



with different situations and enjoy meeting people.

Memorial’s program is offered to patients on the Center for Rehabilitation, both in the therapy area and patient rooms. Susan Higgins, owner/handler of her pug dog, Bridget, currently visits Memorial’s rehab patients once a week for one hour. Bridget has been a therapy dog for the past six years.

Dr. Rafal adds, “You can feel the joy and see the smiles that our lovable volunteers bring to all.”

The owners ensure their animals meet all the standards set by Therapy Dogs International, Inc. for medical pet therapy, including providing licensing, credentialing and general liability insurance. ❖

Pictured left to right in The Center for Rehabilitation at Memorial Hospital, Susan Higgins, owner/handler of Bridget, therapy dog, visiting with William Black, a rehab patient and Providence resident, and Keith Rafal, MD, MPH, chief of rehab and medical director of the Center for Rehabilitation.

URI engineering students develop wristband to measure tremors in PD

KINGSTON – For the 4 million people worldwide with Parkinson’s disease, a smart wristband invented by a team of University of Rhode Island engineering students could let them lead healthier lives.

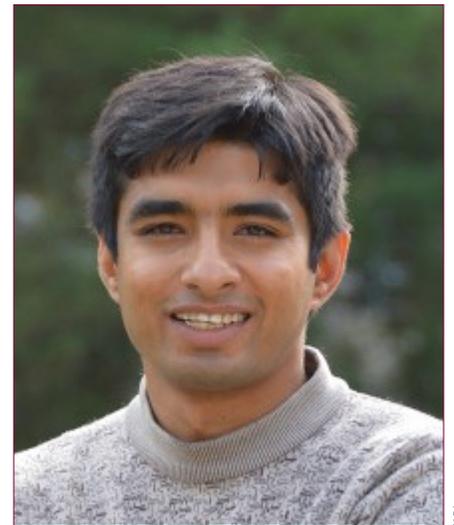
Known as TeleTremor, the wristband uses high-quality motion sensors to detect tremors and movement difficulties in people with Parkinson’s disease and send the information over a secure Internet connection to doctors. Though

innovative visualizations, TeleTremor enables neurologists to make more informed decisions by measuring the effect of prescribed medications and progression of the disease.

Biomedical engineering student **TREVOR BERNIER**, computer engineering student **JOSEPH TUDINO** and electrical engineering student **AKINTOYE ONIKOYI** teamed up to design the system and build a prototype.

In March 2015, they garnered international exposure as one of 23 finalists at the International Undergraduate Global Health Technologies Design Competition at Rice University in Houston.

“TeleTremor is a product of URI’s continuous efforts toward nurturing excellence, leadership, innovation and real-world experience through collaboration in our next generation of engineers who are acquiring the right skills for today’s highly dynamic marketplace,” says **KUNAL MANKODIYA**, an assistant professor of biomedical



URI’s Kunal Mankodiya, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering, supervised the team.

engineering who supervised the team.

It’s not the first time Mankodiya and his students have leveraged smart technology to improve patient care. Another team of students is working on a smartphone system that can monitor vital signs and send the information to doctors over the Internet. It’s all part of the college’s push to connect education with improving lives. ❖



URI engineering students showcase TeleTremor at the International Undergraduate Global Health Technologies Design Competition.