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O.C. medical device makers to show off wares

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By [BERNARD J. WOLFSON](#) / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Next Tuesday, leading executives, early stage entrepreneurs and investors in Orange County's thriving medical device sector will gather to discuss the latest trends and exhibit the most promising new technologies in their industry.

The two-day "Medical Device and Investor Forum," to be held in Irvine, is sponsored every year by the Orange County Technology Action Network – otherwise known as OCTANe – whose motto is "fueling innovation in the OC."



FILE PHOTO, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The mission of the 11-year old organization is to establish contact between entrepreneurs with bright ideas, people with the right experience to advise them, and investors with the capital to help nurture the concepts into full-fledged businesses.

At the heart of OCTANe's work is its "LaunchPad" program, in which early stage companies get in-depth evaluations of their plans, followed up with hands-on mentoring and assistance in the technical, creative and financial aspects of their business. The organization primarily targets medical technology and info-tech companies.

For OCTANe's president and CEO, Matthew

Jenusaitis, it is all about expanding the central space those industries occupy in the economic future of Orange County – and creating jobs along the way. Jenusaitis, a former executive at Boston Scientific and at the investment firm Warburg Pincus, spoke late last week with the Register. Here are excerpts of the conversation:

Q: What are some of the most exciting new developments among Orange County medical technology firms?

A: Orange County has two very prominent innovation clusters – information technology and medical devices. The most exciting development in this space is the convergence of these two previously disparate technologies into new technologies that will utilize both areas to significantly advance health care. A great example is a company called CNS Response in Aliso Viejo. They use huge databases to correlate drugs with the brain waves of specific patients to determine which drugs will be most effective in treating them for cognitive disorders. It's a cloud-based application, and one of their largest customers is the US military. There are more deaths in the military attributable to suicides than to combat casualties. It's a huge problem.

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