

Consumer Media Release

4 December 2014

Melbourne innovators win the \$100,000 Janssen Health and Technology Challenge (HaTCH) 2014

A team of Melbourne health tech innovators has won the inaugural Janssen HaTCH challenge – and will receive a \$100,000* grant to accelerate the development of their idea ‘Footprints’ with Janssen Australia. The announcement was made at an awards dinner held in Sydney yesterday evening.

Footprints, a sensor system developed by Qanticare Technologies, has the ability to predict falls in the elderly before they occur. The intention is that the device, when affixed to a walking frame, will continuously monitor a senior’s walking quality, informing doctors when interventions may be needed.

Entrepreneur Wesley Loh said; “Currently our healthcare system pays \$8.4b for injuries caused by falls¹. *Footprints* can help reduce these costs by preventing falls. The device may also improve the quality of life of Australian seniors and could allow them to remain independent for longer.”

Judging panellist and chair of the World Medical Association Council Dr Mukesh Haikerwal AO, said that *Footprints* demonstrated an innovative approach to addressing a critical challenge facing Australia’s ageing population.

Commenting on the high calibre of the dozens of competition entries received, Mr Chris Hourigan, Managing Director, Janssen Australia New Zealand said: “It has been encouraging to see the enthusiasm in which the start-up community embraced the inaugural HaTCH challenge. We look forward to continuing to work with this growing area in Australian healthcare.”

Winner Qanticare Technologies, said the grant will help accelerate the development of *Footprints*, bringing it to market sooner and benefitting Australia’s seniors community much earlier. “Janssen HaTCH has provided a unique environment to support the growing health technology start-up space in Australia. Opportunities like this are key to generating needed discussion on how technology can help improve the ways in which health and healthcare is delivered to Australians”, Mr Loh said.

Another finalist team from Melbourne, *Life Picture*, was awarded the first ‘Janssen HaTCH Booster Award’- providing the team with coaching to assist the initiative to thrive. *Life Picture* brings together urinary biomarkers with smartphone technology and may allow individuals to detect early signs of diseases via their smart phone app.

About HATCH

The Janssen Health and Technology Challenge (HaTCH) 2014 was open to all entrepreneurs, start-ups and community organisations with innovative ideas to help improve the Australian healthcare system. In October, a judging panel announced four finalists who workshopped their ideas with the support of the judges and mentors from the health business community.

Entrants needed to demonstrate how their innovation / idea has the ability to help improve Australia's health, specifically through: early disease detection and monitoring; access to and sharing of health information; and connectivity between Australians and healthcare providers and services.

Entries were judged by following prominent leaders in the Australian health and business community including:

- **Dr Mukesh Haikerwal AO:** Current chair of the Council of the World Medical Association, former president of the Australian Medical Association (AMA);
- **Amit Vohra:** Senior executive in the Australian health sector, one of the Top 50 Influential People in General Practice (Australian Doctor,2010)²;
- **Cyrus Allen:** Senior corporate executive specialising in customer experience and advisor to a number of start-ups;
- **Mick Liubinskas:** Technology entrepreneur, investor and advisor. His most successful companies are Oomph (iPad publishing) and Spreets;
- **Chris Hourigan:** Managing Director Janssen Australia New Zealand.
- **Jonathan Mullings:** Executive Director Health Care Solutions and Customer Excellence, Janssen Australia New Zealand

To view all finalists details visit **www.janssenhatch.com.au #JanssenHatch**

* Under the terms and conditions, payment of the \$100,000 is subject to the winner, *Footprints*, entering into a collaboration agreement with Janssen.

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1. Australian Ageing Agenda 2014, Seniors Stuck in Hospital awaiting aged care inquiry hears, <http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/2014/10/10/seniors-stuck-in-hospital-awaiting-aged-care-inquiry-hears/> (accessed 03 December 2014).
2. Australian Doctor, 2010, pdf version http://www.crikey.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/AD_TOP50_10.pdf (accessed 15 September 2014).