



ANGEL CAPITAL ASSOCIATION

For Immediate Release

Angel Capital Association Honors Innovative and Disruptive Companies and Individuals

Startups MedRhythms and Onboard Dynamics Earn Prestigious Luis Villalobos Award; Groundbreaking Leader Alicia Robb, Ph.D. Receives Hans Severiens Award for Individual Impact

Kansas City, MO (May 19, 2020) – The Angel Capital Association (ACA) featured a virtual celebration at its annual Summit last week, ACA 2020 – The Summit of Angel Investing, to recognize two innovative companies and one outstanding individual contributor to the world of angel investing. ACA 2020 – The Summit of Angel Investing was hosted by Master of Ceremonies Harry Glazer, founder and CEO of [SPROCKIT](#).

The prestigious Luis Villalobos Award recognizes the most ingenious and innovative ideas recently financed by members of the Angel Capital Association. This year, the award was given in two categories:

- **Life Sciences Winner:** MedRhythms, a Portland, Maine-based digital therapeutics company that is building direct stimulation, prescription therapeutics using sensors, music, and software to improve loss of mobility caused by neurologic injuries and diseases
- **Technology Winner:** Onboard Dynamics, a company that is working to lower fuel costs and carbon emissions by removing infrastructure barriers and getting more natural gas-powered vehicles on the roads

2020 ACA Luis Villalobos Award Life Sciences Winner: MedRhythms

Millions of people suffer from neurologic injury and disease each year. Mobility impairments are among the greatest and most life-altering challenges, negatively impacting quality of life, social interaction, community integration, and increasing the risk of dangerous falls. Music has been demonstrated to globally activate the human brain, including areas that are responsible for movement, language, attention, memory, executive function, and emotion. Specific to movement and walking, there is profound evidence that rhythm can engage the motor system to improve functional outcomes. [MedRhythms](#) has digitized this intervention for walking recovery by developing a “Clinical Thinking Algorithm” that uses walking data from inertial measurement unit (IMU) sensors to produce decision-making processes like those employed by trained therapists. The intervention stimulates the neural circuitry that controls movement. By coupling the auditory and motor systems of the brain and linking that activation to an external rhythmic cue, the approach can enhance the ability of the brain to improve and heal itself, leading to improved motor outcomes.

Featured in Harvard Health Publishing, Forbes, The Huffington Post, CNBC, and Everyday Health, MedRhythms’ digital therapeutics approach has the potential to disrupt healthcare and improve the walking function, fall risk, and quality of life of millions afflicted by strokes, Parkinson’s Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Traumatic Brain Injury, other impairments, or Aging in Place. MedRhythms, led by Founder & CEO Brian Harris, has advanced rapidly through operational and validation milestones, including multiple granted patents, completion of a feasibility study in chronic stroke patients that exceeded expectations, acceptance from the FDA on a pivotal trial design for stroke patients in the top three rehabilitation

hospitals in the U.S., and the award of a grant for a feasibility study at Cleveland Clinic in Multiple Sclerosis patients.

2020 ACA Luis Villalobos Award Technology Winner: Onboard Dynamics

Today, the transportation sector remains one of the largest contributors to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions (over 29%), and most of these emissions are carbon dioxide resulting from the use of gasoline and diesel. Fleet managers are increasingly interested in compressed natural gas and renewable natural gas as a primary fuel source – these sources would lower their fuel costs and reduce emissions. However, widespread adoption of natural gas-powered vehicles is limited by the availability of refueling infrastructure. [Onboard Dynamics](#) has developed a way to compress natural gas by enabling any low-pressure natural gas line or renewable natural gas source to become a refueling location. The [GoFlo CNG80](#) provides on-site, cost effective compressed natural gas fueling—without the need for electricity. It is mobile, so it could quickly make compressed natural gas available at many locations around the country.

Co-Founder & CEO Rita Hansen believes the U.S.'s transition to natural gas will be clear and logical. She anticipates growth from 24 million natural gas vehicles to 32 million vehicles by 2025 and believes Onboard Dynamics will drive that growth. "On behalf of my amazing team at Onboard Dynamics, I am honored and extremely proud that we were nominated by Golden Seeds and selected by the ACA judging committee for this prestigious 2020 Luis Villalobos Technology Award. This recognition validates the work we are doing to transition to a cleaner global energy footprint," said Hansen.

2019 Luis Villalobos Award Winner Continues to Flourish

[Joylux](#), a Seattle based women's health technology company, was honored with the Luis Villalobos Award in 2019 at the ACA Summit in Chicago. Since receiving the award for outstanding work and representation of a disruptive and innovative startup, Joylux has made significant progress over the last year:

- 1) The Joylux staff has grown to nine full time employees and two contract employees
- 2) Since launching in March 2018, Joylux has logged \$4M in sales to-date
- 3) 2020 Revenue is up 12% year to date despite the full loss of professional channel sales (doctors) in March due to COVID-19 (previously 60% of revenue). They pivoted to online sales and are hitting it out of the park 100% YOY growth. April alone was 30% growth YOY for all channels.
- 4) 200 investors with \$16M raised to-date

In addition to the Luis Villalobos Award, the ACA also honors one individual per year with its Hans Severiens Award, recognizing personal impact on the advancement of angel investing globally.

The 2020 honoree, [Alicia Robb, Ph.D.](#), recognized a shortage of women in entrepreneurial finance early in her career, and set her sights on changing the angel investing world by making it more inclusive and attractive to women investors. She and her colleagues recruited some of the most accomplished women in venture finance to create a fund and angel investor training program called [The Rising Tide US Fund](#). The global fund, managed within [Next Wave Impact](#), features 99 female investors (25 of them women of color.) The fund is led by an experienced investment committee of ten women who mentor the fund's investors. The team has built a diverse portfolio of 15 companies over a three-year investment period, and they are now focused on follow-on investments. 100% of the portfolio companies are led by women and people of color.

A Former Senior Fellow with the Kauffman Foundation (www.kauffman.org), Alicia received her M.S. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She worked as an economist

with the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and the Office of Economic Research in the Small Business Administration. She is a prolific author on the topics of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial finance. In addition to numerous journal articles and book chapters, she is the co-author of *The Next Wave: Financing and Investing Strategies for Growth-Oriented Women Entrepreneurs* published by Stanford University Press, as well as *Race and Entrepreneurial Success* published by MIT Press. She teaches workshops on angel investing and investor readiness around the globe.

“ACA is truly thrilled to recognize these incredible companies and leaders,” said ACA CEO Patrick Gouhin. “We live in a world of uncertainty today, but all it takes is one look at these tremendous examples of perseverance, innovation, and collaboration to reassure us that we are on the right track as a global community. Entrepreneurs have always been the lifeblood of the economy, and they have always been the creators of solutions to the toughest challenges we have faced. Our honorees are changing lives, from increasing mobility and quality of life for millions of patients around the world, to welcoming and mentoring women and people of color as angel investors, to creating technology that reduces carbon emissions for future generations. These are the types of startups and individuals that surround us at the Angel Capital Association. It’s almost impossible not to feel optimistic about the world’s future when you are in their company.”

About the Angel Capital Association (ACA)

The [Angel Capital Association](http://www.angelcapitalassociation.org) (ACA) is the professional association of angel investors across North America and offers education, best practices, data, public policy advocacy, and significant benefits and resources to its membership of more than 14,000 accredited investors, who invest individually or through its 250+ angel groups, accredited platforms, and family offices. Visit <http://www.angelcapitalassociation.org> or at @ACAAngelCapital