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Health Ecosphere holds showcase, demonstrates progress of innovators

TORONTO – “If innovations aren’t being used, it’s really just research.” These words were spoken by Harvey Skinner, co-chairman of the Health Ecosphere Innovation Pipeline, at the project’s first showcase, earlier this month. Dr. Skinner, a psychologist, is a professor at York University and was the Founding Dean of the school’s Faculty of Health.

The sentiment is the driving force behind the Health Ecosphere Innovation Pipeline’s core goal – taking health technologies from conception to commercialization. Since the project’s launch in 2016, more than 40 health technologies and enterprise solutions have received support in their development stages.

Earlier this year, in January, lead partners York University and Southlake Regional Health Services, along with University Health Network, invited the public and stakeholders to learn exactly how

the project has benefited industry and research institutes to develop personalized health technologies, including healthcare apps, medical devices and big data platforms.

Held at Telus Tower in downtown Toronto, 12 of the 55 project partners had the opportunity to showcase their work through a “speed-geeking” exercise, with five minutes to explain to attendees exactly what their technology is and how the Ecosphere project has contributed to its development.

Technologies featured in the showcase included:

- DashMD, a mobile application designed to help patients track, manage and find the care they need after they’ve been discharged from the hospital. The app will soon be tested in the Emergency Department and Childbirth Centre of Markham Stouffville Hospital.
- ForaHealthyMe Inc. a solution that

delivers a virtual clinic without walls by blending clinical protocols for prehabilitation and rehabilitation patient management with real time analytics, motion tracking, 3D avatars, video and gesture recognition technologies. The Fora-HealthyMe software and analytics engine

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enables a provider to create custom care plans for patients. Using data related to range of motion and muscle strengthening exercises, a provider can prescribe specific activities to patients prior to and after a surgical procedure.

- Medly, a heart care system. Prescribed by clinicians, Medly enables patients liv-

ing with heart failure a platform to record physiological measurements and symptoms. A comprehensive algorithm uses these measurements to assess the patient and in turn provides actionable self-care feedback. Simultaneously, their clinician receives real time alerts in the event of any significant changes to the patient’s condition. The system is developed by the eHealth Innovation team at University Health Network and is currently integrated into the standard of care for heart failure management at the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre.

The showcase event was clear evidence that the Health Ecosphere Innovation Pipeline is contributing to the vision of transforming health through continuous innovation and helping position Canada as a global leader in digital health. For more information on The Health Ecosphere Pipeline project and the technologies involved visit health-ecosphere.com.