JULIETTE TINKER WINS IDAHO INNOVATION AWARD FOR VACCINE

Boise State University researcher Juliette Tinker, associate professor of biological sciences, was named the winner of an Idaho Innovation Award for her research on a vaccine for the prevention of staph and MRSA infection in humans and dairy cows.

Tinker won in the Early-stage Innovation of the Year category, which ended up being a tie with WhiteCloud Acute Analytics.

Winners and finalists were recognized during the Idaho Technology Council’s third annual Hall of Fame Celebration on Oct. 2 at the Boise Centre.

Winners were:

— Commercialized Innovation of the Year: earHero by earHero Sales Inc.
— Early-Stage Innovation of the Year (Tie): Vaccine that Prevents Staph and MRSA Infection in Humans and Dairy Cows by Juliette Tinker, Boise State University, and WhiteCloud Acute Foundations by WhiteCloud Analytics
— Innovative Company of the Year: ClearWater Analytics
— Innovator of the Year: Les Cullen, president, InsulStone Inc. and CastleRock Products

“Being named an Idaho Innovation Awards finalist or winner symbolizes an unbiased endorsement by our community’s business leaders,” said Jason Prince, Stoel Rives attorney and 2012 Idaho Innovation Awards co-chairman. The nominations were judged by a selection committee consisting of almost 30 leaders from Idaho’s business, technology and academic communities.

Antibiotic resistant staph and MRSA infections in humans and animals are caused by the bacterium Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus). The United States Center for Disease Control findings suggest that S. aureus and MRSA should be considered a national priority for disease control.

Tinker’s novel vaccine offers a preventative solution to the current post-infection long-term treatment for the infections. Major advantages include economic improvements for agricultural animals and livestock and improvements in the quality of life for animal and human inoculated populations.

To date, the invention has one patent pending in the United States. The innovation is unique because it is the only preventative vaccine candidate for S. aureus and MRSA that can be delivered to the nose, mouth or skin to prevent mucosal colonization.
Tinker is an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. She joined Boise State in 2005. To learn more about Tinker’s vaccine and other patents, visit web1.boisestate.edu/research/tech/patent/Juliette-tinker.shtml.

The Idaho Innovation Awards are presented by the Stoel Rives law firm, Kickstand and the Idaho Technology Council, and are supported by Idaho TechConnect and the Cooper Norman accounting firm.

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A public metropolitan research university with more than 22,000 students, Boise State comprises seven academic colleges, serving undergraduate and graduate students in nearly 200 majors and programs. Located in Idaho’s capital city, the university plays a crucial role in the region’s knowledge economy and famed quality of life. Learn more at www.BoiseState.edu.