FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Pitt and CMU Students Unite to Kick-Start Healthcare Technology for an Aging America

Where do graduate students in business, medicine, and engineering sit down with physicians from the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt), technologists from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), and local research and business leaders to develop innovative solutions to Pittsburgh's healthcare needs? They do so at IACT - Industry Academics Clinicians Together – a solutions-focused organization led by Pitt and CMU graduate students that is committed to solving today's most pressing healthcare problems. On Thursday, November 4th, over 50 professionals and graduate students representing more than 30 different companies, academic departments and institutions gathered for the evening on CMU's campus. Local companies in attendance included Blueroof Technologies (http://www.bluerooftechnologies.com), a non-profit focused on creating homes coupled with advanced monitoring technology that allows seniors to live independent lives.

"IACT's vision is to bring together key players in healthcare technology, leverage the expertise of Pittsburgh, engage students, and build the healthcare innovation culture in Pittsburgh," said James Wolfe, Co-Founder of IACT. "With a team of 10 Pitt and CMU graduate students in business, medicine, and engineering, IACT aims to make our vision a reality by hosting these IACT events and student competitions as well as providing resources to the community."

The topic of the evening was "Healthcare Technologies for an Aging America". The evening started with a keynote from James "Oz" Osborn, Executive Director and Founder for the Quality of Life Technology (QoLT) Center – a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center focused on creating intelligent systems that enable older adults and people with disabilities to live independently through a joint collaboration of CMU and Pitt.

A panel discussion followed on effective collaboration from Charles Reynolds, MD, Director of the Institute on Aging at Pitt and UPMC; Art Boni, PhD, Director of the Donald H. Jones Center for Entrepreneurship at the CMU Tepper School of Business; and Jay Srini, Chief Strategist of SCS Ventures, a firm that provides expertise to healthcare startups internationally.

The attendees divided into teams and participated in student-moderated breakout sessions. Each session looked at a problem facing older adults, such as managing medication, dealing with social isolation, or preparing meals. They identified potential technology solutions and determined next steps to actualize them here in Pittsburgh. The evening culminated with participants sharing their plans in elevator-pitch style to all attendees. A student competition to develop the first event's solutions is planned for December.

"The thing about IACT that really resonated with me and our group is this three way consideration... looking at the clinical and social side, looking at the technological side, and also looking at the business side," said James Osborn.

The first IACT event was sponsored by the Quality of Life Technology Center and the Donald H. Jones Center for Entrepreneurship. A second event on surgical technologies on Pitt's campus is planned for early February. More information will be available at www.iactpgh.com.

ABOUT IACT:

The mission of IACT is to create engaging workshops and events to foster sustainable collaboration between industry, academics, and clinicians in Pittsburgh to bring forward transformative research and disruptive solutions within the healthcare field. IACT was conceived in August 2010 with the vision of improving the world through healthcare innovation. This vision quickly turned into a passionate cause as the founders, students at the CMU Tepper School of Business, CMU Engineering, and the School of Medicine at Pitt, began to explore the immense amount of healthcare and technology talent unique to Pittsburgh. IACT is currently a student-led organization which relies on institutional support from the two universities to deliver events and resources to the Pittsburgh healthcare community.

Contact:

James Wolfe

jtwolfe@tepper.cmu.edu

Ph.: (858) 401-0363 www.iactpgh.com