Mechanical Engineering Associate Professor Chris Rylander Awarded a $16,000 UTAustin Innovation Grant to advance the laparoscope lens cleaning technology he developed for surgeons. This grant was made possible by a gift from Shahid Ullah (BSPE '82), an Engineering Advisory Board member.

Laparoscope lenses commonly get obscured by bodily fluids during surgery, and must be removed numerous times for cleaning. Rylander's device enables rapid and effective lens cleaning without removing the scope from the patient. The use of his device will reduce surgical times and costs, infection caused from removal and reinsertion, and surgeon frustration from frequent interruption.

Rylander will use the funding to refine and test his prototype with Dr. John Uecker, the Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Training Program at UT-Dell Medical School. The funding will also be used to consult with experts and start the FDA regulatory process.

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.