Science center awards $300K in grants

The University City Science Center's QED Program has awarded its second round of grants for life-science technologies with high potential for commercialization.

Each of the three winning teams will receive $100,000 from the science center and a $100,000 match from their employer. The grants are meant to "pull technologies out of the labs and into the marketplace," said Stephen S. Tang, president and chief executive officer of the center. The projects are beyond the early research stage but not yet far enough along to interest commercial "seed" investment.

The grants went to:

Joseph H. Gorman III at Penn Medicine, who is developing a minimally invasive technique for replacing damaged heart valves;

Samuel I. Gunderson at Rutgers University, who is developing a new method for silencing genes that works in a completely different way from current techniques;

Robert J. Levy at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, who developed a technology expected to significantly reduce the 100,000 U.S. surgeries a year to replace blocked stents. - Linda Loyd