

# **SIUE and SIU School of Medicine Research Project earns inaugural Concept Commercialization Award**

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**EDWARDSVILLE** - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's **Sohyung Cho, PhD**, associate professor of industrial engineering in the School of Engineering, has received the University's inaugural Concept Commercialization Award in conjunction with a corresponding School of Medicine Concept Development Award, both aimed at supporting innovation and encouraging industry investment.

The winning project, "Novel Syringe System for Isolation of Lipoaspirate," is a collaborative effort between Cho and co-researchers from SIU School of Medicine, including Ashim Gupta, PhD, director of the Laboratory for Regenerative Medicine and

research assistant professor in the Institute for Plastic Surgery, and Michael Neumeister, MD, FRCS(C), FACS, professor and chair of the Department of Surgery and Elvin G. Zook Endowed Chair of the Institute for Plastic Surgery.

?The researchers propose their innovative syringe device has a unique feature to separate fat from oil and blood more conveniently and quickly. They assert that their syringe system is simpler and more efficient than current methods, and therefore will reduce procedure time necessary for such processes as fat grafting, a widely used breast reconstruction technique.

?“Granting the inaugural SIUE Concept Commercialization Award is exciting, because it highlights the research at SIUE that has the potential of making a practical impact for the public good,” said Jerry Weinberg, PhD, associate provost for research and dean of the SIUE Graduate School.?“The multidisciplinary nature of this particular project emphasizes the importance of reaching across the borderlines of academic disciplines,” he continued. “Projects such as this showcase that SIU as a system has the ability to contribute to the marketplace of ideas.”?“This joint award highlights a growing number of collaborations between School of Medicine and SIUE faculty,” said Linda Toth, PhD, DVM, associate dean of research at the SIU School of Medicine. “In particular, this project’s integration of expertise in engineering and surgery exemplifies our commitment to the School of Medicine mission of assisting the people of central and Southern Illinois in meeting their health needs through research and patient care, as well as through our mission areas of education and community service.”?

The award includes a \$15,000 prize, which will be granted jointly by the SIUE Graduate School and SIU School of Medicine. The SIUE Graduate School will fund the Concept Commercialization Award granted to Cho, while SIU School of Medicine will fund the complementary Concept Development Award granted to Gupta. Research will be conducted from April 2016 through April 2017.?

The purpose of both the Concept Commercialization Award and the Concept Development Award is to promote interest in and involvement with intellectual property development and commercialization in order to benefit the health, safety and welfare of the community. The awards target for patentable inventions or discoveries, but can also support trade secrets and copyright materials.