Boston, MA December 31, 2017

Press Release from the MGH Ambulatory Practice of the Future (APF)

$175,000 Awarded to Students in 2017 Primary Care Technology Competition

Each year this unique competition for student innovations in primary-care technology has awarded major funding prizes to the most promising of the many projects submitted. This year’s First-Place Prize of $100,000 goes to Robert Mannino and his team at Georgia Tech for their innovative work to develop Non-invasive Technology for Patients’ Self-Management of Anemia.

Second-Place Prize of $50,000 goes to Charles Rabolli and his team at Rutgers University for a Rapid Point-of-Care Diagnostic to Discriminate Viral From Bacterial Infections.

In addition, each of the five Finalists from the large field of entrants in this competition received Awards of $5,000 to further their work and careers. All five Finalists and the full titles of their projects are listed at the end of this announcement. With these results, the portfolio of student-led primary-care projects supported by Prize funds over its nine-year history expands to eighty-five. The objective of all these projects has been to improve primary-care delivery at the frontlines of medicine and to advance the careers of engineering students working on challenges in that domain. Support from Prize Funding has also helped teams advance their work toward commercialization and dissemination.

In announcing the winners of this eighth annual national Prize for Primary Healthcare, Ronald Newbower, PhD, Director of the APF’s Prize competition, stated “Each year we have been delighted with the quality of the entries this Prize competition has elicited from engineering students around the country. They are clearly eager to develop innovative technologies to address international as well as national challenges in primary care. We hope they will serve as role models for others in their field. We are proud to have been able to support their efforts.”

Dr. Benjamin Crocker, Medical Director of the MGH APF, added “In our commitment to improve the paradigm of care for patients, we seek new tools, enabled by novel technologies, which can improve our ability to make rapid and more accurate medical decisions and engage patients in their care, whether patients are in the clinic or elsewhere. We believe that with such tools, the primary-care teams of the future will play an even more effective role in streamlining diagnosis and treatment, thereby reducing the cost and adverse outcomes that result from inefficiency and delay in appropriate care.”
About This Prize for Student Innovation in Technology for Primary Healthcare

These awards have been made possible through a generous gift from the Gelfand Family Charitable Trust. “The challenge of delivering affordable excellent primary care presents an opportunity for those students interested in engineering solutions to make truly profound contributions” said Mark Gelfand, a principal in the trust. “I am pleased with the continued success of this unique competition in driving toward that goal.”

About the Ambulatory Practice of the Future

Launched in 2010, The Ambulatory Practice of the Future (APF) is an innovative team-based patient-centered primary care practice at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). APF serves its employee population and their dependents in innovative ways not tied to the traditional office-visit paradigm, and with a reimbursement model reflecting quality of overall care outcomes rather than volume of visits or encounters. APF also collaborates with academic and industry partners to explore new pathways of care and new technologies with an eye towards efficiency, cost-efficacy, improvement of the patient experience, increased career satisfaction for primary-care teams and improved long-term outcomes. With this Student Prize Competition, the APF has engaged the creativity of engineering students nationally, at dozens of universities.

Additional Information

Additional information about the Prize for Primary Healthcare as well about the MGH APF may be found at http://massgeneral.org/af

The Five Finalists and Their Projects:

Robert Mannino, Georgia Tech; Noninvasive Inexpensive Smartphone App for Patient Self-Management of Anemia (First Place)
Charles Rabolli, Rutgers University; Point-of-Care Diagnostic for the Detection of Viral Versus Bacterial Infection (Second Place)
Anarup Ganguli, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Molecular Testing on Your USB Stick
Chris Idelson, University of Texas at Austin; Novel System to Mitigate Intrauterine Device Expulsion, with Focus During the Postpartum Period
Ruchi Patel, The Cooper Union; QuickStitch: The Single squeeze Stitcher