

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

Re: Investigation of the Spectrum Requirements for Advanced Medical Technologies, Amendment of Parts 2 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Establish the Medical Device Radio Communications Service at 401-402 and 405-406 MHz; DexCom, Inc. Request for Waiver of the Frequency Monitoring Requirements of the Medical Implant Communications Service Rules; Biotronik, Inc. Request for Waiver of the Frequency Monitoring Requirements for the Medical Implant Communications Service Rules, *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Notice of Inquiry and Order*

I am pleased that the Commission is undertaking this effort to reexamine the spectrum requirements for advanced medical technologies, and I thank the staff of the Office of Engineering and Technology for its work on this item. Our goal – to create an environment that fosters continuing improvements in medical devices through flexible spectrum allocations and minimum regulatory requirements – is laudable.

I am delighted that the Commission will play a role in working to bring cutting-edge technologies to fruition in order to improve the quality of life for all Americans. The horizon is exciting.

- For those with heart disease: these new technologies offer the promise of improved cardiac pacemakers and defibrillators that monitor and report on heart functions with increased sophistication;
- for patients with sleep disorders, depression or other mental illnesses: the development of vests worn on the body that capture cardiopulmonary and other medical data and facilitate wireless transmission of the readings to health care providers in real-time;
- for those with diabetes: the promise of implanted blood glucose sensors that would not only monitor and wirelessly transmit readings directly to health care providers, but would directly manage medications; and
- for patients with eye disorders such as macular degeneration: the real potential for increased eye function through microchip technologies.

I am also pleased that the Commission seeks to permit multiple players to operate in the medical device spectrum band. While we must be mindful of the need to avoid potential harmful interference to other in-band operations, facilitating competition in the medical device market is particularly important given the ageing U.S. population (76 million baby boomers will reach retirement age within the next decade), and the corresponding need for an increased number of our citizens to participate in more frequent health monitoring. I am hopeful that a proliferation of devices will lead to decreased health care prices and improved quality of care, while also allowing patients the ability to lead more independent lives.

I look forward to working closely with the Chairman and all of my Commission colleagues as we move forward. And, I encourage all interested parties to join us in this exciting work.

