

IME trainee wins the 2008-2009 Wharton Business Plan Competition Winner!

Congratulations to IME's **Armen Karamanian** who shares in the success with Pitamber Devgon, Xiaoming Fang, and Bosun Hau. The group founded *NIR Diagnostics*.



Armen Karamanian M.D. (second from right), IME trainee and 2009 PhD (Pharmacology; advisor P.F. Davies) was co-winner with 3 Wharton colleagues of the 2008-2009 Wharton Business Plan Competition. The group formed *NIR Diagnostics*, who took home the Michelson Grand Prize of \$20,000 cash with an additional \$10,000 worth of legal and accounting services. *NIR Diagnostics* also received the most votes in the People's Choice Award, securing an additional \$3000 prize for being the audience's favorite. The group will ring the closing bell on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange. *NIR Diagnostics* is developing a diagnostic device to quantitatively predict and monitor wound healing. Current technologies for wound care assessment are highly subjective and correlate to wound outcomes, at best, only 58% of the time. *NIR's* non-invasive near-infrared device, *InfraVue*, provides a rapid and non-invasive method to quantitatively assess the wound healing process. By evaluating the optical properties of tissues, *InfraVue* predicts wound healing up to four weeks before clinical improvements can be visualized by clinicians or detected by existing surface measuring technologies. This information is vital for clinicians to make wound therapy decisions and valuable for wound care facilities to optimize allocation of expensive therapies. *NIR* has developed a beta prototype, and proof-of-concept is demonstrated in multiple animal studies. Human clinical studies are currently underway, showing positive preliminary results in wound healing assessment. *InfraVue's* predictive capabilities can change the standard of care for wound management leading to better clinical outcomes.

Armen is the second IME graduate trainee winner of this competition; Dhaval Gosalia (Advisor S.L. Diamond) won in 2004-5.