This category, Continuous Glucose Monitors and Insulin Pumps, together form the basis for the creation of a long-sought dream among people with diabetes and their healthcare providers: the artificial pancreas.

The artificial pancreas will be a device that takes real-time blood sugar-level data provided by a CGM and sends it to an insulin pump that will inject a suitable dose of insulin, or glucagon, depending on blood sugar level, without any intervention from the person wearing it.

For type 1s especially, the artificial pancreas will be an instrument of true liberation from the constant demand throughout the day to inject insulin or treat a hypoglycemia episode.

The keys to the effectiveness of CGMs is their compactness and robustness. Current CGMs lie flatter to the body than previous versions, allowing users to wear them undetected. They are also stronger, better able to stand up to the wear and tear inflicted by such daily activities as bending, jogging, jumping, or the occasional collision with an object or another person.

On a more abstract level, we may be looking soon to see all CGMs covered by Medicare and other healthcare plans. The impending epidemic of type 2 diabetes in the United States—and estimated 90 million are now considered prediabetic—means a good case will be made to lower the costs of diabetes by providing technology that helps eliminate the damage from unmonitored, uncontrolled blood sugar levels.