SUNY technology fund awards funding for Upstate Medical project, four others

by Eric Reinhardt

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The State University of New York (SUNY) Technology Accelerator Fund (TAF) will invest in five new projects, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced.

They include a device that a doctor at Upstate Medical University is developing, according to a news release from the governor’s office.

The TAF accelerates the development and commercialization of innovations that SUNY students, faculty, and staff create.

It is part of the Research Foundation (RF) for SUNY, which manages SUNY’s research portfolio. RF provides administration for programs and innovation-support services for SUNY faculty and students performing research in life sciences and medicine; engineering and nanotechnology; physical sciences and energy; social sciences, and computer and information sciences.

TAF awarded the projects a total of $250,000, which brings the fund’s support of SUNY innovation to more than $1 million.

The projects include advances in medical imaging, pharmaceutical, fine chemicals, petrochemical, and refining technologies.

Dr. Gary Nieman, associate professor of surgery at Upstate Medical University, is using a $50,000 award as he develops a minimally-invasive infusion and suction therapy, a "novel" medical device that removes harmful abdominal fluid buildup that trauma, sepsis, or burns cause, Cuomo’s office said.

This fund is helping SUNY’s work on the next generation of life-saving technologies, Cuomo said in the news release.

“By investing in our researchers, we are ensuring that SUNY continues to lead the way with cutting-edge advancements in medicine. I congratulate the award recipients and look forward to seeing their work help change the face of modern medicine,” Cuomo said.

The research is “improving” New York’s communities, its health, and the state’s economy, SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, said in the news release.

“Through the Technology Accelerator Fund, we are able to support promising research projects at their onset, giving SUNY scientists the seed funding they need to progress their work and ultimately see it through the commercialization process,” Zimpher said.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Dr. Gary Nieman, associate professor of surgery at Upstate Medical University (Photo courtesy of Upstate Medical).

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