Student Innovator Challenge

The Innovator Challenge is an annual OHSU student idea competition, intended for student-led concepts or technologies. Participants receive individualized training and mentorship for the duration of the competition to develop their pitch and innovation, compete to win prizes, and advance to the InventOR Statewide Collegiate Finals.

WHO SHOULD ENROLL?

• Any OHSU student or team of students who has an idea or would like to learn more about innovation and entrepreneurship. Details on our website.

WHY SHOULD YOU ENROLL?

• Win up to $30k in cash prizes (early prototyping grants and prizes at the InventOR finals)

• Learn to effectively communicate your science to the public and learn presentation skills for diverse audiences

• Gain practical experience developing your innovation, pitch, and prototyping – a great resume builder!

ENROLLING A PROJECT

Students and projects from all disciplines are welcome, no prior experience necessary. Registration is open annually; we encourage you to register early to receive the full benefits of the competition training and mentorship. Projects must be related to health, medicine or bioscience/biotechnology, but can be in any stage of development.
COMPETITION ADVANCEMENT

- Guided Training & Mentorship
- OHSU Pitch Competition April 20
- PSU’s Innovation Bootcamp May 4-7
- InventOR Statewide Finals June 23-24

- Two teams advance, $500 prototyping grant each
- One team advances, wins $2000
- Win up to $30,000 in prizes

EXPECTATIONS AND RESOURCES

- Participants will receive individualized mentorship and training to develop their innovation throughout the competition.

- Mentors will be matched with participating teams based on background expertise and personalized team needs, and will include guidance from the Entrepreneurs-in-Residence Program offered by OHSU’s Collaborations and Entrepreneurship office.

- Participants are expected to complete an Invention Disclosure. This form allows OHSU’s Technology Transfer office to understand the nature of your invention to better assist you in developing and/or protecting your intellectual property.

- Teams of 2+ are encouraged (not required) to advance to the InventOR finals.

- A physical prototype is required to compete in the InventOR finals; at minimum this can be a tangible component. The OHSU Innovator Challenge is solely a pitch competition and does not require a prototype.