



PRESS RELEASE

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## Synogen's Monika Oli Becomes Program Director for Cade Museum First Annual Cade Prize for Innovation Announced

**Gainesville, FL** - Synogen, a private equity medical technology development company based in Gainesville, Florida, announced this week that Monika Oli, Ph.D., MSE, PMP, a member of Synogen Consulting Group, will serve as the Program Director for the Cade Museum and is responsible for the Cade Prize for Innovation, the first Florida Innovators Award. The award will be part of an annual competition - beginning this year - to recognize and promote Florida innovators, consisting of a \$50,000 cash prize, plus one year of in-kind support provided by the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce and the Gainesville Technology Enterprise Center. A distinguished panel of local judges will select several finalists, and an additional panel of judges from outside the region will pick the overall winner. The prize will be awarded in Gainesville in mid-June. Additional details are available at [www.cademuseum.org/prize.aspx](http://www.cademuseum.org/prize.aspx).

"The long-term goal of the prize," said Richard Miles, the Foundation's Executive Director, "is to promote the culture of innovation and to tap the tremendous job-creating potential of the brilliant ideas springing forth from this region every year." The competition is open to all Florida-based individuals or teams with ideas that are innovative, creative, interdisciplinary, and commercializable.

Dr. Oli, in her role as Director of the program, will oversee the judging process, which will include a distinguished local panel to select the 20 semi-finalists and a panel of nationally accredited thinkers and entrepreneurs that will select the 3 finalists. The winner will be chosen after an elevator pitch competition in Mid June. Updates will be posted on the Cade Museum's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) links. Dr. Oli's scientific background spans a variety of fields in the biological sciences. Over the last 5 years she has worked for biotech startup companies, managing and directing all aspects of R&D and translational research. She has significant experience drafting and prosecuting IP and holds several patents of her own, has published over 25 peer-reviewed papers and has successfully obtained grant funding totaling over \$10 million. Over the last 7 years she has participated in a variety of science competitions as a regional, state and international judge.

Synogen Consulting Group provides services that are critical to the success of medtech and cleantech companies, aids the assessment of nascent technologies, and provides future venture funds for early startups. The vision, technical expertise and proven experience of Synogen's management and consulting team helps its client and portfolio companies successfully navigate the many challenges that embryonic technologies and early companies face.

The Cade Museum for Innovation and Invention is named for James Robert Cade, the physician, musician, researcher and inventor best known for leading the University of Florida team of inventors that created Gatorade. The Cade Museum will promote America's unique national legacy of creativity and innovation through educational outreach programs, innovation competitions, virtual exhibits, conferences, workshops, lectures, and interactive exhibits in a building to be located in downtown Gainesville.

For more information about the Synogen Consulting Group, its consultants and services, visit [www.synogen.com](http://www.synogen.com).