XVIVOS Biosciences Recipient of University of Toronto's 2016 *HealthEDGE* Health Care Innovation Fellowship

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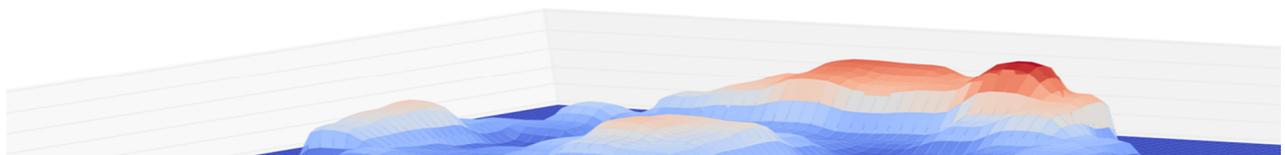
TORONTO, Can. – XVIVOS Biosciences ("XVIVOS") is one of six early-stage companies to receive the 2016 *HealthEDGE* Health Care Innovation Fellowship. XVIVOS now has $5,000 in seed funding from University of Toronto campus-linked accelerators in medicine, engineering and computer science to improve their offering and business plan.

"We want to help get these creative ideas for improving health care off the ground," says Professor Joseph Ferenbok, co-director of the Health Innovation Hub (H2i), the Faculty of Medicine's accelerator. "We started the year-long initiative with an open call for people to submit challenges, ingenuity gaps, or 'bugs' in the health care system. Then we invited students and other innovators to find solutions."

XVIVOS is focused on developing novel algorithms and user-friendly interfaces for analyzing *in vitro* (or *ex vivo*) Big Data from high-throughput assays which are applicable to personalized medicine. In the process of achieving this, XVIVOS works with researchers and pharmaceutical companies to improve the analysis platform. The goal of XVIVOS is to integrate these data with pharmacogenomics, in order to discover the best drug for each patient. Further, XVIVOS also facilitates relationships between patients and researchers to assist with novel drug discovery when no current therapies exist.

In addition to funding, the *HealthEDGE* fellowship provides a network of contacts and potential backers through community, healthcare and industry partners – including the University Health Network, Rouge Valley Health System Foundation, Johnson & Johnson Innovation (JLABS), Autodesk and IBM. Recipients are given access to these resources to move to market faster.

"We are thrilled to have been selected as a recipient of this year's *HealthEDGE* fellowship, and we plan to make full use of the resources that we've been provided in order to grow our business," says Saumel Ahmadi, CEO of XVIVOS. "Our goal is to improve healthcare in Ontario, nationally, and beyond, and we greatly appreciate the Health Innovation Hub for this opportunity as well as their support."

About XVIVOS Biosciences

XVIVOS Biosciences (www.xvivos.com) is a Toronto-based startup company involved in the development of intelligent algorithms and user-friendly interfaces for Big Data from *in vitro* (or *ex vivo*) high-throughput assays which are applicable to personalized medicine. Pharmacogenomics integration will allow researchers, scientists, technicians and healthcare professionals to use this system to identify best-in-class medicines for each patient. This approach will eliminate the need to 'try' drugs, or 'experiment' on patients, on a trial and error basis when multiple therapies are available, reducing health- and financial-burden to patients, families, insurance providers and the healthcare system.

About Health Innovation Hub (H2i)

The Health Innovation Hub (H2i, www.h2i.utoronto.ca) is a campus-linked accelerator, headquartered in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. H2i's mission is to enable, collaborate, educate, and facilitate student initiated commercialization of health matters, with the vision of creating a *culture* and *infrastructure* that aligns, connects, serves and facilitates student driven translation of discoveries and ideas into problem-solving designs that impact positively on health matters. By providing resources for student entrepreneurs to move their ideas towards interventions, protocols and products that advance health, H2i facilitates innovation for today's most urgent healthcare challenges.

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