

Innovation Academy Awards – 2011 winner



Founded on the heritage of Ignaz Semmelweis, the Hungarian HandInScan team (www.handinscan.com) developed, validated and commercialized a novel hand hygiene control system for the direct and objective evaluation of hand rubbing. At the first Innovation Academy Award, their early prototype won the appreciation of the jury. Their mission remained the same: to effectively reduce healthcare-associated infections, and to eradicate contamination incidents at high-risk industrial procedures. In the past years, HandInScan created a Total Quality Management solution that employs digital measurement stations – quality check points – optimized training tools and a unique reporting system for management.

After years of prototyping, the second generation Semmelweis Hand Hygiene System is now available globally. It consists of the Semmelweis Scanners that monitor hand hygiene performance, and the overarching software reporting system bridging the data to the hospital information system. It has been proven that the application of the Semmelweis System fosters continuous quality improvement. HandInScan can teach the validated WHO's 6-step hand washing protocol (part of the US CDC recommendation and EN1500), with higher cost effectiveness and less human effort. Effective hand hygiene was shown to decrease HAI by at least 30%.

The HandInScan innovation and technology transfer model received numerous international awards, following the ICPIC Innovation Academy award, including the Red Dot Design Award – best concept – in Singapore (2015) and the EIT Health GoEurope award (2016). HandInScan's main partner in product development were Budapest University of Technology (BME), and the Austrian Centre for Medical Innovation and Technology (ACMIT).

The team has published over 20 peer reviewed scientific article on the efficacy and implementation of their hand hygiene system. HandInScan is a proud member of the WHO POPS group (Private Organizations for Patient Safety), working on the future of infection control.

