

## **Bench to Bedside 2020 Competition Postponed to September in Response to COVID-19**

Tuesday March 10, 2020

**Salt Lake City, Utah** In alignment with updated guidelines from the University of Utah and from the Utah Dept. of Health regarding the ongoing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, today the Center for Medical Innovation (CMI) announced the postponement of its annual Bench to Bedside Competition Night. Originally scheduled for April 6, 2020, the competition will now be held September 14, 2020, shortly after the start of the Fall 2020 Semester.

In its tenth year, the Bench to Bedside program is an annual competition dedicated to health care innovation. Over the course of the school year, student teams work to develop solutions to various needs-based problems identified by practicing clinicians and health care professionals. The program culminates in an annual competition night held at the Utah State Capitol Building, where teams present their innovative products and service solutions to competition judges, university leadership, family, friends, and members of the public. More than 40 teams competed at the 2019 event, with a variety of novel medical devices, software apps, and other innovative technologies.

“We understand these teams have worked very hard to prepare for the competition night, and it’s unfortunate that we’ll have to postpone Bench to Bedside until later this year,” said Dr. Bryan McRae, MD, interim director of the Center for Medical Innovation. “As leaders in health care innovation, and in order to preserve the conversations and interactions that have always been a highlight at B2B, we need to be proactive about minimizing the risks to our students, faculty, and industry mentors who will all be present on competition night.”

Teams participating in Bench to Bedside this year will be encouraged to continue developing and refining their solutions to participate in September’s competition. Additionally, the Center for Medical Innovation will provide additional funding to enable the teams to continue advancing their projects over the coming months.

The Bench to Bedside Executive Student Leadership Team and the Center for Medical Innovation would like to thank the many students, faculty, and industry partners from across the state of Utah for their support of this year’s program. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Bench to Bedside Competition event in September 2020.

For more information, please contact [b2b@utah.edu](mailto:b2b@utah.edu)



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