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UR gets \$2.3M for heart study

Chief tech officer at iCardiac Technologies will lead effort

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The University of Rochester Medical Center has won a \$2.3 million National Institutes of Health grant to study the electrical patterns of the heart with the idea of reducing the toxicity of drugs used in cardiac treatment.

The formation of the Center for Quantitative Electrocardiology and Cardiac Safety is intended to foster research into ways to treat heart disease without triggering irregularities in cardiac rhythms.

Research in this field led several years ago

to the launching of a startup company in Rochester, iCardiac Technologies Inc., which works with drug companies on the development of safe

products in heart treatment.

The director of the new center, Jean-Phillipe Couderc, is also chief technology officer at iCardiac Technologies.

In cardiac care, it has been a focus of research nationally and internationally to create and produce medications that do not undermine the heart's electrical activity.

"Cardiac toxicity is one of the leading causes of removal of drugs from the market," Couderc said. "The goal of this center is to foster collaboration on an international scale and support research that will ultimately improve cardiac safety."

Last year, the federal Food and Drug Administration joined with UR to create an electronic database of electrocardiograph data.

The new center will use this data to help in the design of new ways to detect abnormal heart activity.

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