

Mechanical Engineering Professor Chris Rylander Awarded UTAustin Innovation Grant to advance a postpartum IUD to improve women's health. This grant was made possible in part by a gift from Capital Factory.

The team of [Dr. Rylander](#), Dell Medical School Women's Health professor Dr. Marian Yvette Williams-Brown, and PHD candidate Chris Idelson developed the technology after learning of the problem of IUD expulsion after postpartum insertion. More specifically, Dr. Amy Young who leads Women's Health at Dell Medical told an audience that during her travels to developing countries she was approached by women who wanted options to plan their pregnancies but were unable to do so because of their inaccessibility to health clinics and services. Often living more than 10 miles from clinics and without transportation, Young learned that if a woman made it to a clinic in her lifetime, it was usually at the time of giving birth. The challenge Young outlined was the need, for the health of the woman and the newborn, to space pregnancies without reliance on frequent clinic visits.

Professor Rylander left the presentation and returned to his medical device lab and began tackling the problem. His team developed an insertion and attachment device designed to be used with existing IUDs that solves the problem of postpartum expulsion. Rylander selected components for his technology that are already FDA cleared.

Rylander will use the \$29,000 innovation grant to refine and test his prototype, obtain additional clinician feedback, and pilot a collaborative animal study with the MD Anderson Keeling Research Center.

The Innovation Center's Innovation Grants program bridges the funding gap between research and commercialization. Specifically, it enables UTAustin professors to assess and advance the commercializability of their successful research.

If you are interested in learning more or in making a tax-deductible gift so that what starts here CAN change the world, contact Louise Epstein, Managing Director, Innovation Center at the Cockrell School of Engineering. Louise.Epstein@utexas.edu or 512-567-1849. www.engr.utexas.edu/innovation.