

May 2, 2018 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Venture Connectors announces 2018 Venture Sharks winner

Innovative Therapeutix wins \$20,000 prize in the 9th annual business pitch competition

(LOUISVILLE, KY) – Venture Connectors has named **Innovative Therapeutix Inc.** the winner of its 9th annual <u>Venture Sharks™ business competition</u>. Innovative Therapeutix is the developer of LullaFeed, a feeding device for infants that uses music reinforcement. The final round of competition was held May 2, where five entrepreneurs seeking funding for their business plans faced off with a panel of savvy investor sharks fishing for the next great deal.

The others finalists were: **Desicorp**, developer of a dried blood transfusion unit; **MyNurse**, a mobile platform that enables patients and families to easily find a caregiver in real time by geolocation; **Parasite ID LLC**, developer of Lice Detector, a test strip for lice; and **Agent Ally**, winner of the 2018 <u>Startup</u> <u>Weekend</u>, which is working on a plan to streamline Medicare software.

For the second year, the audience was invited to choose their favorite finalist via text voting at the finals. Innovative Therapeutix also took home audience favorite award and received \$695 raised (minus processing fees) via an Audience Participation Crowd Funding Campaign.

Venture Connectors received more than 40 applications from entrepreneurs across the region Presenters were allowed a few minutes to describe their idea to the judges, who then fired off questions to the presenters in the style of the popular television show, "Shark Tank." The lucky survivor received more than \$20,000 in cash and prizes to help them take their idea to market. Innovative Therapeutix was selected based on the viability of its idea, the ability of the final award to positively impact the business and the quality of their presentation.

This year's Venture Sharks title sponsor is the <u>Vogt Invention & Innovation Fund</u>. In kind sponsors are <u>Fort Phelps PLLC</u>, <u>KiZAN</u>, <u>Splash Analytics</u>, <u>Austin Lopesilvero: Web Designer & Entrepreneur</u>, <u>Story Louisville</u> and <u>Venture First</u>. Thanks to many generous sponsors over the years, Venture Sharks has awarded more than \$100,000 in prizes since it launched in 2010.

About Venture Connectors

Venture Connectors is an incorporated, not-for-profit organization, originally formed in 1995 as the Venture Club of Louisville. Venture Connectors' goal is to connect entrepreneurs, investors, service providers, inventors, academics, practitioners, technologists, students and business experts together to increase the number and quality of new ventures launched from this region. Events include monthly

luncheons and the annual Venture Sharks™ competition. Anyone interested in making valuable contacts, exchanging information or pursuing mutual business opportunities is welcome to attend a Venture Connectors event. Visit www.ventureconnectors.org.