

## **Sensawear wins CHF 150,000 to develop a wearable tissue health monitor**

**St. Gallen/Zürich/Lausanne, August 30, 2022** — Sensawear has developed the world's first truly wearable, textile-based, tissue oxygenation monitoring sensor using trusted, proven, non-invasive near-infrared spectroscopy. Specially integrated fiber optics will give users real-time feedback on deep tissue oxygen saturation without adding pressure against the skin. This technology will help prevent painful and dangerous pressure injuries and/or pressure ulcers from forming, as well as provide continuous monitoring in post-op and traumatology wards to improve surgical recovery and replace invasive monitoring procedures, thus improving quality of life and quality of care for millions of people around the world. Sensawear will use the CHF 150,000 Venture Kick funding to work with industrial partners to further advance and market the sensors to hospitals and clinics, addressing an estimated USD 850 million market potential across multiple applications.

Currently, no continuous monitoring methods exist for the prevention of pressure injuries. For example, paraplegics— who cannot feel pain in injury regions— rely on strict movement schedules without tissue health feedback. In hospitals, nurses and caretakers must invasively inspect patients for signs of early stages of pressure injury formation, which can be difficult as the injury often starts below the skin. By the time the skin shows signs of the injury, the damage is often done and the path to recovery is long, painful, difficult, and expensive.

Sensawear's sensors are single-use disposables that can be continuously worn between 24 and 72 hours. Being breathable, waterproof, and gentle on the skin, these sensors can be worn without irritating the skin with friction or moisture. This makes Sensawear's sensors ideal for pressure injury prevention and post-op monitoring.

Prof. Dr. Ursula Wolf is a co-founder, the CMO, and the Chairwoman of the Board of Sensawear. She brings expertise in near-infrared technology and decades of clinical and medical research experience. Dr. Oliver Kress is a co-founder and the CEO of the startup. He has a background in physics and a strong desire to commercialize revolutionary technology in the med-tech field. Co-founder Tarcisi Cantieni is the CTO and will direct Sensawear's research and development. All three co-founders are based at the University of Bern's Institute for Complementary and Integrative Medicine (IKIM).

"Before we started Venture Kick, the idea to start our own company and bring our innovation to market was just an idea. After we won stage 1, everything changed. Our focus dramatically shifted from pure research to lay the groundwork needed to successfully build a start-up and reach the market. With each stage, we developed ourselves further, using our newly acquired funds to transform our product development, regulatory, and market entry strategies. In addition to the funding, the help and support during the Kickers Camps gave us the feedback we needed to reshape our priorities and stay on target," said Oliver Kress.



*The Sensawear team: Prof. Dr. Ursula Wolf, Dr. Oliver Kress, Tarcisi Cantieni*

[The Sensawear profile on VentureKick.ch](#)

#### About Venture Kick



The philanthropic initiative Venture Kick provides up to CHF 150,000 in seed funding to Swiss startups and offers a well-structured entrepreneurial path toward building a winning business. Startups pitch to expert juries at three stages to obtain funding and gain direct feedback and access to an international network of 200 successful entrepreneurs and investors. Winners of Venture Kick are eligible for a CHF 850,000 investment from the Kickfund and an InnoBooster grant of an additional CHF 150,000.

Since its launch in 2007, Venture Kick has supported 841 Swiss startup projects with CHF 39.71 million. The program of financial support, training, and network has created 675 companies and 9,061 jobs. Venture Kick counts a portfolio of 518 active high-tech companies and 57 exits. Venture Kick alumni companies have attracted a total of CHF 5.3 billion and represent 59 companies ranked in the [TOP 100 Swiss Startups in 2021](#).

In 2022, Venture Kick will pay out CHF 6.1 million to idea-stage startup projects to bring Swiss science to global markets.

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