

FSU student-entrepreneurs compete for top prize tonight

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► (L-R) Faculty adviser Cesar Rodriguez, Angela Udongwo (InnoHealth), Nkechi Emetuche (InnoHealth), Clarens Jarbath (InnoHealth) and faculty adviser Emily Pritchard.

A talented team of Florida State University student-entrepreneurs is moving ahead to the final round of a “Shark Tank”-style business competition, and you are urged to help them win an award tonight.

FSU’s student-entrepreneurial team InnoHealth will participate in the Atlantic Coast Conference **InVenture Prize competition (<https://accinventureprize.com/2019-teams>)** at North Carolina State University in Raleigh starting at 8 p.m. The event will be streamed live at **<http://www.gpb.org/acc-inventure-2019>** (<http://www.gpb.org/acc-inventure-2019>).

Between 8:46 and 8:51 p.m., you can help FSU's team win the People's Choice Award by texting (770) 637-3005 or visiting <https://p.excitem.com/s/play/n3563> (<https://p.excitem.com/s/play/n3563>) and entering the keyword: INNO.

After winning FSU's InNOLEvation® Challenge competition last month, InnoHealth earned the opportunity to compete in the InVenture Prize Competition against 14 of the ACC's best student-entrepreneurial teams. Last night, members of InnoHealth made their pitch to a panel of judges, and the business advanced to tonight's final round along with Georgia Tech, Syracuse, Notre Dame and the University of Virginia.

InnoHealth was created to help safeguard people from tropical diseases by using an innovative DNA-based diagnostic tool. It specifically targets the tropical parasitic disease schistosomiasis, known as snail fever, and improves its early diagnosis.

Schistosomiasis is blamed for causing more than 200,000 deaths a year. It's estimated 260 million people have been infected worldwide. In Nigeria alone, 100 million people are at risk of infection, and 30 million are suffering from the disease. It is typically spread by contact with contaminated river water and without treatment, snail fever can cause stomach ulcers, bladder cancer and other serious health problems.

The student-entrepreneurs hope their innovative technology will lower the rate of schistosomiasis to less than 1 percent in Kano State, Nigeria. The entrepreneurs plan to eventually market their product in other countries.

Team members FSU senior Nkechi Emetuche from Orlando and recent graduates Clarens Jarbath (Tampa), Charles "Jack" Robbins (Homestead), and Angela Udongwo (Jacksonville), won the \$10,000 grand prize at **FSU's InNOLEvation® Challenge** (<https://news.fsu.edu/news/business-law-policy/2019/03/14/fsu-student-entrepreneurs-win-awards-for-addressing-real-world-problems-with-innovative-solutions/>) competition in March.

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