Revolutionizing Game Creation
Partners: Health care professionals, including librarians, and game scholars unite

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ABSTRACT
A health sciences library and a medical innovation center, support students that develop medical therapeutic devices (MTD – gaming and products) and health applications. This partnership fosters the inclusion of evidence-based knowledge into the created devices and applications. A master plan is underway to create an effective collaborative space for the students, industry leaders, faculty, and library staff. This partnership between MTD developers, health professionals, and librarians is a natural fit for innovation. Already, this collaboration has benefited the departments, the health system, local industry, and the community.

This panel will discuss the logistics of assembling this interprofessional partnership, raising monetary support, identifying and developing industry connections, promoting interprofessional collisions, and providing evidence-based research support for MTD development. The panel will serve as an example for the DiGRA community of the benefits of interprofessional collaboration that will revolutionize the creation of MTD and health applications.

Keywords
Medical therapeutic devices, MTD, medical apps, medical games, games for health, health apps, mHealth, library, information, medicine, entertainment arts, engineering, research, innovation, collaboration, space, evidence-based knowledge
INTRODUCTION
Medical therapeutic devices (MTD – gaming and products) and health applications are a fairly new, yet vital, source of financial income with health care reform.

A partnership between a health sciences library and a medical innovation center has revolutionized the creation of MTD and health applications. Currently the students that develop MTD and health applications are located in the library next to the medical innovation center’s administrative offices.

Needs were identified to build a creative, yet functional space, to enhance such MTD and health applications development. Meetings with various stakeholders (students, faculty, librarians, staff, physical plant staff, and architects) identified types of space, equipment, and furniture needed. A fundraising effort, working in partnership with Development, is raising not only monetary support, but industry interest in the concept, which has led to industry mentors being identified for the students. A master plan is underway to create an extensive workable and collaborative space for the students, industry leaders, faculty, and staff.

Additionally, a liaison librarian was appointed to work with the student teams as their point of contact for all research questions and support, especially those regarding evidence-based knowledge and information for products. For one student group, the librarian created an evolving research collaboration tool to compile the resources and materials (both library and external) relevant to their projects. By working with the student lead producers and student research coordinator, they identified evidence and knowledge gaps in their projects.

Stakeholders have benefited from this new partnership. The university located a receptive home for one of its newer departments, the industry has a means of connecting with fresh ideas and student ingenuity, the students have a familiar center and are able to access the expertise of industry mentors, faculty advisors, their fellow students, and librarians, and the health system has been able to benefit financially from the deliverables.

PANEL PROPOSAL
The panel will consist of the three individuals representing this interprofessional partnership, the liaison librarian, and student leaders. In addition to providing a brief overview of the collaborative effort, the panel will delve into the practicalities of preparing and developing the partnerships, raising monetary and industry support, promoting interprofessional collisions, sharing evidence-based research, overcoming obstacles, and discussing future directions and outcomes for this partnership.

CONCLUSION
For the DiGRA community, the panel will highlight the unique interprofessional nature of MTD creation at a university and how this partnership has revolutionized MTD and health application development and innovation. By collaborating with professionals from different fields, the MTD and health applications have more robust functionality and therapeutic benefits. This partnership will be a model for other universities and companies wishing to enhance their impact in developing MTD and health applications.