

# Boom in new medtech firms

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**CITY BEAT**  
with  
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Brisbane's burgeoning medtech sector continues to grow. Eleven homegrown medtech start-ups will be supported by the city of Brisbane to fast-track their global expansion through an accelerator program attracting investment and jobs.

Inventors of 3D bio-printed wound dressings, AI-powered digital health app developers and innovators in immunology are among the businesses selected to join Brisbane Economic Development Agency's (BEDA) third-year cohort, part of its medtech global accelerator program.

Delivered in partnership with US-based investment facilitator Life Science Nation, the cohort will participate in a six-month intensive syllabus led by leading local industry experts and mentors.

The program culminates in January next year with the founders pitching to global investors at J.P. Morgan Healthcare Week in San Francisco.

Lord Mayor **Adrian Schrinner** says Brisbane's

reputation for pioneering life-changing health technology was supported by a thriving start-up culture and world-class research and healthcare facilities. "Brisbane is at the forefront of innovation and this year's cohort represents the next wave of groundbreaking health solutions," he says.

"Their success will not only benefit lives, but also contribute significantly to Brisbane's economy."

This year's cohort includes health sector AI firm Akunah; API Longevity, which aims to reignite youthful immune-cell function in the elderly; and Cardihab, which is developing a digital platform for cardiac rehab and management of chronic diseases.

## FANTASTIC 40

You could never accuse Brisbane architect **Ray Pini** of job-hopping. Pini (illustrated) is set to celebrate 40 years with PDT Architects next month after a career that has seen him involved in some of the state's landmark developments.

Pini joined PDT in 1984, rising to

become a partner and senior associate. During his long stint, he has worked on numerous government and commercial projects including the restoration of 109 Edward St and The Corso at North Lakes.

City Beat hears the popular Pini is not only known for his architectural skills but his terrible jokes and Christmas skits. PDT director **Miranda Sheehan** describes Pini as "consistently treating everyone with respect, regardless of gender or background." Well done Ray!

## CHARITY POOL

Rugby great **Tim Horan** and inspirational swimmer **Gerrard Gosens** head a star-studded team for an upcoming charity fundraiser hosted by GRT Lawyers and the GRT Foundation.

GRT Lawyers managing director **Glenn Vassallo** says about 300 people are expected to attend the event at the Victoria Park Function Centre on Thursday, July 24. Funds raised will go to the foundation's Great Dreams program, which provides financial support and mentoring to talented youngsters.

One highlight of the evening will be the recognition of Gosens, who is preparing for an attempt to become the first blind person to swim the English Channel.

Gosens' determination to undertake such a daunting challenge embodies the spirit of overcoming adversity and following your dreams.

