



A NATURE RESEARCH AWARD IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MERCK



Oxford Brain shortlisted among finalists for prestigious Nature Research and Merck

Spinoff Prize

2nd July 2020

Oxford, 02 July 2020 – Oxford Brain Diagnostics has been named as one of 12 finalists in the Nature Research Spinoff Prize, a global competition established in collaboration with Merck KGaA to celebrate the leading spin-off companies who excel in their blend of original science, innovative application and the development of a sound business strategy. This is a tremendous achievement, given the scope of the competition from nearly 150 other companies. Oxford Brain Diagnostics goes on to pitch for a place in the final. Read more below.

Twelve companies pitch for a chance to win The Spinoff Prize

Young science-based university spinoff companies showcase their visions and strategies in the final rounds of a new award created by Nature Research and Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

London | New York | Darmstadt, 30 June 2020

Today, Nature Research, part of Springer Nature, and Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, announce the twelve finalists of this year's inaugural Spinoff Prize. Selected from almost 150 entrants by an expert panel of judges, the finalists include companies working on solutions to a broad range of challenges such as dementia, diabetes, heart disease and indoor air pollution. A supplement published today in Nature profiles each of the finalists, which are listed in the table in the notes section below.

The Spinoff Prize has been established by Nature Research in partnership with Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. The prize aims to provide visibility and support for academic entrepreneurs and their companies, worldwide. All university spinoff companies formed on or after 30 November 2016 were eligible to apply. The winner receives a cash prize of €30,000 (thirty thousand EUROS).

Finalists of this year's Spinoff Prize will pitch to a panel of expert judges during two rounds of an online slam. In the first round, all twelve companies will explain in six minutes how their company translates

original, high-quality scientific research into products or services that address market problems and make a positive impact on society. Four companies will then be selected to participate in the second round of the slam, which will be part of the Future Insight Virtual Event on 13 July 2020.

In addition to the twelve finalists, the judges selected 32 promising companies as “ones to watch”. These included, for example: NanoRed (spun off from the National Cancer Institutes in the US), which works on the precision delivery of cancer immunotherapies; PetMedix (spun off from the Sanger Institute in the UK), which uses monoclonal antibodies to treat disease in dogs and cats; and Nanovatif Materials Technologies (spun off from the Middle East Technical University in Turkey), which uses silver nanowires integrated into fabrics to make heated clothing. The companies to watch are also listed in Nature’s supplement.

Richard Hughes, VP, Publishing, Nature Research Partnerships, said: “We are delighted to have received so many strong applications from university spinoffs worldwide. By featuring the most promising companies in Nature, we hope to raise their profiles. We encourage potential collaborators, partners or investors to get in touch with the founders to build relationships. The challenging external circumstances require that the closing rounds of the Spinoff Prize competition – during which we will have an opportunity to meet the entrepreneurs and hear them describe their work in finer detail – will take place as virtual pitch events. This provides an opportunity for anyone to participate from home. We invite you to join us.”

Ulrich Betz, VP Innovation Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, said: “We are proud to have The Spinoff Prize in the frame of Curious Future Insight – science for a better tomorrow. The recent developments show how important it is to boost scientific and technological progress worldwide to solve the problems of today and to enable the dreams of a better tomorrow.”

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