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Upstate announces winners of 2018 Medical Device Innovation Challenge

SYRACUSE, N.Y.— Medical devices aimed at increasing mobility for individuals with bone abnormalities, cutting the risk of medical errors, decreasing energy costs for mobile medical refrigeration and storing much-needed medications in a bracelet for easy access are some of the winners selected to participate in 2018 Medical Device Innovation Challenge (MDIC), sponsored by Upstate MIND (Medical Innovation and Novel Discovery Center) at the Central New York Biotech Accelerator (CNYBAC) at Upstate Medical University.

They winners receive free admittance to business-related workshops, including the Medical Device Concept to Commercialization Boot Camp, which is supported by an Empire State Development (ESD) NYS Certified Business Incubator Grant. This networking and comprehensive education resource for innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs was established through and supported by collaborative partners at CNY Biotech Accelerator, NextCorps (formerly High Tech Rochester) and the Science+Technology Law Center at Syracuse University and is supported by extensive innovation ecosystem partners. The intent of the Boot Camp is to promote understanding of and build networks for innovative and technology-driven biotech product and service development and commercialization. An earlier session of the Boot Camp was held Sept. 13 and 14; the next session is Oct. 18 and 19.

“We continue to be impressed by the innovative concepts and strategies for new medical devices and technologies,” said Associate Dean for Academic and Industry Relations and Chief Innovation Officer Robert D. Corona, DO, MBA. “Especially important is the underlying theme of these ideas, which is to improve the human condition, enhance patient safety and reduce costs.”

Companies selected as winners of the 2018 Medical Device Innovative Challenge are:

—Sea Legs, which aims to increase mobility for individuals with bone abnormalities by improving the ankle-foot orthosis (AFO). Children and adults with certain medical concerns wear AFOs which can correct the way individuals walk or prevent bones from breaking and most must wear the AFOs at all times. The problem, especially for children, is that exercising in water is recommended as a safer alternative for patients and the current use AFO is time-

consuming to apply and is a bulky, heavy solution. Sea Legs has designed a waterproof AFO with specialized features in response to patient needs.

—Avant Medical Systems Inc. is a medical device development company that has designed and patented a device that will help medical professionals deliver better care, by reducing medical errors and thereby malpractice liability, while improving the quality of patient comfort and care.

—Celltomics is a pathology cell processing start-up designed to address the problem of diminutive specimens and the ever-increasing amount of tests that are being required of them. Celltomics's technology has the capacity to revolutionize personalized medicine laboratory methods.

—ANDRO Computational Services is developing an innovative spinal medical device to support a self-learning, smart-assist stabilizer leveraging ANDRO's AXLForce C4 AI software and machine-learning technologies.

—Hive Refrigeration is a design firm creating technological solutions to decrease the energy expenditure and monitor mobile medical refrigeration capabilities. Its line of products is being created to solve issues around energy dependent, immobile and unmonitored temperature systems in current medical refrigeration units.

—In-Spire aims to provide an easy, stylish way to access medications while on-the-go for more convenience or use in an emergency. In-Spire is a customizable sleek band integrated with a small inhaler. The bracelet can be refilled after each use. To access the medication, individuals use their teeth—Bite Actuation Method—to activate the flow of medication. This patent-pending product is entering the market at a time when interest in wearable technology is growing.

—Inventase, LLC is an early phase start-up company developing a novel urinary catheter aimed at reducing the number of catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI). These types of infections are the single leading cause of nosocomial infections during hospital admissions and represent a huge burden to hospital systems and third-party payers. This device would significantly reduce the number of infections per year.

Central New York Biotech Accelerator (CNYBAC) at Upstate is a 52,300 square foot facility offering wet and dry labs, services, coordinated resources, targeted mentorship and education to individuals and startup companies involved in the commercialization of biotech innovation.