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Software to interpret EEG for neurological disorders gets proof-of-concept funding

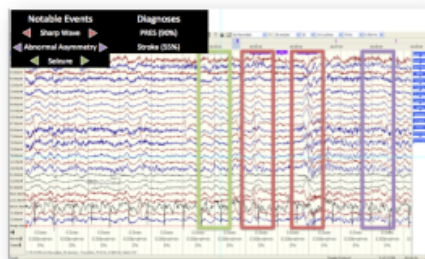
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December 3, 2013 6:31 pm by [Stephanie Baum](#) | 0 Comments

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A medical education teaching tool and software to speed up the diagnosis of [electroencephalograms](#) were a couple of the research projects picked for funding in the [University City Science Center's QED Proof of Concept](#) program, according to a [statement from the Science Center](#). The program invests in medical technology.



Dr. [Joseph Picone](#), an [electrical engineering professor at Temple University](#), got \$100,000 to advance his EEG reporting software to automatically analyze readings and inform diagnosis.

In an emailed response to questions, Picone said the software runs in real-time. As soon as the EEG is finished, the diagnosis and annotations are available. He said it could speed up diagnosis for EEG scans which currently can take several days to a week to read and report. "We don't want to paint physicians in a bad light since they are the customers for this technology. But obviously their process of manually reading these EEGs is time-consuming and a productivity bottleneck." The project is part of the award program's digital health track.

Dr. [Christof Daetwyler](#) of [Drexel University College of Medicine](#) produced an online teaching tool to improve physician interactions with patients using practice, assessment, and feedback. The company is called [WebPatientEncounter](#). The idea is to boost patient satisfaction scores for hospitals which would otherwise face reduced Medicare reimbursement. He received a \$100,00 award.

Digital health was introduced as a category last year. projects typically get funding partly through the Science Center and partly through the researcher's university. But in another change to the program, the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation is funding a portion of the awards, through [Startup PHL](#) with a \$500,000 loan. The program attracted 65 submissions from 14 universities in the Philadelphia region.

On the biotechnology front, two researchers

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received \$200,000 each. Dr. Samuel Gunderson of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, got his second award to validate a new therapeutic compound for pancreatic cancer. Gunderson previously got QED funding in 2010 for [gene technology that's now at the heart of his company, Silagene](#). Benjamin Blass of Temple University leads a program that is developing a potential drug therapy for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease.

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By Stephanie Baum

Stephanie Baum is the East Coast Innovation Reporter for MedCityNews.com. She enjoys covering healthcare startups across health IT, drug development and medical devices and innovations deployed to improve medical care. She graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania and has worked across radio, print and video. She's written for The Christian Science Monitor, Dow Jones & Co. and United Business Media.

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