UMass Lowell BME
Capstone Sponsorship: The Nuts and Bolts

What is a Project Sponsor? Project sponsors collaborate and mentor a Capstone team as they develop a solution or a novel technology for your proposed topic. Project sponsors comprise a wide variety of engineering, science, and healthcare professionals, as well as biomedical industry experts and academic researchers.

What are the responsibilities of a Project Sponsor? On average, sponsors contribute 30min/week working with their team throughout the semester. The first few weeks of project launch are typically more active than later in the semester as students become oriented to the clinical need and participate in clinical observations. However, the degree of involvement varies with each team. The role of a sponsor primarily is to:

- Participate in weekly communication with a student team
- Help students fully understand a health-care issue
- Contribute to ideation and provide design feedback
- Facilitate observations of the clinical need when appropriate.

Why should I become a project sponsor? Great question! Benefits of working with UML BME Capstone students are one reason why many sponsors support multiple projects each year. Previous projects have resulted in successful innovations. Additional benefits include:

- Exploring real solutions to your clinical needs
- Validating clinical needs through robust Voice of the Customer analysis
- Working Low-Cost Prototype – designed, built, and tested under advisement of Capstone faculty utilizing UMass Lowell’s engineering resources
- Helping you beta-test your project before taking it to the next level

How do sponsors interact with their student team? The student team typically interacts with their sponsor on a weekly basis through online video conferencing or on-site visits if the sponsor is local. Where possible, we encourage our students to meet with project sponsors in person.

How long do students work on the project? For two semesters (16 weeks in Fall/Spring or Spring/Fall).

- Each team typically spends approximately 500 total hours of effort on the project
- Multi-semester long projects can be accommodated dependent on sponsor interest

Is there a cost to be a Capstone Sponsor? Donations to UMass Lowell BME accepted. Funds are used to support the project you are mentoring, and are used for materials, consumables and equipment required to complete the projects. Your donation supports the educational and professional development of our BME students.

Capstone Demo Day Sponsors participate in Capstone Demo Day in December. Date TBD.

Questions? Contact Lindsey_Tulipani@uml.edu