

## **Announcement: USA Hockey takes gold at Brain Fitness Innovation Awards, Allstate & Nationwide Mutual Insurance runners-up**

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Please join us in congratulating USA Hockey, Allstate, and Nationwide, for reaching the podium of the 2010 Brain Fitness Innovation Awards, unveiled today.



<sup>[1]</sup>The podium's top position went to USA Hockey National Team Development Program (NTDP), a full-time development program aimed at preparing student-athletes for participation on the US National Under-18 and Under-17 Teams, for its innovative cognitive training system designed with the help of Applied Cognitive Engineering (ACE) and the BIRD Foundation to help hockey players develop perception and decision-making skills. More than two years in the making and \$2 million to produce, the Hockey IntelliGym offers players a video-game-like training environment to enhance 'hockey-sense'-the information gathered from surroundings to make and execute playing decisions on-ice. According to statistics, IntelliGym training helped NTDP teams win more games than non-trained teams.

Judges selected the entry for its inspiring team approach-an intersection between specialist, coach and player. To adapt such a program and demonstrate its impact on real-life performance, they felt, opened new opportunities for extension to other sports and everyday life.

"We're extremely honored that the Hockey IntelliGym is being recognized with this prestigious award," said Dave Ogrean, executive director of USA Hockey. "Together with ACE and the BIRD Foundation, we're proud to have developed what is a truly innovative training product that helps enhance the decision-making skills of our athletes."



<sup>[2]</sup>Entries from Allstate and Nationwide Mutual Insurance rounded out the competition's other top-performers. Nationwide Mutual Insurance's 'Healthy Holiday Challenge' offered a Web based tool-MyBrainSolutions-to help employees enhance positivity, emotional resilience and deal with others more effectively – all key elements to



productivity.

<sup>[3]</sup>In Pennsylvania, Allstate invited selected drivers, 50 years and older, to help validate the impact targeted cognitive training such as Posit Science InSight can have on driving safety in an effort to prevent injuries, save lives, enable older people to maintain their independence longer and provide peace of mind to adult children faced with difficult decisions as parents age.

The remaining Top 10 Finalists included (in alphabetical order):

- AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety
- Arrowsmith School
- Mental Health Association of Rockland County
- Oakland Unified School District
- Saint Luke's Brain and Stroke Institute
- SCAN Health Plan
- University Behavioral HealthCare

In its first year, the competition showed considerable promise with 40 entries from prestigious organizations and companies around the world. "We're delighted to have so many entries which showcase that brain fitness is for everyone at any age," said SharpBrains' CEO and Co-Founder Alvaro Fernandez. "The brain fitness field is still in its infancy but given today's longer life spans and the accompanying desire to make those years healthy and productive, we believe it's important to recognize those organizations pioneering the way and adding to collective learning."

-> To learn more about the **Innovation Awards**, click [Here](#) <sup>[4]</sup>.

-> To download full **Press Kit**, click [Here](#) <sup>[5]</sup> (includes logos, FAQ, initiative descriptions, PR contacts).

A full 200+ page market report detailing all ten finalist case studies in the context of overall research and market trends will be available next month.

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### About SharpBrains and the Brain Fitness Innovation Awards

SharpBrains is an independent market research firm covering the emerging brain fitness and cognitive health market. Its flagship industry report The State of the Brain Fitness Software Market and consumer guide The SharpBrains Guide to Brain Fitness help decision makers and consumers navigate the emerging brain fitness field based on evidence-based information and independent analysis. The organization also hosts the 3-day online global and virtual SharpBrains Summit, a first of its kind conference, engaging professionals across the globe on the state of cognitive fitness research, technology and market trends. SharpBrains.com, the firm's educational blog and website, is a member of the Scientific American Partner Network.



Designed <sup>[6]</sup>to foster innovation and best practice sharing, the Awards celebrate outstanding pioneers applying neuroplasticity-based research and tools in the 'real world'. Put on by independent market research firm SharpBrains of San Francisco, the Awards recognize organizations devising and implementing results-oriented, scalable initiatives demonstrating commitment to the brain fitness of organization clients, members, patients, students or employees-and showcase innovative uses of non-invasive tools to improve cognitive and emotional functions.

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