

MATERNA

Materna

Innovation

Materna Medical is developing a device to prevent maternal pelvic damage during childbirth, and ease the delivery process. Over 80 percent of women who deliver vaginally will suffer tears, and roughly 50 percent of women will suffer from permanent pelvic muscle damage that will lead to pelvic disorders later in life. Pelvic floor disorders among women are very common. Approximately 11 percent of all women in the United States will undergo surgery to treat a pelvic floor disorder, and over one-third of all women currently suffer from symptoms. Damage resulting from vaginal delivery is the biggest indicating factor. To prevent this damage, Materna's device slowly prepares the pelvic tissues during labor to maximize their stretch. While tissues like the cervix slowly expand over many hours, the tissues of the pelvic floor do not. Perhaps by slowly stretching these tissues during labor and optimizing their stretch, we can prevent this damage from occurring. By preparing the pelvic soft tissues for delivery, the Materna device aims to not



only prevent tears and pelvic muscle damage, but also reduce the time for delivery, reduce instrument deliveries, and improve maternal postpartum quality of life. Materna originated from the Stanford Biodesign Program, and is founded by Mark Juravic and Michael Stewart.

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Innovation is the lifeblood of medical advancement and the key to raising the bar for patient care. Yet the traditional process for medical innovation is fraught with obstacles that hinder the development of new ideas. That's why Dr. Thomas Fogarty, a preeminent physician innovator, founded this educational, nonprofit organization. Here, we build upon Dr. Fogarty's invaluable experience to provide a streamlined alternative path for entrepreneurial innovators working on promising new therapies. We hand select several candidates for inclusion in our Innovation Cultivation program, and provide access to expert intellectual, physical, and financial resources designed to propel medical concepts from initiation to application. The program offers direct mentorship every step of the way. Materna is one of the showcase participants in the program.



**Fogarty Institute
for Innovation**

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