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Ohio Announces \$1 Million Prize Recipients of the Ohio Opioid Technology Challenge

*Awards Will Bring Four Groundbreaking New Solutions to Market
to Prevent and Treat Drug Abuse and Addiction*

COLUMBUS, OH -- Aug. 27, 2019 – Ohio is committed to finding new solutions in the battle against drug abuse and addiction. The opioid epidemic is creating devastating human, social and economic impacts, with Ohio and the Midwest being particularly hard. In an effort to save lives, over the past year innovators from around the world have been working to advance new technologies to help solve this global problem as participants in the [Ohio Opioid Technology Challenge](#). The last phase of the competition invited the 12 finalists ([previously announced](#)) to compete for additional funding to refine and cultivate their revolutionary ideas and technologies into products for market entry targeted at solving this critical issue facing our society.

Today, the top four most impactful solutions were each awarded a \$1,000,000 prize. They are: **Brave Technology Coop** (Vancouver, B.C., Canada); **DynamiCare Health** (Boston, Massachusetts); **Prapela** (Concord, Massachusetts); and **University Hospitals (UH)** (Cleveland, Ohio).

“As our state and country continue to battle the opioid epidemic, Ohio is dedicated to advancing bold, creative, innovative technologies that attack this devastating issue head-on,” said Lydia L. Mihalik, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency and chair of the Ohio Third Frontier Commission.

The Ohio Opioid Technology Challenge launched in October of 2017 with an \$8 million commitment to advance new ideas in the battle against opioid drug abuse and addiction. Companies have been competing in the Challenge, a partnership between the [Ohio Third Frontier](#) and global science and technology network [NineSigma](#), building and expanding their ideas along the way. In September 2018, 12 finalists were awarded \$200,000 to further develop their innovations, with today’s \$1 million prize winners chosen from among that group.

Ohio Opioid Technology Challenge Product Phase Prize Recipients

Brave Technology Coop (Vancouver, B.C., Canada)

Launched in 2015, the [Vancouver company](#) is developing the [Brave Button](#), a device that can be installed in the home of a person struggling with addiction or opioid use. When activated, the quarter-sized button immediately requests supervision or support in response to opioid overdose or other

emergency situations. The Brave Button aims to reduce overdoses and deaths from opioid use by providing a safe and trusted way to ask for help.

Brave has opened an office in Columbus, is working in Franklin and Hamilton counties, and is partnering with Franklin County's Justice Policy and Programs. The company is installing buttons for those at risk in supportive housing and providing access to its app for those leaving incarceration. Through this Challenge, Brave has found a critical need and looks forward to continuing its work in Ohio.

DynamiCare Health (Boston, Massachusetts)

The team at [DynamiCare Health](#) wants to help recovering opioid patients by providing positive resources and rewarding healthy behavior. Through their mobile app, DynamiCare facilitates testing, medical support, scheduling and more. Patients are scheduled for breath or saliva tests and self-administer and submit them through the app over selfie video. They can keep track of appointments and records through the app and are financially rewarded on a smart debit card for keeping medical or mental-health appointments and achieving milestones. The program can be used for recovery from drugs and opioids, alcohol or tobacco.

DynamiCare Health launched its first Ohio-based implementation at BrightView, the largest addiction treatment system in the state. The company is already working on expanding DynamiCare to BrightView's Toledo site and plans to scale through BrightView and partnerships with other healthcare providers. This Challenge has given DynamiCare Health strong and continuing momentum in the state of Ohio.

Prapela (Concord, Massachusetts)

The opioid epidemic impacts every community in Ohio, including its most vulnerable victims – newborns exposed to drugs in the womb. [Prapela](#) is focused on newborns born with opioid addiction. These newborns suffer from a racing heart rate and breathing problems, and continue to suffer from physical and neurodevelopmental disorders when they return home from the hospital. The company developed the [Stochastic Vibrotactile Stimulation](#) (SVS), a small mattress that generates a gentle, random vibration that replaces rapid breathing and irregular heart rates. The treatment is non-habit-forming and doesn't disrupt sleep schedules of the babies. Since starting in a barn two years ago, the project has moved into Boston's [Johnson & Johnson Innovation Center](#), secured patents and won awards from the [National Institutes of Health](#), FDA and multiple children's hospitals.

Prapela plans to deploy its solution by partnering with Ohio hospitals and organizations that recently completed a statewide quality improvement initiative for opioid-exposed newborns. Over the next two years, the company will complete two research studies and a statewide pilot program, offering the 52 participating Ohio hospitals free SVS pads for their bassinets. The award from Ohio makes all of this possible.

University Hospitals (UH) (Cleveland, Ohio)

The team at [University Hospitals](#) has developed an app, UH Care Continues, intended to prevent abuse and addiction, and overdoses related to opioids. The app streamlines workflows and interventions to ensure that care is provided at the right time, place and cost, creating a "safety net" as patients transition from hospitals back into their communities. The hospital makes its network of resources available to patients' needs. Since its introduction, University Hospitals estimates that it has kept 12,000 opioid pills out of the community in eight months.

By the end of 2019, a new Ohio company will be formed to support the commercialization of UH Care Continues. UH is also working with Bush Consulting, its Ohio-based partner, to replicate the immediate impact on the opioid crisis they've been able to achieve within the UH health system to other Ohio-based health systems and hospitals.

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- **Courtesy:** State of Ohio
- **All materials are embargoed until 10:00AM EDT on Tuesday, August 27, 2019.**
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