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ORIGAMI HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS, Inc. Receives Grand Challenges Explorations Grant For Groundbreaking Research in Global Health and Development

Los Angeles, CA – ORIGAMI Healthcare Products, Inc., a public benefits corporation, announced today that it is a [Grand Challenges Explorations](#) winner, an initiative funded by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#). Danny Resnic, CEO and director of new product development at the firm, will pursue an innovative global health and development research project, titled, **“Non-Gender-Specific Internal Condom”**.

Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE) funds projects worldwide to explore ideas that can break the mold in how we solve persistent global health and development challenges. Danny Resnic’s project is one of over 50 Grand Challenges Explorations Round 12 grants announced June 3, 2014, by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

To receive funding, Resnic and other Grand Challenges Explorations Round 12 winners demonstrated in a two-page online application a bold idea in one of five critical global health and development topic areas that included; agriculture development, behavior change and looking into animal and human health. Applications for the [next Round](#) will be accepted starting September 2014.

Innovative Internal Condom is the First Ever Proposed

Rolled latex condoms, unchanged except for colors and flavors since the Wright Brothers perfected the airplane, are clinically tested, approved and marketed only for penile/vaginal use as contraception and to help prevent transmission of STDs. The patented **IC** condom innovation is a practical dual-purpose, interchangeable strategy for either vaginal or anal intercourse. Resnic says, *‘the innovation uses a unique biocompatible material that provides alternative solutions intended to resolve decades-old consumer complaints and dissatisfaction with male and female condoms. Designed for convenience and user friendliness, the IC is intended to promote a more pleasurable fluid sensation for each partner to improve consumer acceptability and to increase correct, consistent condom compliance as a consumer-driven preference to the old rolled condom’*.

To date, the only internal type of condom available has been a ‘female’ condom called FC-2. Despite the globally reported consumer resistance to the product, it generates \$60M+/yr. in donor market sales due to its unique, singular market position as the only female condom submitted to the FDA for approval. Its use has also been re-purposed by some consumers and encouraged by several NGOs as a ‘best-available’ option for anal sex protection. However, no male or female condom to date has ever requested an approval from the FDA or the CE-Mark in Europe as anal sex protection, a prominent means of HIV transmission worldwide. Manufacturers and the regulatory agencies know that anal sex clinical data would likely never support safety standards established exclusively for penile/vaginal sex. In fact, the FDA states, *“Condoms may be more likely to break during anal intercourse than during other types of sex because of the greater amount of friction and other stresses involved.”* Resnic believes that *‘this decades-old knowledge has been successfully and quietly concealed with a smoke and mirrors approach by the FDA and CE-Mark.’*

The most recent public position on the subject of condoms relevant to anal sex protection was originally provided in the mid-1980's by Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, who concluded then that, '*Condoms provide some protection, but anal intercourse is simply too dangerous to practice.*' (Yes, that was an FDA website typo for 'intercourse').

Production of scale is expected to competitively position the IC priced significantly lower than the FC2 by 23%. The IC would be attractive for men because it eliminates the need (and the struggle) for the old rolled condom, a source of countless consumer complaints and dissatisfaction that has led to an alarming reduction in condom usage. Additionally, the CDC reports rolled condom contraception effectiveness at an 18% failure rate. Resnic, finds that statistic '*as unacceptable as traffic lights that could fail 18% of the time*'.

About Grand Challenges Explorations

[Grand Challenges Explorations](#) is a US \$100 million initiative funded by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#). Launched in 2008, over 950 people in more than 55 countries have received Grand Challenges Explorations grants. The grant program is open to anyone from any discipline and from any organization. The initiative uses an agile, accelerated grant-making process with short two-page online applications and no preliminary data required. Initial grants of US\$100,000 are awarded two times a year. Successful projects have the opportunity to receive a follow-on grant of up to US\$1 million.

About ORIGAMI Healthcare Products, Inc., Los Angeles, CA

Danny Resnic, a native of Boston, founded his public benefits company, ORIGAMI Healthcare Products, Inc., in Los Angeles, CA, to commercialize the next generation of condoms designed around pleasure but supported with real world safety data. Building upon earlier clinical research and development supported by the National Institutes of Health, the inventor continues his long-term commitment to introduce a condom revolution with a new brand of condom innovations. Resnic studied design at the renowned Art Center College of Design in CA.

Resnic was infected with HIV in 1993, following an experience when a condom he used broke. That life changing milestone forged his commitment to understand how rolled condoms could have survived in the market unchanged and unchallenged for nearly 100 years.

Resnic determined that the old rolled condom had been clinging to an inherently flawed and outdated narrative about protection and obligation. Resnic explains the phenomenon as the 'lollipop lie'; a marketing myth to convince consumers that they should be able to 'taste the lollipop' through its wrapper. He believes the condom industry, now monopolized by the three publicly traded brands: **Trojan** (Church & Dwight Co. Inc./Arm&Hammer(NYSE: CHD); **Durex** (Reckitt-Benckiser(LON: RB); and **Lifestyles Ansell Ltd.**(Ann: Asx), that collectively control a \$5 Billion USD, 90% global market share, perpetuates the 'lollipop lie' with million dollar marketing campaigns.

Resnic theorized that '*a missing link in the condom narrative was never considered in the early 1920's when they were industrialized*'. Resnic says, '*the 'fluid factor' is the missing link that was overlooked due in part to production limitations at the end of the industrial revolution.*' Resnic defines the fluid factor as '*a prerequisite condition of our sexual anatomy that is eliminated when condoms block the normal fluid mucosal contact between partners that creates the stimulation, excitement and exhilaration associated with sexual pleasure. Rolled condoms attempt to transfer sensation through the material like trying to taste a lollipop through the wrapper. Condom factories in the 1920's did not anticipate how significant that missing component would become in terms of consumer acceptability mainly because condoms were intended for protection, not for pleasure*'.

The innovative Non-Gender-Specific Internal Condom is under development by Resnic's company in Los Angeles. The functional performance clinical research will be independently conducted by co-investigator, Dr. Mags Beksinska, PhD, director of research at MatCH Research, at the start of 2015, in Durban, South Africa. MatCH [Maternal, Adolescent and Child Health] was established in 2010, as a division of the Wits Health Consortium (Pty) Ltd, in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, at the University of the Witwatersrand. MatCH is based in Durban and was formerly (since 1998) the Durban Office of the RHRU [Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit].

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