



## Call for Proposals

# TechnoVation Competition 2016

Cash Prize  
\$1,000

### Attention TRI Graduate Students & Postdoctoral Fellows

Does your 2016 Research Day project have potential to become a technology-based commercial product, freeware instrument or laboratory tool with beneficial clinical, health system or community impacts?

**Sponsor:** The Center on Knowledge Translation for Technology Transfer, University at Buffalo (SUNY), USA, is sponsoring this fourth annual competition to promote the thoughtful consideration and planning necessary to transform student projects into market innovations with beneficial impacts.

**Eligibility:** Graduate students or postdoctoral fellows affiliated with one of TRI's 11 Research Teams and presenting at TRI Research Day 2016.

*The TechnoVation competition was a great opportunity for us to demonstrate our commitment to developing a practical solution to a serious healthcare problem. The feedback provided on our application combined with the recognition of the award, have been invaluable to the next stages of our project development.*

Tara Kajaks & Gordon Wong - 2015 winners

**Judging Criteria:** Add a **one page** supplement to your 2016 TRI Research Day submission to address the following three points, each in one bulleted paragraph. You may include photos and drawings on one additional page. *Do not* repeat any content from your Research Day abstract.

- #1 Present evidence that your project: a) is addressing an important need within a target beneficiary population; and b) represents a novel technology-based solution to that need.
- #2 List the *three key barriers* that must be overcome to generate a functional prototype with potential for claims of intellectual property as an invention. How will you overcome each barrier?
- #3 Summarize your *provisional* plan for either: a) Transferring the technology to an external partner, or b) Independently moving the resulting invention to the marketplace, community or health setting. Defend your choice.

**See below for important details to properly complete the proposal.** If you want to talk your idea through with someone before submitting, please contact Simon Jones [simon.jones@uhn.ca](mailto:simon.jones@uhn.ca)

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

By **October 20**, send an email containing your one page TechnoVation proposal addressing points 1 through 3. Also attach a copy of your original TRI Research Day poster. Send the email to ([TRI-ResearchDay@uhn.ca](mailto:TRI-ResearchDay@uhn.ca)) with subject line: *TechnoVation 2016*.

**Confidentiality Note:** All entries will be treated as confidential and reviewed only by University at Buffalo and Toronto Rehab personnel authorized under existing non-disclosure agreements. A select set of finalists will be asked to present a non-proprietary summary of their entry during the Research Day conference.



TRI Research Day - TechnoVation Award 2016

<b>Proposal Paragraph 1:</b> Concisely present evidence that your project is:	
1) Addressing an important need within a target beneficiary population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the target population- who will buy and who will use your product?</li> <li>Where will your product be used? (In clinics, at home, within the community)</li> <li>How many people are in the target population? That is, how many people have this problem and will benefit from your solution?</li> </ul>
2) Addressing a novel solution that does not already exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the end user’s alternatives to solving the problem. What are they currently doing/using?</li> <li>Discuss the ways that your solution is superior. Is it cheaper, faster, or more effective? Provide details.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposal Paragraph 2:</b> List the three key barriers that must be overcome to generate a prototype invention/protocol through engineering development, or barriers that must be overcome to reach the clinical or community marketplace.	
1) Some potential barriers may include questions related to the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How will it be manufactured, distributed and marketed? Who will perform these tasks and what challenges might they face? Do you already have any partners on board?</li> <li>Will your product be purchased out of pocket or will it have to go through an approval process so that the purchase can be reimbursed from the Canadian Health Care System?</li> <li>What type of testing is needed to prove efficacy or safety of your invention?</li> <li>What about intellectual property? Will your product have to be patented?</li> </ul>
2) Explain your plan for overcoming each barrier listed above	
<b>Proposal Paragraph 3:</b> Summarize your provisional business plan for either: a) Transferring the technology to an external partner, or b) Securing the required support to take the resulting device or service to market independently. Defend your chosen path with a sound rationale explaining why it is appropriate.	
1) Consider the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you have the resources to manufacture and market your product? If not, how will they be secured?</li> <li>How will your product benefit an existing company? Will it extend their existing product line or open up new markets?</li> </ul>
2) Note that your choices here will impact the barriers that you describe in your response to #2.	

Reference Resources:

• Need To Knowledge (NTK) Model - A guide to innovation for technology-based commercial devices and services. Click on toolbox links throughout the model for helpful tools that can be used to answer key questions and complete development activities: <http://kt4tt.buffalo.edu/knowledgebase/model.php>

• Paper discussing barriers and carriers to successful technology transfer: [http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/content/shared/sphhp/cat/kt4tt/assistive-technology-companies1/\\_jcr\\_content/par/download\\_0/file.res/grantee-technology-transfer-checklist.pdf](http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/content/shared/sphhp/cat/kt4tt/assistive-technology-companies1/_jcr_content/par/download_0/file.res/grantee-technology-transfer-checklist.pdf)