

# SCMI SWE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

## SWE SUPPORTING COVID-19 EFFORTS

### PFIZER DEVELOPING A POTENTIAL

### COVID-19 VACCINE



In the fight against COVID-19, a vaccine is a critical part of addressing the global health crisis by decreasing rates of infection, disease and death worldwide. But today, there is no vaccine available. Pfizer and BioNTech are leveraging our decades of scientific expertise and working together to develop, test and manufacture a mRNA vaccine to help prevent COVID-19.

Developing a potential breakthrough vaccine to help prevent COVID-19 is only possible through the dedicated work of thousands of individuals and those who volunteer to take part in research. We are committed to diversity in our clinical trial and ensuring that individuals from communities that have been most affected by COVID-19 have the opportunity to participate.

We are grateful to each of the more than 120 clinical trial investigators and their study teams who are partnering with us in this effort and to all of the participants who have volunteered, and will volunteer, to help make a difference for society.

[Click here](#) for the full article on Pfizer's website.

## **RAMPING UP VALVE PRODUCTION FOR VENTILATORS TO SUPPORT PANDEMIC RELIEF EFFORT**



Parker Hannifin, the global leader in motion and control technologies, is accelerating production in response to increased demand for solenoid and proportional valves used in ventilation equipment needed to treat patients with COVID-19. With 20+ years of experience serving the medical device industry, the Precision Fluidics Division is well positioned to respond to customer needs with technical expertise and lean operations to ensure product quality and reliability.

Parker's miniature solenoid valves are known for high-speed operation and extremely low leakage rates, while its proportional valve technology meets the most demanding precision flow applications. Specifically, the valves used in ventilator systems include the VSO Max HP, VSO, VSO Low Pro, x-Valve, and S-11.

One leading global OEM in ventilator instruments stated: "We are very moved by Parker Hannifin's support on the prevention of the coronavirus. Our company relies on socially responsible suppliers, and we expect Parker Hannifin will continue to support us on production and jointly contribute to help save lives."

"We are employing many preventative measures across our operations to protect the safety of our team members, their families and our community, while addressing the critical demand of our customers," said Craig Stiffler, General Manager of Parker Hannifin's Precision Fluidics Division.

Employees are stepping up to increase production output. They are adopting rotating schedules, moving to alternate shifts, helping to train new hires and, in some cases, moving from the office to manufacturing cells.

The agility of the team is a key factor in their ability to quickly adjust to rising demands in this time of crisis. In January, the division increased capacity across nine primary product families by as much as 500%. Current estimates are that this increased demand could continue for the foreseeable future.

"Our entire team has responded with the courage, resilience and determination that we are known for at Parker," continued Stiffler. "I would like to extend my thanks to each of them for adhering to our enhanced hygiene and social distancing practices to ensure we can continue to supply our valves to help treat sick patients. I could not be prouder of the work our team is doing to respond to this crisis."

[Click here](#) for the original article, posted on Creamer Media's Engineering News.

## **PERRIGO PRODUCES HAND SANITIZER**

Allegan, Michigan and Bronx, New York – April 14, 2020 – Perrigo Company plc is responding to the urgent needs of hospital, medical and first responder personnel who are running dangerously low on medical supplies. Over the next few months, the Company will donate at least 500,000 bottles of hand sanitizer to local hospitals and first responders facing urgent shortages of this essential product.



Once Perrigo learned about the shortage, the Company's team quickly mobilized to formulate, produce and ship hand sanitizer within only a few weeks' time. Perrigo is manufacturing the hand sanitizer at its New York facility and the product is being delivered to hospitals and healthcare providers in West Michigan, including Allegan General Hospital and Spectrum Health Hospitals, and the greater New York City area (New York/New Jersey/Connecticut) through the 'Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City,' which determines the agencies most in need of the product. The Michigan State Police will also receive hand sanitizer donations to aid first responders in their work with the general public.

Perrigo President and CEO Murray S. Kessler says, "As a leading global provider of self-care products, we have a special responsibility to do everything in our power to assist those in need. Given our close ties in the communities where we work and live, we were made aware of the shortage and critical need for hand sanitizers in local area hospitals. Our team in New York sprang into action and were able to develop a formula, get it into production and ready initial shipments to hospitals within an extraordinarily compressed timeframe. I am extremely proud of our front-line manufacturing employees, who have been working around the clock to support consumers, patients and hospitals at this imperative time."

Additional batches of hand sanitizer will also be provided to Perrigo essential employees in the U.S.

[Click here](#) to read the full article on Perrigo's media page.

## **STRYKER DONATES 22,500 EMERGENCY RELIEF BED KITS**

Bracing for the COVID-19 pandemic surges that have swelled across the globe, hospitals grew concerned about the potential for a sudden flood of patients – and not enough beds on hand to meet the projected demand.

To help solve this challenge for our customers, we raced to develop a new low-cost, limited-release emergency response bed. Our Emergency Relief Bed (ERB) was designed to serve those on the front lines of the global pandemic – ranging from hospital emergency departments to triage and pop-up areas of care.

Within just seven days of conceptualizing the idea, thousands of Emergency Relief Beds were assembled and ready to be delivered to some of the hardest-hit locations, including New York City.

[Click here](#) to read the full article from Stryker's news page.



# MEET THE FY21 OFFICERS

## **ROBYN CORNISH - PRESIDENT**

Robyn is currently a Senior Industrial Engineer at Pfizer Inc in Portage. She has been an active SWE member for the past 5 years. Over the last year, she has served as the SCMI President and really enjoys this fantastic opportunity. Her past SWE roles have included Air Zoo Corporate Engineering Challenge and Section Representative. She looks forward to further expanding our local activities in the areas of professional development and outreach. As the mother of a WMU Bronco engineering student and an active high schooler, she keeps busy with their extracurricular activities. She feels SWE has built some great connections over the past year and looks forward to seeing where they can go to enhance the organization.



## **MICHELLE SCOTT - VICE PRESIDENT**

Michelle is currently a Quality Engineer for Medical Devices and Combination Products at Pfizer. She graduated from the University of Akron in 2012 with a BS in Biomedical Engineering. She has enjoyed working with the SCMI section as the previous Secretary and Corporate Engineering Chair and also on the society's SWENEXT Outreach Committee. Michelle looks forward to further expanding our local activities in the areas of professional development and outreach.



## **COLLEEN BRANSLEY - SECRETARY**

Colleen is currently a product engineer with Parker Hannifin Pneumatic division, working in material compliance and product development. She graduated from the University of Dayton in 2016 with a BS in Physics and a BME in Mechanical Engineering. While in undergrad Colleen spent 3 years as the president of the Society of Physics Students and was involved in SWE as a member. She has enjoyed working with SWE on the CEC event as a Corporate Liaison in the past and is excited to get more involved in the local section.



## **ASHLEY KOEPLIN - TREASURER**

Ashley is currently a Supplier Quality Engineer with Solvay, working in the aerospace composite materials industry for the past four years. She graduated from Purdue University in 2014 with a BS in Chemical Engineering. She was the President of the Purdue SWE Section, led the charter of the Greater Lafayette SWE Section, served as the Society's Awards and Recognition Committee Chair for FY20, and has been serving as the SCMI SWE Newsletter Editor for the last year. She has enjoyed being a part of the Society at a global level, but is excited to get more involved locally!



# UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS

*Based on our survey results we are working to accommodate virtual events. Please stay tuned!!*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all, I think we can all safely say this year has thrown us several curve-balls. I certainly hope you are surviving them all well. All our lives have taken some getting used to. I have to say I have been exceptionally proud of how our companies have been working together to help the efforts, every effort helps. Hoping you read the highlighted efforts in this newsletter.



Social distancing and Covid restrictions have also changed the activities we can plan this year. Thank you to those of you who responded to the survey, it is helpful to direct our plans this year. A few key events to keep in mind.

- We are looking into moving the Women's panel to a virtual event, please stay tuned.
- The CEC will be moving to a virtual format, with Covid restrictions there is no way to execute the event. The planning team will be smaller this year, but please reach out to us if you would like to participate.
- We will be planning a webinar and virtual book club this fall.

Again please stay healthy and safe, we are working to build activities this year that fit into our current conditions.

- Robyn Cornish



## ABOUT SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN SWE

