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## **InfraScan's Hematoscope™ Wins Second Place at Global Business Plan Competition**

**Pictured Right:** *InfraScan's Baruch Ben Dor, Sandeep Naik, and Samonnoi Banerjee present InfraScan's innovative brain hematoma detection technology.*

InfraScan, representing The Wharton School, recently took second place at the Global Business Plan Competition in Singapore for Hematoscope™, its hand-held near infrared intracranial hematoma detector.



In the U.S., approximately two million people suffer from head injury each year and require medical care. About 1.7 million visit a hospital Emergency Room (ER). More than 500,000 are hospitalized and diagnosed with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and 50,000 people die annually as a result. In developed countries, moderate to severe TBI is most commonly diagnosed in an ER by emergency physicians and neurosurgeons. However, due to the inaccessibility and the high cost of Computed Tomography (CT), approximately half of head trauma patients will not receive a CT scan. In developing countries, TBI care and outcomes are significantly worse. Despite recent progress in portable TBI diagnostics, the medical need for rapid hematoma detection on the injury site is not yet met.

To address the need for rapid on-site hematoma detection, Philadelphia-PA, based InfraScan, Inc. is introducing the Hematoscope™ as a hand-held, accurate, and affordable traumatic brain injury screening solution. The user-friendly graphical design will assist emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and emergency medicine personnel in attending to injuries sustained in traffic and sports accidents, falls, and in the battlefield.

Hematoscope™ can detect brain hematoma at the site of injury within the "golden hour," referring to the period following head trauma when pre-hospital analysis is needed to rapidly assess the neurological condition of a victim. Hematoscope™ provides a clinically effective screening solution for head trauma patients in settings where timely triage is critical. Use of this technology can facilitate surgical intervention decisions.

The Hematoscope™ unit is a hand-held device based on a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) platform with a wireless detector probe. The signal from the detector is digitized and transmitted by a wireless link to the PDA. User interface on the PDA includes graphical display as well as an auditory feedback to ensure the focus of the operator on the patient.

The Global Start-up Competition included teams representing the world's top 20 business schools from the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Australia. The InfraScan/Wharton team was scored in the first place in the world for: best written business plan, best drafted and performed presentation, and the most investable business plan. "For the purpose of raising funds, this is extraordinary PR," said InfraScan founder Baruch Ben Dor, an Israel-trained physicist who moved to Philadelphia to launch an entrepreneurial venture. "My problem was getting through the first five seconds with a venture capitalist. Winning the business plan competition is a great help in getting noticed."

InfraScan's Hematoscope™ has been invented by Dr. Britton Chance who has pioneered near-infrared based optical brain imaging and who is Professor Emeritus of Biophysics at the University of Pennsylvania. The innovation has won the Wharton Business Plan Competition in 2004; received SBIR Phase I funding from the Office of Naval Research; received preliminary funding from BioAdvance Funds; and was in the select group of start-ups presented at the Mid-Atlantic Venture Conference 2004. Regulatory applications and clinical trials are in progress with pilot trials having been completed on 305 patients.

For more information on Hematoscope™, contact Baruch Ben Dor, Ph.D., at 215-387-66784 or [bbendor@earthlink.net](mailto:bbendor@earthlink.net).

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