
Output Sports launches the #OutputSoapbox competition

The competition will be broken down into two streams; the research stream and the practitioner stream.

With a number of sports science conferences postponed or cancelled this summer due to the outbreak of Covid-19, Output Sports has launched the #OutputSoapbox Showdown Competition.

The NovaUCD-headquartered sports technology start-up started the #OutputSoapbox competition to provide a forum for sport science researchers and practitioners to share high quality knowledge and expertise to a wide audience, from their own homes.

Spun out of UCD, Output Sports has developed an end-to-end solution, using advanced signal processing and machine learning techniques, that can test multiple components of athletic performance and track training programmes with a single wearable sensor.

“As a company founded based on six years of research at University College Dublin, we really value the importance of dissemination of knowledge in sports science,” said Dr Martin O’Reilly, CEO, Output Sports

“With so many conferences and other speaking opportunities affected by Covid-19, we decided to launch an engaging and fun competition called #OutputSoapbox. The aim of the competition is to allow sport science researchers and practitioners, from around the world, share their knowledge and expertise to the wider sports science community,” he continued.

There are two streams to the competition; the research stream to allow undergraduate and postgraduate students and postdocs to talk about their research, and the practitioner stream to allow sports science practitioners to talk about their favourite topic.

Both competition streams will be judged by a panel of world-class sports science researchers and practitioners including; Adam Virgile, sports science coordinator at the University of Vermont and a former sports scientist for the New York Rangers; Hilary Gannon, women’s head physiotherapist with the Football Association of Wales and Dr Eamonn Flanagan, head of strength and conditioning, Sport Ireland Institute.

To be involved in the competition, entrants must record and upload a two minute or less video to Twitter, tagging @OutputSports and using the hashtag #OutputSoapbox. Assessment criteria for choosing the winners are; clarity of message, quality of content and innovation and impact. The deadline for submission of entries is 31 May 2020.

The company, which was co-founded in 2018 by Dr Martin O'Reilly, Dr Darragh Whelan, Julian Eberle and Professor Brian Caulfield, will provide a cash prize of €500 for both the research and practitioner stream winners and a €200 cash prize for the audience winner. Winners will be announced in mid-June.

Earlier this year, [Output Sports closed a €1.3 million seed funding round](#) led by the Atlantic Bridge University Fund, with Elkstone Partners, Enterprise Ireland, and angel investors including; Leinster Rugby players, Adam Byrne and Dan Leavy; and John Hearne, co-founder and former CEO of Curám Software.

By Stephen Larkin

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