FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING TESTOSTERONE THERAPY, TESTING IS A LENGTHY AND EXPENSIVE PROCESS THAT REQUIRES BLOODWORK AND A LAB. AS SUCH, MANY PEOPLE CHOOSE TO GO WITHOUT TESTING BECAUSE THEY EITHER CANNOT AFFORD IT OR IT TAKES TOO MUCH TIME TO HEAR RESULTS.

NOW, RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI ARE DEVELOPING A BETTER WAY TO MEASURE TESTOSTERONE LEVELS.

CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING PROFESSOR MARIA FIDALGO HAS BEEN WORKING ON DEVELOPING THE T-METER. THE T-METER IS SIMILAR TO A GLUCOSE METER, BUT INSTEAD OF MEASURING SUGAR LEVELS FOR PEOPLE WITH DIABETES, THE T-METER WOULD MEASURE TESTOSTERONE LEVELS IN A PATIENT’S BLOOD.

TO CONDUCT A TEST, PATIENTS PROVIDE A BLOOD SAMPLE. TEST STRIPS THEN ABSORB THE TESTOSTERONE HORMONE AND START TO CHANGE COLOR. THAT SHIFT IN COLOR IS READ WITH A UNIT THAT IS PLUGGED INTO A CELL PHONE, THUS PROVIDING INSTANT RESULTS AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON, AND AT A FRACTION OF THE PRICE.

“At the end of the day, your measurement is going to be more reliable and more stable, and we believe a lot more accurate.”

WITH THE NEW TECHNOLOGY, THE COST OF TESTOSTERONE TESTING WILL BE REDUCED FROM AROUND FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS TO UNDER TWENTY.

THIS PROJECT RECEIVED FUNDING THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI’S COULTER TRANSLATIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM. THE GRANT IS MEANT TO HELP THEM TAKE THEIR IDEA FROM RESEARCH TO MARKET.

I’M CAILIN RILEY, WITH A MIZZOU SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE.