

2019 Waterloo MedTech Conference calls for the community to unite now to develop a supportive infrastructure for MedTech start-ups



Speakers at the 2019 Waterloo Region MedTech Conference came from all over North America to share their experiences in building successful MedTech incubators.

Left to right: Paul Nagy, PhD, Charles Cooney, PhD, Dr. Linda Maxwell, Mark Whaley, Diane Côté

Friday, October 4, 2019 (**Waterloo, Ont.**) – Waterloo MedTech held its 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference Wednesday discussing and debating what it takes to build a successful MedTech infrastructure for Canadian MedTech start-ups. Canada has the talent and the ability to build world class companies in the health space, but the resulting and resounding call to action yesterday was that we need to unite as a community **now!** Waterloo has what it takes to be a global leader in MedTech and we need to develop a supportive infrastructure for start-ups.

“The discussions highlighted that there is no single model for MedTech innovation. We heard today from clinicians, researchers, and innovators about models that were custom-designed for specific ecosystems. Examples of successful MedTech innovations are close to Waterloo (e.g. Biomedical Zone), within Canada (MEDTEQ) and all across the USA (MIT & Johns Hopkins),” stated the morning’s moderator, Chekema Prince, PhD. “Several components of the health innovation models discussed during today’s conference are present right here in Waterloo Region. The region needs to take its MedTech ingredients and make their recipe for success.”

Ahead Simulations, ClearVoxel Imaging, Cohesys, Enabling Adaptations, NURO Corporations and Stablio Medical were recognized as Waterloo Region’s Top Entrepreneurs and Start-Ups for 2019

Recipients of the annual Waterloo MedTech Awards include:

- **2019 Start-Up to Scale-Up Award of Excellence** - Cloud Dx
- **2019 Award of Distinction** - Client Outlook
- **2019 MedTech Visionary Award** - Cynthia Voisin, Dr. John Sehl and Jeff McIntyre

This year's conference brought together over 150 health care, research, industry, and government including key healthcare stakeholders, start-ups, scientists, industry experts, government officials, innovators and thought leaders. Special guests and speakers included:

- Karen Redman, Regional Chair, Waterloo Region
- Hon. Bardish Chagger, Waterloo Liberal MP Candidate
- Charles Cooney, PhD, Founding Director, Deshpande Centre, MIT
- Dr. Linda Maxwell, Surgeon, Founder and Executive Director, The Biomedical Zone
- Diane Côté, President and CEO, MEDTEQ
- Paul Nagy, PhD, Deputy Director, Johns Hopkins Medicine Technology Innovation Center

...and many other highly-esteemed experts in innovation and health care.

"The moment is now for the community to strike and create something incredibly valuable. [Waterloo Region] literally has all the players to do what you need to do," explained Dr. Linda Maxwell, ENT Surgeon, Founding and Executive Director, The Biomedical Zone. "I'm actually quite envious of what you've got in Waterloo!"

"We look forward to discussing the conference outcomes further with players within the community and can't wait for next year's conference to provide a progress update on the MedTech infrastructure within Waterloo Region, across Canada and throughout the world," said Shirley Fenton and Dr. Doug Dittmer, Co-chairs, Waterloo MedTech Conference.

Next year's conference is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2020. To learn more about the Waterloo MedTech Conference, visit: [www.waterloomedtech.com](http://www.waterloomedtech.com).

## About Waterloo MedTech:

Within the Waterloo Region there are many resources for innovators to bring their ideas to market, but within the medical technology area, resources are lacking. In 2016, a team of seasoned experts came together with a mission to address the gap between healthcare research and its adoption in practice thus creating Waterloo MedTech - a program where MedTech innovators are provided support in connecting to legal, clinical, and related industry next steps required to take the idea to market.

Waterloo MedTech is building a directory of health care companies and resources. It seeks to help health care innovators access the resources needed to successfully bring their idea(s) to market.

Waterloo MedTech founders and directors include: Don Cowan, Founding Chairman of the Computer Science Department at the University of Waterloo and International multi-award winning scientist and researcher; Shirley Fenton, Vice-President of National Institutes of Health Informatics; Garry Bezruki, former CIO for the City of Waterloo; Mark Whaley, co-founder of multiple national and international start-ups; Dr. Brian Vartian, Chief of Anaesthesia at Groves Memorial Community Hospital.

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