



# HackUConn

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Hacker Information Packet

# 1.

## Schedule Breakdown

<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 24<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Reception &amp; Networking</b>
<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Keynote Intro &amp; Speakers</b>
<b>7:15 PM</b>	<b>Design Thinking Workshop</b>
<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Team Formation &amp; Dinner</b>
<b>8:30 PM</b>	<b>Start Hacking!</b>
<b>11:00 PM</b>	<b>Optional Break</b>
<b>All Night</b>	<b>Snacks/Drinks served throughout the night</b>
<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 25<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>Snacks</b>
<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Soft Submission Deadline</b>
<b>4:30 PM</b>	<b>Hard Submission Deadline</b>
<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Judging &amp; Closing Ceremony</b>
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Wrap-up</b>

# 2.

## Resources for Hacking

### **What you should bring:**

- Laptop w/ power cord
- Cell phone w/ charger
- Notebook & pencil
- Water bottle
- Close toed shoes & hair tie for long hair
- Any other hacking materials or devices that you'd like
- Creative energy!

### **What we'll provide throughout the event:**

- Prototyping tools
  - 3D Printers
  - Thermoplastics & self-hardening clays
  - Demo EpiPens & inhalers
  - Breadboards, circuits, & sensors
  - Cardboard
  - Markers & pencils
  - Construction paper
  - And More!
- Food
  - 3 full meals & tons of snacks & coffee
- Prizes
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team: Beats Studio Wireless Headphones
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team: Fitbit Alta Fitness Trackers
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team: Bose SoundLink Color Bluetooth Speakers
  - Sponsor's Favorite: Logitech MX Master Wireless Mice
  - Crowd Favorite: Amazon Echo Dots
  - Raffle: DJI Phantom 3 Drone
- Free stuff
  - T-Shirts, Google Cardboards, & much more!
- Mentors, Judges, & Workshops
- Room dedicated to napping & relaxation

# 3.

## About our Theme

### Why allergies & anaphylaxis?

Allergies are among the most common chronic conditions worldwide. A number of triggers such as food, dust and pollen are responsible for allergic reactions, and activate symptoms in the nose, lungs, throat, or on the skin. Allergies have significant economic impacts, with food allergies alone costing **an estimated \$24.8 billion worldwide every year**. Allergies can also have catastrophic health consequences, and can cause anxiety and loneliness to those who have to live with them throughout their lives.

We believe hosting a hackathon themed around solving problems faced by those who suffer from allergies is a great way to bring greater awareness to this issue and to the limited solutions that are currently offered by the market.

### What is anaphylaxis?

**Anaphylaxis** is a serious, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. The entire body can be affected within five minutes to an hour of being exposed. Sometimes, up to 12 hours after the initial reaction, a second anaphylactic reaction (or a biphasic reaction) can occur. By nature, anaphylaxis is unpredictable and can sometimes occur without an identifiable trigger.

### About our theme sponsor:

The **KeepSmilin4Abbie Foundation** is a nonprofit dedicated to preventing anaphylaxis by funding research into its early detection and increasing awareness of its severity.

The KeepSmilin4Abbie Foundation has also partnered with the Wyss Institute to advance research and development efforts in the early detection and treatment of anaphylaxis. Their partnership aims to develop a deep understanding of the processes heralding an oncoming anaphylactic episode at the earliest stages in order to develop a wearable device codenamed **Project ABBIE** for both rapid detection of anaphylaxis onset and automated injection of epinephrine.

For more information on **Project ABBIE**, check out this [video](#).

# 4.

## General Hackathon Info

### What is a hackathon?

The best way to think of a hackathon is as a “**marathon invention competition**”. A hackathon is an event that promotes a collaborative effort among teams to innovate and prototype a solution around the event’s main theme in a limited amount of time. HackUConn aims to bring together motivated students, industry sponsors, and experienced mentors to encourage problem solving in a fast-paced & team-oriented environment. At the end of the event, teams will have the opportunity to pitch their prototypes to a panel of industry experts for a chance to win one of our many prizes!

### What should submissions look like?

In short, anything! It can be an app that scans barcodes and alerts users of potential allergens in a processed food, a business plan for a biotech wearable, a 3D printed prototype of a cheaper EpiPen design, a CAD model for an improved inhaler idea, or even something hacked together from good old-fashioned cardboard and glue!

We encourage students from all disciplines to participate in our event, so your submission is only limited by your team’s individual skills and talents and this year’s theme of innovating around allergies and anaphylaxis.

### What will the judges be looking for?

Your team’s submission will be evaluated based on several categories:

- **1. Overall quality of the solution**
- **2. Creativity and innovation around the idea or prototype**
- **3. Quality of the product’s design**
- **4. Presentation to the judges**

**Tip:** Don’t neglect practicing a good pitch for presenting to the judges and audience, **you’ll only have 5 minutes for presenting!** We strongly suggest developing some form of visual aid for your presentation such as a PowerPoint deck or short video demoing your product or app.

# 5.

## Research Resources

### **General info on allergies & anaphylaxis:**

You may or may not be already well informed about the economics and science behind allergies. To help you prepare, here are just a few links worth checking out:

- **Anaphylaxis & Epinephrine Information:** [FoodAllergy.org](http://FoodAllergy.org)
- **Symptoms & Treatments of Allergies:** [WebMD.com](http://WebMD.com)
- **General Allergy FAQ:** [HealthLine.com](http://HealthLine.com)
- **Allergy Category Breakdown:** [ACAAI.org](http://ACAAI.org)

### **Common allergy related pain points:**

Here are a few ideas that the HackUConn team brainstormed around areas within the allergy space that could be in need of innovation:

- Lack of awareness that a person has an allergy exposing them to higher risk of anaphylactic shock. Lack of access to an epinephrine auto-injector when it matters most.
- Why are EpiPen prices so high in the U.S.? Can anything be done to introduce a lower priced epinephrine auto-injector alternative?
- Lack of education about the dangers of anaphylactic shock. Lack of education of the presence of common allergens in processed foods.

### **Samples of allergy innovations:**

Here are a few examples of innovative products currently in development or already on the market that attempt to address an allergy pain point:

- **Portable Allergen Detector:** [Google Patent](#)
- **Wearable Air Quality Monitor:** [TZOA Startup](#)
- **Skin Patches Protecting Against Peanut Allergies:** [CNN Article](#)

# 6. Miscellaneous

## Who to contact during the event:

Throughout the hackathon, we'll be in touch sending mass texts reminding you of when to come get food, where hacking materials will be located, when a certain mentor holds office hours or hosts a workshop, etc.

If you have any other questions that come up during the event, please reach out to any of our organizers.

- **For a general hackathon related question:**
  - Any one of our HackUConn organizers – *we'll all be wearing bright T-shirts & fancy lanyards!*
- **In case you cannot locate a HackUConn organizer:**
  - Justin Hall (203) 589-9856
  - Edward Leardi (860) 877-8869
- **In case of emergency:**
  - Dial 911 immediately & contact either Justin Hall or Edward Leardi by the above phone numbers

## And thanks again to our generous sponsors!

Without you this event would not have been possible to organize. We thank you for your contributions and for inspiring us to keep on hacking!



Updike, Kelly &  
Spellacy, P.C.

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