

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE INFORMATION:

Sarah Wolin, Director of Communications  
Office: 217.525.1173  
Cell: 217.622.6539

### ***Project Innovation Announces Finalists***

*Finalists will present innovations at the Final Competition on June 9*

Project Innovation is proud to announce the five finalists that will compete at the Final Competition on June 9, 2010. The Final Competition will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the LLCC Capital City Training Center and is open to the public. At the Final Competition, the five finalists will present their innovative ideas for improving healthcare. A winner will be selected and will receive a cash prize of \$15,000. The runner-up will receive an \$8,000 cash prize and the remaining finalists will each receive \$1,000.

Project Innovation is a Sangamon County medical contest that will provide funding to entrepreneurs and pioneering companies for medical-related innovation. As part of the overall Q5 goals to increase opportunities for business and economic growth in our communities, Q5 formed Project Innovation to encourage creative thinking by providing financial and business resources to advance medical care and treatment.

“We launched Project Innovations as a unique avenue to benefit our medical community, and at the same time, generate job growth and increase the overall prosperity and health of our community,” stated Mikal Sutton-Vereen, Director of Medical Development at The Chamber. “The five finalists each have presented innovative ideas that can benefit the medical community.”

The five finalists include:

**Name:** W. Allan Shears

**Location:** Divernon, Illinois

**Project Name:** Electrically Powered Pill Crusher

**Synopsis:** The Pill Crusher mechanically powders pills for those who cannot swallow a whole pill. Pill crushers on the market today can be difficult to use for those with arthritis. Mr. Shear’s device alleviates the issue of using your hands to crush pills.



## ENCOURAGING AND REWARDING INNOVATIVE THINKERS IN SANGAMON COUNTY

**Name:** Jardogs, LLCC

**Location:** Springfield, Illinois

**Project Name:** Patient Kiosk

**Synopsis:** The Patient Kiosk is a biometric authentication device that is more accurate and faster than a fingerprint. The Patient Kiosk allows the patient to check into a healthcare organization and update their records much more quickly than the traditional methods available.

**Name:** Dr. Schneider and Dr. Hwang

**Location:** Springfield, Illinois

**Project Name:** Wikiphen

**Synopsis:** Wikiphen is an interactive software tool and database where physician can list clinical features of a patient and derive a list and description of inherited syndromes. Wikiphen will be used to help the physician review and filter the preliminary diagnostic choices by adding or excluding characteristics.

**Name:** Dr. Om Jha

**Location:** Springfield, Illinois

**Project Name:** STUC-OM

**Synopsis:** The STUC-OM is a pediatric catheter that can be utilized many times longer than traditional pediatric catheters. The STUC-OM decreases invasiveness and infections in patients.

**Name:** Jack Milbourn

**Location:** Springfield, Illinois

**Project Name:** Tru-Balance

**Synopsis:** Tru-Balance is an orthotic insert that was developed to minimize pain associated with musculoskeletal misalignment.

Several leading organizations in our community are supporting Project Innovation, including, Mid-Illinois Medical District, Quantum Growth Partnership (Q5), The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and Bluestem Ventures.

For more information or to RSVP for the Final Competition, visit

**[www.SangamonProjectInnovation.com](http://www.SangamonProjectInnovation.com)**, or contact Mikal Sutton-Vereen, Director of Medical Development for The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce at 217-525-1173 ext 221.

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THE GREATER SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
1011 S. SECOND STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704

