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Drexel, Temple, Rutgers get \$600k from Science Center to support research

By Juliana Reyes (<http://technical.ly/philly/author/julianareyes/>) / staff

The **University City Science Center** awarded \$600,000 in grants to researchers at **Drexel**, **Temple** and **Rutgers**, according to a release

(<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20131203006563/en>).

The grants are through the Science Center's **QED** program, which funds local university research in hopes of getting professors' work to market. The program, which has awarded \$3.6 million in grants since 2009, is backed by federal, state and, now, city government money: as part of the city's **Startup PHL** (<http://startupphl.com>) program, the **Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation** invested (<http://technical.ly/philly/2013/03/19/startup-phl-first-round-capital-seed-fund/>) \$500,000 in QED last March. Other QED investors include the **William Penn Foundation** and **Wexford Science + Technology**.

Out of the 20 projects the Science Center has funded so far, five have had their technologies licensed and have raised more than \$9 million in funding after the initial QED investment.

This is the sixth round of QED investments. The awardees are below, as listed in the release:

- **Dr. Christof Daetwyler** of **Drexel University College of Medicine**, who is developing an online system to improve the communication skills of healthcare professionals using practice, assessment, and feedback. This project in the digital health track received business guidance from QED advisors **Shawn Bridy** and **Aaron Moskowitz** and will receive a total award of \$100,000.
- **Dr. Joseph Picone** and **Dr. Iyad Obeid** of **Temple University**, who is working on EEG reporting software that automatically analyzes readings and guides diagnosis. This project in the digital health track received business guidance from QED advisors Sina Adibi and Robert Solomon and will receive a total award of \$100,000.

- **Dr. Samuel Gunderson of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**, who is validating a new therapeutic compound for pancreatic cancer, one of the most difficult to treat. This project in the life sciences track received business guidance from QED advisors **Joseph Messina** and **Kevin O'Neill** and will receive a total award of \$200,000. This is Dr. Gunderson's second QED award.
- **Dr. Benjamin Blass of Temple University**, who leads a program that is developing a potential drug therapy for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease as it's popularly known. This project in the life sciences track received business guidance from QED Advisors **Bozena Korczak** and **Don Skerritt** and will receive a total award of \$200,000.

Juliana Reyes began as lead reporter at Technically Philly in July 2012. Previously, she was a city services beat reporter for the Philadelphia Daily News, as part of a project called "It's Our Money." She is learning to drive, learning to bike (in the city) but is an expert at taking SEPTA. She grew up in North Jersey and Manila, Philippines but she left the tropics for Bryn Mawr College, where she majored in linguistics. She now lives in West Philly.



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