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## BIOSCIENCE COMPANY WINS \$500K TOP PRIZE ONCE AGAIN AT ACCELERATE MICHIGAN INNOVATION COMPETITION

**Ann Arbor, MI --** DeNovo Sciences, a bioscience company based in Ann Arbor, won the top prize of \$500,000 at the 2011 [Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition](#) held this week at the Ann Arbor Ypsilanti Eagle Crest Conference Center and Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn. DeNovo bested nine other finalists on the last day of the competition with its microfluidic-based platform technology that can detect circulating tumor cells earlier and with greater sensitivity than standard biopsy approaches.

“DeNovo is a brilliant example of bioscience innovation in Michigan,” said Stephen Rapundalo, president and CEO of MichBio, the state’s biosciences trade association. “Kalyan Handique and his team should be congratulated for their fine performance. Clearly success breeds success, and Kalyan as founder of HandyLab, a diagnostic company that exited with its sale to Becton Dickinson in 2008, knows how to identify great innovative technologies and place them on a path for commercialization.”

The four finalist judges, including Roger Newton (Founder and CEO, [Esperion Therapeutics](#),) listened to some masterful five-minute pitches. Attendees voted for their top three companies with the leading vote recipient receiving the People’s Choice Award of \$10,000. Shoulder Innovations, a medical device company based in Grand Rapids was this year’s People’s Choice Recipient. Other bioscience company awardees included [OcuSciences](#) (Life Sciences Sector), Advanced Cooling Therapy (Medical Devices Sector), and [NextGen Metabolomics](#) (Encore Award) which each received a \$25,000 prize. [Phrixus Pharmaceuticals](#) and [RetroSense Therapeutics](#) were top ten finalists, and like OcuSciences and NextGen, are members of MichBio.

Accelerate Michigan Innovation featured 360 competitors this year. Twenty-two of the 53 semifinalist companies that delivered 10-minute pitches to investors, financiers and other attendees are involved in bioscience-related endeavors across a broad spectrum of sectors such as pharmaceuticals and therapeutics, medical devices, diagnostics, informatics and IT, research products, ag/food, and industrial/environmental. They included:

Advanced Cooling Therapy, LLC (Kalamazoo)  
Algal Scientific Corporation (Plymouth)  
Apolife, Inc.\* (Plymouth)  
ArtJen Complexus USA, LLC (Detroit)  
Biophotonic Solutions Inc.\* (Ann Arbor)  
Blaze Medical Devices\*  
Blue Water Bioproducts  
DeNovo Sciences (Ann Arbor)  
Metro Ag Services, Inc.  
nanoRETE Inc.  
NextGen Metabolomics Inc.\* (Ann Arbor)  
Nutriinfo.com  
OcuSciences, Inc.\* (Ann Arbor)  
ONL Therapeutics, LLC  
Phrixus Pharmaceuticals\* (Ann Arbor)  
Retia Medical, LLC  
RetroSense Therapeutics\* (Ann Arbor)  
Shoulder Innovations, LLC (Grand Rapids)  
Syzygy Biotech\* (Grand Rapids)  
TherapyCharts LLC (Ann Arbor)  
Superior Rehabilitation & Assessment Solutions, Inc. – dba ULTrA (Ann Arbor)

[\* Denotes MichBio member]

“The many bioscience companies represented in the semi-final and finalist rounds of the Competition are a resounding testament to the robustness of the bio-industry in Michigan,” added Rapundalo. “There should be no doubt that Michigan continues to be a hub for bioscience innovation that is competitive on a global scale”.

The Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition launched in 2010 through the collaborative and supporting efforts of the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan, and the region’s four key business accelerators - Ann Arbor SPARK, Automation Alley, Macomb-OU INCubator and TechTown.

“One of the goals of the Competition was to promote Michigan as a venue for entrepreneurial and commercial opportunity,” said Rapundalo. “It also underscores the importance of the bio-industry in the state’s economy and reflects our core strength in this global technology sector. To sustain this kind of innovation success means the state must continue visible support with needed resources and favorable business policies.”

MichBio is committed to driving bioscience industry growth by fostering the collective impact of its members and by providing them with advocacy, education, information, connections and services. MichBio members include biosciences companies, academic and research institutions, biosciences service providers, and related organizations.

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