Womentech and personalized medicine solutions boosted at Venture Kick

ASPIVIX and SEED Biosciences win CHF 130,000 in Venture Kick final. The startups provide solutions to revolutionize women care and medicine. ASPIVIX creates a new generation of non-traumatic, minimally invasive surgical instruments for gynecology. SEED Biosciences makes DispenCell, a novel pipetting robot to faster isolate single cells for personalized medicine.

Every year, about 65 million obstetric and gynecological treatments require access to the uterus. In order to do so, doctors use forceps to grasp, pull and stabilize the cervix inside the vaginal cavity. These forceps often cause pain and frequent bleeding, leading to possible cross-infection. ASPIVIX developed a new generation of forceps, reducing women discomfort while removing risks of bleeding and lesions. The patented instrument, fully disposable, is designed to prevent cervix bleeding using a gentle vacuum suction in lieu of the traditional sharp teeth of the forceps. This softer and simpler innovation offers a solution for the most common gynecological procedures, easing Intra-uterine contraceptive device (IUD) insertion as well as Intra-uterine Inseninations (IUI) and Embryo Transfers (IVF) in reproductive medicine. The promising technology already has raised interest with ASPIVIX attracting a CHF 1.8 million series A round between stage 2 and stage 3 of Venture Kick.

SEED Biosciences, an EPFL spin-off, developed DispenCell, a compact pipetting robot to enable scientists to precisely isolate single cells three times faster than existing solutions. Single cell isolation is a key enabling step in many biological processes, including the production of biologics, cancer diagnosis, stem cell therapies and personalized medicine. Current methods of single cell isolation are not traceable yet, which implies that scientists invest up to five months in validation time or need to invest in very expensive equipment. The patented pipetting system also permits accurate traceability, complying with the most stringent industry and regulatory standards. With DispenCell, SEED Biosciences offers an affordable and intuitive single-cell solutions to industry players competing in the emerging multi-billion market of personalized medicine.

"At ASPIVIX, we are not only honored but also very thankful to Venture Kick. The three-stage process and the insightful boot-camps have been crucial in challenging and developing our business case. The funds we received were instrumental for translating our innovation from a laboratory to caregivers’ practice, and overall for potentially changing sustainably women’s care for millions of women worldwide,” explains Mathieu Horras, ASPIVIX founder and CEO.

SEED Biosciences founder and CEO, Georges Muller had a “single line formula”: “Venture Kick is like Google Maps for entrepreneurs; it drives you to the top and even finances you for the ride!"

ASPIVIX (Lausanne)

ASPIVIX develops a new generation of forceps for gynecological procedures, reducing patient discomfort while removing risks of bleeding and lesions. The patented instrument, fully disposable, is designed to prevent cervix bleeding using a gentle vacuum suction in lieu of the traditional sharp teeth of the forceps. The startup is based in Lausanne.

www.aspivix.com

SEED Biosciences (EPF Lausanne)

SEED Biosciences makes DispenCell, a novel single-cell pipetting robot for life sciences. The compact and simple solution allows scientists to isolate single cells three times faster than existing solutions to produce certified cell lines for academia and industry. The startup aims at providing affordable and
intuitive solutions for single cell isolation to the growing field of personalized medicine. The startup is based in Lausanne.

www.seedbiosciences.com

Pictures and links
ASPIVIX team, startup profile
SEED Biosciences team, startup profile

About Venture Kick

The philanthropic initiative Venture Kick provides up to CHF 130,000 to seed stage startups. In addition, it offers a well-structured entrepreneurial path towards building a winning business. Startups present in front of a jury at three different stages to obtain funding as well as direct feedback and access to an international network of successful entrepreneurs and investors.

Since 2007, 579 Swiss startup projects have received CHF 24.05 million from Venture Kick. This has resulted in more than 432 incorporated companies creating 4,748 jobs. Startup companies supported by Venture Kick have attracted CHF 1.808 billion from investors so far, and 57 startups from Venture Kick have made it into the TOP 100 Swiss Startups 2018.

In 2018, Venture Kick will pay out CHF 3.2 million to idea-stage startup projects to bring Swiss science to global markets. More information in the Venture Kick annual report.

The Venture Kick Foundation is supported by Gebert Rüf Stiftung, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Hauser-Stiftung, Igor Fisch, André Hoffmann, Hansjörg Wyss, Debiopharm Group, Fondation Pro Techno, Fondation Lombard Odier, Rising Tide Foundation, European Space Agency, Engagement Migros and Swisscom.

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All startup projects supported by Venture Kick

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