Penn Startups Raising Capital

Connected Health and Digital Health Companies

- **Cogwear** (Series A) provides clinical-grade insights into brain health, peace, and performance. Powered by nanotechnology sensors, machine learning, and breakthrough science, Cogwear's wearable technology enables physiological brain measurement and ongoing assessment for better care, lower costs, and extended lives.
- **Galileo** (seed) is developing decision support tools for medical professionals assessing medical images.
- **Neuralert Technologies** (Bridge to series A) offers non-invasive, wrist-worn medical devices to automatically detect and alert clinicians to the onset of stroke. Neuralert's proprietary algorithm analyzes arm asymmetry data, a key indicator of stroke, to enable faster stroke detection and enhance care delivery, thereby decreasing costs and reducing incidence of disability.
- **Vasowatch** (Pre-Seed) is developing a wearable medical device to predict the risk of postpartum hemorrhage, enhancing childbirth safety. Vasowatch's groundbreaking wearable technology exhibits up to 10x greater accuracy in predicting postpartum hemorrhage compared to existing approaches.
- **Vital Start Health** (Seed) has developed the first reproductive and maternity mental health platform that empowers moms and mental health practitioners to prevent and treat perinatal mood and anxiety disorders more effectively, equitably, and quickly using virtual reality for evidence-based care across pre-conception, birthing, and postpartum.
- **Nia Therapeutics** is developing groundbreaking brain computer interfaces to increase human performance and wellbeing. Nia is in preclinical studies for a possible treatment for memory loss due to traumatic brain injury.

Diagnostic Companies

- **Instanosis** (Seed) enables rapid and portable detection and quantitation of extremely low concentrations of biomarkers across many diseases. Its innovative InstaStrip-Fentanyl Rapid Test has received FDA clearance.
- **Vellum Biosciences** (Seed) is designing non-invasive imaging tools that can effectively monitor the kinetic profiles, biodistribution, and trafficking patterns of cell and gene therapies in patients.
- **Brainstorm Diagnostics** (Seed) is developing blood biomarker technology for the early diagnosis of traumatic brain injury.

Advanced Materials Companies

- **EnaChip** (Series A) is developing and commercializing a disruptive technology platform compatible with existing semiconductor manufacturing. Their innovative materials and manufacturing process for power management components, that exist in every electronic device, enables up to 70% solution size reduction, up to 30% efficiency increase, and up to 3X cost reduction.
- **Hydropore** (Seed) is developing a new approach for producing Hydrogen in a cost effective and sustainable process.
- **Agni Semiconductor** (Seed) is developing AlScN and other ferroelectric nitrides based non-volatile memory (NVM) technology for AI hardware both as stand-alone and embedded memory products.

Therapeutic Companies

- **Cantius Therapeutics** (Seed) has a unique and well-placed strategy to treat cachexia and block nausea/emesis. GRASP technology utilizes small peptides that penetrate the brainstem to antagonize the GFRAL-Ret receptor complex. This receptor complex, expressed exclusively in the brainstem, was recently established as the sole mediator of GDF15 (MIC-1) signaling, a cytokine critical in disease-induced cachexia, anorexia, and emetic behaviors from cancer, chemotherapy, and pregnancy-induced morning sickness.
- **EpiVario** (Series A) is a preclinical stage biotechnology company that is developing neuroepigenetic modulators to treat memory related psychiatric disorders. A newly discovered epigenetic regulatory mechanism, ACSS2, provides a novel target for treating memory-related neuropsychiatric disorders. Based on this paradigm-shifting finding, EpiVario is developing pharmacotherapeutics to treat anxiety and addiction disorders, including PTSD and alcohol use disorder.

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Therapeutic Companies

- **Intervir** (Series A) is a pre-clinical stage biotechnology company with an experienced drug discovery team that is focused on first in-class antiviral therapeutics. Intervir's novel, host-oriented mechanism of action disrupts budding, release and dissemination of viruses. Target indications are deadly hemorrhagic viruses and emerging and mutating viruses such as SARS-CoV2. The company is seeking funding of $7 million to advance through a phase I trial.
- **Linnaeus Therapeutics** (Series C) is a privately held clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of novel small molecule oncology therapies.
- **Mechano Therapeutics** (Seed) is developing a drug-delivery platform for enhanced delivery of therapeutics to musculoskeletal tissues. The company's microcapsule technology leverages the natural mechanical forces of the joint to activate drug release in a targeted and controlled manner.
- **PhylloPharma** (series A) is is developing a novel plant-based technology platform for cost-effective and shelf-stable protein delivery.
- **Trevarx LLC** (Seed) is developing a PARP inhibitor theragnostic platform to treat cancers. The combination of molecular imaging and radionuclide therapy is designed to precisely target specific tumor tissue.
- **Verismo Therapeutics** (Series A) is pioneering novel chimeric antigen receptor T-cells for cancer using CARs engineered to mimic the natural multichain design of killer immunoglobulin- like receptors (KIRs), an important family of immunologic receptors used by T- cells and NK cells. This novel KIR-CAR design is anticipated to improve persistence and efficacy against the most aggressive solid tumors.
- **Vetigenics** (Series A) is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company committed to improving the health of companion animals through the development of entirely species-specific, safe and effective antibody-based immunotherapies to treat their cancers and other chronic diseases.
- **StrongHolt** (Seed): A pre-clinical Duchenne muscular dystrophy gene therapy company that will move into the clinic this year.
- **Dispatch Therapeutics** (Series A) is a pre-clinical single cell therapy to be used across multiple solid tumor types. This round to be led by ARCH Venture Partners and will fund the company through its IND.

Medical Device Companies

- **AltruMed** (Seed) is focused on medical technologies in the harm reduction space, and is developing an armband that detects an opioid overdose and automatically injects the antidote.
- **Neoneur** (Seed) is focused on the monitoring and assessment of neonate and infant feeding, a key development parameter.
- **Ostiio** (Seed) offers a novel approach to correct craniofacial deformities and deficiencies utilizing a fully implantable, magnetically-driven, bony distraction device.
- **Ventru** (Seed) is developing neurosurgical innovations that improve safety and accessibility. Its novel Device for Intraventricular Entry (DIVE) is a stereotactic guide that assists surgeons with the safe placement of drains for patients suffering from hydrocephalus.
- **Cerespectus** (Seed) is addressing a critical challenge in medical treatment delivery to the central nervous system by developing a catheter that incorporates real-time anatomic video feedback and fluoroscopic assistance. This innovative approach aims to provide precise gene therapy delivery, tackling the complex issue of treating disorders within the central nervous system.
- **RightAir** (seed plus) is a MedTech pioneer that has developed the only portable, wearable cuirass-style ventilator designed to reduce the work of breathing for patients struggling with respiratory disorders. The simple and easy to use device is intended to offload the work of breathing without limiting the user's everyday activities, allowing patients to maintain or increase their physical activity and stay out of the hospital.
- **Avisi** (Series A) is developing a nanotechnology-enabled device designed to treat open-angle glaucoma. The device is an aqueous shunt that uses a network of microchannels to control drainage from the anterior chamber, thereby reducing eye pressure.