

CoMotion's mission is to partner with the UW community on their innovation journey, providing tools, connections, and acumen to transform ideas into economic and societal impact.



**COMOTION INNOVATION GAP FUND**  
**Spring 2021 WINNERS**

Winners include this year's Population Health awardee

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Top stories



**Lightspeed Microscopy raises \$4M**

University of Washington (UW) spinoff Lightspeed Microscopy, an end-to-end 3D pathology platform, has raised \$4 million in a Series A financing round led by Dynamk Capital. The new funding will be used to commercialize and scale their microscopy platform.

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**MicrobiomX raises \$1M in pre-seed round**

UW spinoff and Innovation Gap Fund recipient MicrobiomX has raised \$1 million for developing a device to collect and process stool samples for clinical use. This raise is in advance of a planned \$2 million seed round which they aim to close in Q3 of 2021.



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**BlueDot Photonics raises \$1M**

UW spinoff BlueDot Photonics, a leader in perovskite materials, has raised \$1 million in seed financing led by VoLo Earth Ventures, an early-stage VC investing in the new energy economy. BlueDot's quantum-cutting technology can lower the cost of solar power by up to 10% by improving energy yield in solar panels by up to 16%.

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**CoMotion Labs startup Minnow raises \$3M**

CoMotion Labs member Minnow, which makes a contactless food delivery and pickup pod, has raised \$3 million in seed funding. The IoT-enabled pods offer a secure, convenient way to get food delivered to apartment buildings, offices, college campuses and elsewhere. Food is kept in individually locked cubbies without keypads or touchscreens and are opened via smartphone QR code.



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**DubPitch Spring 2021 brings together UW startups and investors**



The power of innovation was on full display at the Spring '21 CoMotion DubPitch event last month. Nine startups from the University of Washington gathered online to pitch their companies to a worldwide audience of investors and venture capitalists. Innovations ranged from an over-the-counter self-fitting hearing aid, to an indoor air quality monitoring system, to an AI-enhanced assistive parrot to help people with neurological challenges. [READ MORE](#)

**HCDE students generate winning campaign: 'Return to Transit'**



Student members of a capstone team from the UW's Human Centered Design & Engineering program prepared and pitched a marketing campaign for CoMotion's [Mobility Innovation Center](#) to bring riders back to King County Metro's public transit services in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It culminated in a landscape analysis report to help transit agencies better understand customer mindsets and a campaign strategy appealing to the motivations that will encourage riders to return. [READ MORE](#)

Funding, Competitions & Opportunities



**"POLAR VORTEX: HACKING THE ARCTIC"**

The National Security Innovation Network is presenting a virtual hackathon open to anyone who is creative and interested in developing concepts, technologies or systems to help collect, analyze, process, and visualize geospatial data in the austere and mobile environments in the Arctic. Focus areas include edge collection and processing, visualization and user experience, and cybersecurity. A prize pot of \$45K will enable the winning concept to continue prototyping their solution. Coding experience not required. Registration deadline: July 19.

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**Venture Analyst opportunity for students**

Washington Research Foundation (WRF) is seeking 2-4 Venture Analysts to assist with reviewing potential grants and investments. Venture Analysts will perform background research on grant-making and investment opportunities currently under consideration by WRF. Analysts will gain a greater understanding of the process of commercialization as they work for a locally-focused foundation and venture capital firm.



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CoMotion-supported UW researchers win accolades

- Weichao Yuwen**, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing & Healthcare Leadership, UW Tacoma, was among the [2021 Awards of Excellence](#) recipients, receiving a Distinguished Teaching Award. Weichao is the team lead on Innovation Gap Fund/Population Health winner and I-Corps participant [COCO](#), which is a platform that delivers on-demand, tailored, and empathetic support to family caregivers, combining AI and real-life coaching.
- Robert White**, CEO of [Sound Sustainability](#), and **Juan Sebastian Osorio-Valencia**, from the [Global Water Labs \(GWL\)](#) team, were among the [Husky 100](#) this year. Robert, whose startup won the Social Impact prize in this year's Dempsey Startup Competition, has participated in I-Corps and recently pitched at CoMotion DubPitch. Juan was a fellow in the ITHS summer fellows program, and GWL has also won an Innovation Gap Fund and participated in I-Corps.
- Puget Buoy** and **Ananta** won second and third place respectively in the Buerk Center's [Dempsey Startup Competition](#). Both teams also participated in the I-Corps customer discovery program.

Congratulations to all!

COMOTION "TIP OF THE MONTH"

Startup Licensing 101: Term Sheets & Financials



Osage University Partners' most recent webinar in their "Startup Licensing 101" series included CoMotion Innovation Manager Lisa Norton, where she and other panelists discussed term sheets and the financials of the license agreement. [Watch the video.](#)

Meet a CoMotion Team Member



**Kasie Becker** recently joined our team as the Executive Assistant to the Associate Vice Provost for Innovation Strategy and Venture at CoMotion, Anson Fatland. Previously, she held the position of Executive Office Assistant at the H & R Block Foundation and the Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation in Kansas City, Missouri. She also worked in philanthropy for the Cotsen Foundation for the ART of TEACHING and the Cotsen Foundation for Academic Research in Los Angeles, California, as well as in employee benefits administration and public relations. Kasie earned her B.A. in Communication from the University of Washington and lives in Seattle, Washington with her husband and their two dogs. [Find Kasie on LinkedIn.](#)

Focus Areas



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