

Arguably the Best Vascular Surgery Invention in History



1959 - The Surgical Embolectomy Balloon Catheter was invented by Dr. Thomas J. Fogarty while working as a scrub tech for Dr. Jack Cranley (vascular surgeon pioneer at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, OH.)

While dealing with peripheral vascular occlusions routinely, Dr. Cranley challenged Fogarty to develop a better method for removing clots than the standard open procedures of the time; many of which ended up as amputations.

The first Fogarty Balloon Catheter was used in peripheral arteries in the early 1960s. Latex glove parts (the pinky finger of the glove) were bonded to the catheter and inserted surgically with a small cutdown.

The Fogarty Balloon Catheter was eventually patented 10 years later in 1969; however, most surgeons regarded the invention as “overly simple”, “lacks any proven credibility”, and “too small ... the bigger the incision the better the surgeon”.

Dr. Thomas Fogarty continued to hand-make these tools and share them with his colleagues during residency and surgical training. Through physician relationships, Fogarty eventually hooked up with Lowell Edwards (engineer in Irvine, CA) to fine-tune and manufacture the product. Edwards Lifesciences continued to manufacture the Fogarty Balloon 60 years later until a recent asset acquisition by Becton Dickinson.

The Fogarty Balloon invention is arguably the most valuable surgical tool for vascular surgeons in treating vascular clots (fresh to adherent clots). It's a surgical procedure driven by simplicity, a consistent mechanism of action, and a predictable result.

2025 - At iCHOR Vascular we took that same principle of simplicity, consistency, and predictability to package endovascular solutions that not only remove vascular occlusions safely and effectively, but also start addressing the health economics associated with these procedures.



Co-Founders, Tim Blair & Dr. Troy Long
First 7F Animal Lab (Minn,MN)

The **iSWEEP** combination thrombectomy & embolic protection all-in-one system is optimized to simplify peripheral vascular clot removal.

Simple, Proven, Versatile

