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Two win Vogt awards

The awards, created by Henry Vogt Heuser Sr., recognize innovative product ideas and help commercialize those ideas. Here's a look at this year's winners:

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The Courier-Journal

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Dick Adams will never forget watching his son suffer seizures brought on by high fever. The boy suffered six such episodes by the time he was 8.

About 4 percent of children experience such convulsions, which are treated with acetaminophen and don't injure the youths. But "there is extreme trauma for parents to see your child just retching in pain and with a high fever and not knowing what's causing it or what to do," Adams said. "And sometimes they can last anywhere from a matter of seconds to up to 15 minutes."

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Fever Guard, a device developed by Adams' company, Sentinel Pediatric Biosensors, may be the answer. The wireless device checks the child's temperature once each minute. If there is sharp rise, it sends an alert to the parents, who can provide another dose of



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Sentinel Pediatric Biosensors' Fever Guard device. (By Pam Spaulding, The Courier-Journal)



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Venture Club of Louisville meeting on March 1.

Since the acetaminophen is effective for only about four hours, "the whole problem is what happens after the parents put the baby to sleep," said John Naber, like Adams a partner in Sentinel and an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Louisville's Speed School of Engineering.

"When my teenage daughters were young, I was always concerned about that and thought there's got to be a better way to monitor this," Naber said.

The prototype device, which can be slipped into a cap or under an adhesive bandage, is about as big as a quarter. Further development should bring it down to the size of a dime, Naber said.

He and U of L colleagues Kevin Walsh, a professor of electrical engineering, and Doug Jackson, a research engineer, are developing Fever Guard at the school's Belknap Research Building.

Paul van der Pol, a member of the school's Entrepreneurship Council, is the startup's CEO.

The sensor should be attractive to parents, especially those whose children have had fever seizures, van der Pol said. About one-fifth of children who have had the seizures once will experience them again, he said. "It is that market that we are going after."

The award money will enable the company to spend another year working on Fever Guard and securing patents, he said.

"If it wasn't for the Vogt awards, we'd be dead in the water," Naber said. The

medicine.

For developing Fever Guard, Sentinel is one of two Louisville companies being awarded this year's Vogt Invention and Innovation Fund Awards.

The 5-year-old fund, created by corporate leader and philanthropist Henry Vogt Heuser Sr., will present \$55,000 to Sentinel and to the other winner, WaterSaver Technologies, at a

Mark Sanders' company, WaterSaver Technologies, has developed a device to capture and clean sink drainage and pump the water to an adjacent toilet. It says the device can save families thousands of gallons of water a year. (By Mary Ann Gerth, The Courier-Journal)

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bank is not going to give us any money for this."

The company hopes to finish development on the device within a year, and then try to find venture funding for production. Fever Guard should sell for under \$100, Naber said.

In keeping with the goals of the Vogt awards, the company wants "to provide high-paying technical jobs for engineers, scientists and business people" locally, he said. "If we're successful, we're not going to move to another state. We're going to keep it here in Louisville."

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