

Innovators Win Acceleration Support and Seed Funding for Solutions to Curb Opioid Epidemic in New York

New York, New York – February 1, 2019 – Competing against five other teams during the [Empire State Opioid Epidemic Demo Day](#) on January 31, a cross-disciplinary panel of expert judges awarded Team QuikReversal a grand prize of \$10k and six months of acceleration support through the [CAMTech Accelerator Program \(CAP\)](#). Winning the Community Empowerment Award, Team Recover-We will also receive six months of support through the CAP.

Team QuikReversal includes Asher Varon of NYU Tech4Health and Morgan Cambareri of the New York State Psychiatric Institute who developed an intranasal patch that releases naloxone to prevent overdose from opioids.

Team Recover-We innovated a widget that joins reliable, local resources and human compassion with online search for addiction recovery. The team includes Carlee Hulsizer of Youth Voices Matter, Carol Michelle Hulsizer of Mission Recovery Hope, Gautham H of Columbia University, Wendy Lin of USAID Global Health Supply Chain, Dr. Angela Kedzior of Bowery Resident's Committee, George Chao of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Dr. Kevin Chen of Yale University School of Medicine.

Demo Day was the last leg of the Empire State Opioid Epidemic Innovation Challenge and an opportunity for six teams to present progress made 90 days after co-creating innovations to curb the epidemic at the Challenge Summit and Solutions Sprint. Ahead of team pitches, Rob Kent of New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and Shelly Wiezman of Office of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo addressed innovators + offered insight on innovation from government.

A cross-disciplinary panel of expert judges at Demo Day included Shelly Weizman, Charles Monson of OASAS, Dr. Silvia Martins of Columbia University, Eric Feinstein of Northwell Health Ventures, Jim Miller of Partners Healthcare and Diana Hernandez of Columbia University.

The last leg of the Empire State Opioid Epidemic Innovation Challenge, Demo Day served as a competition for teams to show progress made 90 days after co-creating solutions to curb the local and national opioid epidemic at the Challenge Summit and Solutions Sprint in September 2018. All 12 teams that formed during the Solutions Sprint were eligible to compete at Demo Day. At the Solutions Sprint, four teams received seed funding and three months of acceleration support leading up to Demo Day. Award winners at the Solutions Sprint included Team Random Access Network (RAN), Team Recover-We, Team Quick Reversal and Team Addiction Recovery Kit (ARK).

“The goal of this Empire State Opioid Epidemic Innovation Challenge was to have talented individuals work together to create solutions to address the local and national opioid crisis,” said Staten Island Borough President Jim Oddo. “I’m pleased to see we have accomplished this goal. It’s a pleasure to do such important work with the Governor’s Office, NYS OASAS, Northwell Health, Columbia University’s Public Health and Engineering Schools, and CAMTech. I am looking forward to seeing the final solutions

from our Empire State Opioid Epidemic Demo Day and hope to apply the best of them on Staten Island.”

In partnership with the State of New York, Northwell Health, the Office of the Staten Island Borough President, Columbia Engineering, and Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, the Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies (CAMTech) at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) convened experts in public health, clinical medicine, engineering, design, business and government at the Empire State Opioid Epidemic Innovation Challenge from September 2018 - January 2019.

The Challenge Summit on September 28, 2018 gathered clinicians, government representatives, public health experts, the private sector and affected community members to facilitate a discussion of challenges and provide critical insight into the opioid epidemic. Following the Challenge Summit, the Solutions Sprint on September 29-30 served as an open-innovation platform for a diverse community to co-create innovations over a 48-hour period. Participants with diverse backgrounds and skill sets pitched 40 challenges related to the opioid epidemic and formed 12 cross-disciplinary teams to solve for these needs. Through cross-disciplinary collaboration, mentorship and award incentives, teams fostered ideas into novel innovations with the potential to save lives.

“It's really impressive to me how the passion of participants to solve a problems in the opioid crisis has been expressed with the hard work they have put in,” said Dr. Kris Olson, Director of CAMTech. “The progress that teams have made since September has been remarkable.”

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