintechnik GmbH. She receives the first prize of 5.000€ for her outstanding work "Intraoperative Neuromonitoring of the Autonomic Nervous System in the Pelvis Minor" in cooperation with Prof. Dr. med. Werner Kneist from the University Medicine Mainz and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus-Peter Hoffmann from the Fraunhofer IBMT, St. Ingbert. The award ceremony will take place during the annual conference of the VDE|DGBMT in Frankfurt on September 25th, 2019.

"This award is an affirmation of our more than ten years of interdisciplinary cooperation in various research projects and a major step towards improved patient safety. With our German patented technology, we are the only company able to offer multimodal pelvic neuromonitoring that supports the surgeon in highly complex operations" emphasizes Karin Somerlik-Fuchs.

Intraoperative neuromonitoring (IONM) has become an established and evidence-based standard for many surgical procedures. With the help of this method it is possible to check the functionality of nerves intraoperatively and to reduce the risk of nerve damage during the operation as well as the resulting postoperative long-term consequences. In particular, surgical interventions on pelvic organs (e.g. in colorectal surgery) involve an increased risk, as very fine and complex nerve structures are present and the narrow anatomical space complicates the surgeon's view.
The work of Karin Somerlik-Fuchs and the partners from clinic and research describes the long-term development up to the clinical establishment of an intraoperative neuromonitoring procedure for the pelvic nerves (pIONM). What is new is that the target organ is smooth musculature, which behaves differently from the skeletal musculature in classical IONM procedures. Therefore, the reaction of smooth musculature to electrical stimulation was fundamentally investigated in the first step before a system was designed and built to meet the specific requirements of both autonomic nerve innervation and colorectal surgery. Initial clinical studies have already shown significantly better postoperative function rates with the use of pIONM.

Based on this intensive research work with the University Medicine Mainz and the Fraunhofer IBMT, inomed has introduced two systems with the patented pIOM® technology in recent years. Thanks to the work of Karin Somerlik-Fuchs and her colleagues, important nerves that are responsible for bladder emptying, rectal or sexual function can now be reliably identified and protected.
In the future, work will focus on expanding the application areas from rectal surgery to gynaecology. "The goal of using our technology to help patients, with sometimes very frightening diseases, in order to achieve better postoperative quality of life motivates us every day anew," says Karin Somerlik-Fuchs.

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Dipl.-Ing. Karin Somerlik-Fuchs
with the pIOM® accessories kit

Further information: https://www.inomed.com/
PR characters with space characters: 3.196

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