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Entrepreneur Center Launches Health Care Accelerator with Help From a Familiar Face

Eleanor Kennedy

As it has done [in publishing](#) and [music](#), the Nashville Entrepreneur Center is launching an accelerator focused on health care innovation. And it's doing so with the help of a seasoned veteran of health care startups and the EC itself.

Michael Burcham, the center's founding CEO who left last spring [to launch his latest health care company](#), will serve as chairman of the advisory board for the program, a year-round initiative dubbed Project Healthcare.

The EC's decision to launch a structured health care program in the vein of its music-tech efforts comes as Jumpstart Foundry, one of the city's earliest accelerators which last year pivoted to a health care focus, has dropped the "accelerator" portion of its business model to focus on seed-stage investing and other health care programming.

While Jumpstart, a for-profit group that's not been shy about its goal of creating returns for its investors, has moved on from the model, it's clear the nonprofit EC is confident in the role of accelerators in fostering innovation in the city's largest industries, health care included.

"The EC is built by the community for the community, a community with an economy largely driven by the health care industry," [Stuart McWhorter](#), CEO of the Entrepreneur Center, said in a news release announcing the program. "With an almost \$40 billion impact to the Nashville economy, the market is ripe for this initiative. Our goal with Project Healthcare is to nurture and graduate quality startups that can scale and grow at a level attractive to investors and follow-on programs."

Like Project Music, Project Healthcare will offer year-round support, including a 14-week accelerator, a bi-monthly leadership series, a market leader speaker series in partnership with the Nashville Health Care Council and participation in Google for Entrepreneurs' Nashville Healthcare exchange. (Applications for that latter program —

week-long immersion program running May 22-28 that bridges the gap between startups, experts and new markets — are open now.)

In his role as chairman, Burcham will "lead an advisory board of industry pacesetters including thought leaders, policy drivers, startup operators and financial supporters who will guide Project Healthcare's direction through their industry insights and connections," the release says.

Day-to-day program operations will be managed by John Murdock, vice president of entrepreneurial development, and Heather McBee, vice president of accelerator programming.

"I'm excited to be back working with the EC as it enters this next phase of support for innovation in health care," Burcham said in the release. "It's time to provide year-round support for health care startups. Mixing industry leaders with the EC's ability to create, launch and grow companies provides a unique opportunity through which those of us in health care can 'pay it forward' by investing in this important part of our community."