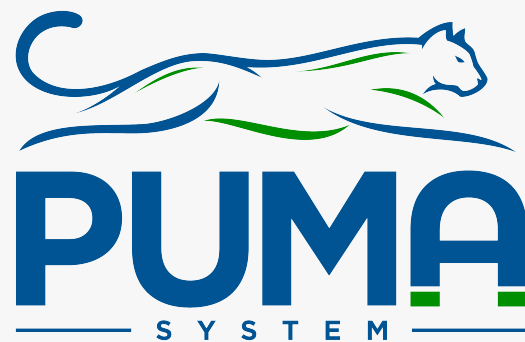


CoapTech Awarded \$1.6 Million from NIH for Pediatric Feeding Tube Placement Device

Grant will support development and clinical evaluation of world's first ultrasound-based gastrostomy device for pediatric patients.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES, November 12, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [CoapTech](#) Inc. announced today that the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded CoapTech a two-year, \$1.6M R44 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II grant on September 22, 2020 to finalize development of and trial its Pediatric PUMA-G System. This new grant builds on a prior \$225,000 Phase I SBIR R43 grant completed earlier this year to prototype and test the device. The Pediatric PUMA-G System expands upon CoapTech's current PUMA platform for adults and addresses unique challenges faced by children. Reviewers supported the technology as having the potential to revolutionize feeding tube technology for pediatric patients.

The \$1.6M grant will clinically evaluate the Pediatric PUMA-G System in collaboration with three premier pediatric medical centers: NewYork-



Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), and Children's National Hospital of Washington, DC. CoapTech and team will study the safety and effectiveness of the percutaneous ultrasound gastrostomy (PUG) procedure in a pediatric population. The PUG procedure is the world's first and only ultrasound-based procedure for placing semi-permanent feeding tubes into the stomach. These feeding tubes are vital for children who cannot eat or swallow, and require liquid nutrition (known as enteral feeding). Common feeding tube placement procedures for children may expose them to significant risks from invasive surgical tools or from ionizing radiation, which can lead to cancer in young patients at elevated rates. The PUMA-G System is less invasive, using benign ultrasound waves to help physicians image the body during the procedure.

"Our IR team is excited to work with the Coaptech team to develop a less invasive method of placing feeding tubes for small children," said Dr. Karun Sharma, Director of Interventional Radiology and site leader at Children's National Hospital. "This new method will minimize the duration of anesthesia and eliminate x-ray exposure, two factors which are important considerations for our patients."

"We're excited to participate with our colleagues at CHOP and Children's National Hospital on the groundbreaking Phase II study supported by the NIH SBIR grant," said Dr. Sheryl Tulin-Silver, Assistant Professor of Radiology and Director of Pediatric Interventional Radiology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. "Our extensive experience working with the PUMA-G System in adult patients during the COVID pandemic—performing ultrasound guided procedures at the bedside—led to working with the CoapTech team to help develop the Pediatric PUMA-G System and address the unique challenges faced by children."

This \$1.6M in new NIH funding follows a recent \$7M Series B financing led by [Hunniwell Lake Ventures](#) of Palo Alto, California.

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