

Six finalists take aim at 'grand challenges' in Canada's first Global Impact Competition

Event supports and celebrates Canadian ingenuity and entrepreneurship

March 26, 2014 (Guelph, ON) – Six young men and women with ambitious and innovative ideas on how to improve the lives of one million Canadians are honing their pitches for Singularity University's **first Canadian Global Impact Competition (GIC)**, which will be hosted by **Innovation Guelph** April 2 in Guelph, Ontario.

The inaugural Canadian event – one of 16 competitions taking place this spring in countries around the world – invited “big ideas” in response to the question: *“How can we improve the standard of living of one million Canadians in the next five years through the use of technology?”*

The competition **winner will receive tuition-free enrolment in Singularity University's 10-week Graduate Studies Program** at the prestigious NASA Research Park in the heart of Silicon Valley, California – a prize with an estimated value of \$30,000 USD.

“Our six finalists represent the next generation of game-changing thinkers and entrepreneurs who will help solve Canadian and global challenges,” said Dr. Adam Little, GIC Canada organizer and spokesperson, and an alumnus of Singularity University's 2013 Graduate Studies Program.

“SU's program is an incredible opportunity to be inspired and mentored by top CEOs, inventors, artists, government leaders and other highly accomplished individuals. It's a transformative experience that builds relationships and spurs innovation and disruptive change in the graduates' home countries.”

Each finalist will have six minutes to pitch their idea to a panel of distinguished judges at the gala event at the Linamar Hasenfratz Innovation Centre in Guelph (*see event details at right*).

“The Canadian Global Impact Competition will catalyze change for growth, prosperity and community wellbeing across the country,” said Dr. Jamie Doran, Chief Operating Officer of Innovation Guelph. “Innovation Guelph thanks all our government and community partners who have provided support and worked with us to bring this global challenge to Canada.”

The Global Impact Competition was created by Singularity University co-founders **Dr. Ray Kurzweil** and **Dr. Peter Diamandis** to address the grand challenges facing the world. The competitions serve as a platform to identify outstanding entrepreneurs, leaders, scientists and engineers who propose the most innovative project to positively impact one million people in their country or region in the next three to five years.

Limited public seats are available for the event. Please register using Eventbrite:

<http://canadagic.eventbrite.com>.

Learn more about the finalists' big ideas at <http://buildingabettertomorrow.ca/meet-the-finalists/>.

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ABOUT INNOVATION GUELPH

Innovation Guelph (IG) spearheads innovative approaches for prosperity and community wellbeing. Our goal is to be the Guelph regions' central institution for the support of entrepreneurship. Since launching in October 2010, Innovation Guelph has seen 450 companies come through its doors for business advisory services, and maintains about 100 active clients monthly. IG has a team of nine Entrepreneurs-in-Residence who have played a part in the creation of more than 200 new jobs, and helped our clients retain an additional 300 jobs. IG has also helped to channel over \$12 million into our client companies over the past three years; with an additional \$10 million in angel investment into 17 companies on the table for 2013/2014. Visit www.innovationguelph.ca to learn more about how Innovation Guelph helps ideas start, grow, and thrive by cultivating entrepreneurs, developing powerful partnerships, and supporting innovative initiatives.

CONTACTS

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Finalists

Six finalists were chosen from a field of 65 applicants from across Canada.

They are:

- **Gavin Armstrong**, Guelph, Ont. – CEO of the Lucky Iron Fish™ Project, a simple, clinically proven, affordable solution to iron deficiency
- **Ruslan Dorfman**, Maple, Ont. – a molecular geneticist, founder and CEO of GeneYouIn Inc., developer of the personalized drug response database PillCheck
- **Tamara Etmanski**, Calgary, Alta. (currently residing in the U.K.) – a recent University of Oxford PhD graduate (engineering) with an idea for an online thesis archive called Stackz
- **Oded Greemberg**, Montreal, Que. (currently residing in Haifa, Israel) – an innovation strategist with an IT solution to neutralize risks from asset-sharing transactions
- **Lily Jain**, Oakville, Ont. – a medical geneticist, integrative medicine practitioner and co-founder of the HealthBuddy medical device
- **Gord Stephen**, Ottawa, Ont. – a software developer with the goal of making energy efficiency investments easy, automatic and scalable

Event Details

Limited seats are available.

Register using EventBrite:

canadagic.eventbrite.com

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

VIP Reception: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Competition: 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Linamar Hasenfratz Innovation Centre
700 Woodlawn Road W.
Guelph, Ontario