



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RIGHTANSWER.COM AWARDED SMALL BUSINESS
INNOVATION RESEARCH GRANT BY CDC**

Midland, Mich. (October 5, 2015) — RightAnswer.com, Inc. a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) application development company based in Midland, Mich., in partnership with researchers from the University of Washington, has been awarded a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The \$150,000 grant will be used to research, design, and develop a prototype mobile application featuring information about the risks associated with the use of prescription and over-the-counter medications during pregnancy. The mobile application is intended to assist healthcare providers in counseling pregnant patients who have concerns about the possible effects of drugs on their developing babies.

In the past three decades the prevalence of medication usage during pregnancy in the United States has increased more than 60%. The implication of this increased usage is concerning because approximately 40,000 infants are born each year with birth defects directly attributed to medication exposure during prenatal development.

Eliminating medications, even those with known teratogenicity risk, is not always feasible for pregnant women because of medical necessity, such as those needing medication to treat epilepsy. The mobile application which will be designed and tested with the money from this grant will help healthcare providers and pregnant women weigh the potential risks and benefits of medications immediately. They will also be able to consider drug warnings, potential alternative therapies, stage of pregnancy, dosage, and route of administration.

“The primary goal of this research project is to give healthcare providers and pregnant women immediate access to evidence-based information,” said Glen Markham, Corporate Business Development Executive for RightAnswer.com and Principal Investigator on the grant. “We plan to accomplish this by determining the informatics needs of healthcare providers who care for pregnant women in order to ultimately improve drug safety by delivering current and authoritative information.”

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RightAnswer.com Receives Grant

RightAnswer.com has partnered with the interdisciplinary team of University of Washington scientists to conduct research and development for the project. A significant component of the project involves utilizing the TERIS (The Teratogen Information System) database, which is located in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Washington. Key members of the University of Washington team include Dr. Janine Polifka, Ph.D., manager of the TERIS database; Dr. Gary Hsieh, assistant professor of Human Centered Design and Engineering; and Dr. Carol Collins, clinical associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutics. Sarah Albee, Director of IT for RightAnswer.com, will serve as IT project manager.

The TERIS database provides up-to-date, authoritative information regarding the effects of drugs and chemicals on the developing embryo. It also contains evidence-based information on the developmental toxicity of more than 1,600 agents, addressing 95% of the most frequently prescribed drugs which will provide valuable information during the research and development stage of this project.

“We believe one of the reasons the CDC decided to fund our project is because of the unique collaboration of content experts from the University of Washington combined with the technology expertise of RightAnswer.com,” said Markham. “This project has the potential to enhance the assessment of clinical management options for pregnant women in ways that have never been done before.”

About RightAnswer.com

RightAnswer.com, Inc., established in 1996, is an industry leader in providing Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) solutions to meet knowledge and document requirements for the Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) market, including pharmaceutical manufacturers, chemical manufacturers, first responders, research laboratories, and educational institutions. RightAnswer.com’s Knowledge Solutions include perhaps the most comprehensive integrated collection of information supporting the management of reproductive risk available from any single resource, and includes current and continually-updated information from proprietary, licensed and government publications. RightAnswer.com is based in Midland, Michigan, with additional locations in Washington, Colorado, Illinois, and Florida plus over 20 international distributors. Learn more about RightAnswer.com at rightanswer.com.

Disclaimer Required by Federal Law

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Financial Disclosure Required by Federal Law

1. Percentage of the total costs of the program or project which will be financed with Federal money (100%).
2. Dollar amount of Federal funds for the project or program (\$150,000).
3. Percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the project or program that will be financed by non-governmental sources (0% and \$0).

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