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Idea Phase Prize Recipients

Judson Brewer, Associate Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry, UMass Medical School and Founder, Claritas MindSciences



Dr. Judson Brewer, MD, PhD, is a thought leader in the field of habit change and the "science of self-mastery." His published works and effective in-person and app-based treatment programs for smoking, emotional eating and anxiety have earned him national recognition and have been featured in 60 Minutes, TED, Time magazine, Forbes and more.

As an addiction psychiatrist, Dr. Brewer has seen the effects of the opioid epidemic firsthand through his patients. He suggested applying principles of mindfulness to develop a digital therapeutic to help addicts curb their addiction and bridge the gap between currently-available treatments and developing new digital solutions.

Kelly Cashion, Research Software Engineer, University of Dayton Research Institute



Kelly Cashion is a software engineer and scientist focused on the areas of machine learning and deep learning. As a research software engineer at the University of Dayton's Research Institute, Kelly studies neurofeedback, a scientific application using real-time display of brain activity to help patients self-regulate brain function.

Cashion and The University of Dayton Research Institute suggested her research in neurofeedback be applied to medical technology to empower patients to better understand the effects of addiction on their brains, take back control, and accelerate their path towards recovery.

Dr. Yong Pei, PhD, Co-Founder and CTO, Kinematechs LLC



Dr. Yong Pei is the co-founder and CTO of Kinematechs LLC, a company researching and commercializing solutions for orthopedic surgery training, planning and rehabilitation. Dr. Pei is also an associate professor of Computer Science and Engineering at Wright State University.

Dr. Pei and the Kinematechs team suggested an augmented reality (AR)-based interactive coaching system. The idea would use motion tracking technologies to customize a patient's physical rehabilitation

routine and enhance the results of therapy. This improved physical rehabilitation would minimize a patient's need for prescription pain medication and reduce the potential for addiction.

David Murray, Founder, The Edification Project



David Murray is a business development executive with over 30 years of experience in advertising. Additionally, David teaches college courses in Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation, an endeavor that led him to establish the Edification Project.

Murray and the Edification Project team suggested a virtual reality (VR) technology focused on preventing addiction in teens and young adults. The idea would make these groups aware of the risks and dangers associated with opioids and help frame their attitudes toward avoiding opioid abuse.

Lee Barrus, CEO and Director of Marketing, InteraSolutions



Lee Barrus is CEO and Director of Marketing for InteraSolutions, a company founded to address the critical need for physicians and other providers in various fields to better understand, and respond to, their patients' psychological state throughout treatment.

Barrus and the team at InteraSolutions suggested an opioid risk assessment screening app to identify patients with risk factors for opioid abuse. The idea would enable medical professionals to flag at-risk patients and direct them towards alternative methods of pain management, preventing a potential path towards opioid dependence.