# EIT Health Ireland **Community Stories** ProVerum's journey to Series A success



€40M	23 employees	\$30BN

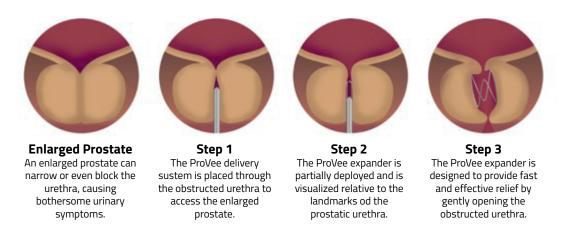
Equity raised since 2017

Full time employees

Market value for BPH treatment

Approximately 80% of men aged 70+ suffer from benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH)<sup>1</sup>. Also known as prostate enlargement, BPH is a common urological condition that causes difficulty with urination among older men. If medication is not effective, BPH is often treated with surgery. The market value for BPH treatment is estimated at over \$30 Billion<sup>2</sup>. ProVerum is a medical device start up that was co-founded by Dr. Ríona Ní Ghriallais and Dr. Conor Harkin in 2016, after participating on NUI Galway's BioInnovate programme, which is supported by EIT Health.

The founders wanted to help men suffering with BPH, who couldn't get relief from medication, or didn't want to go through the often-major surgery required to correct the problem. The ProVerum team came up with ProVee, a 'stent-like' expander designed to gently 'open-up' the obstructed urethra without heating, piercing, cutting, or removing part of the prostate. The delivery system for the expander is thinner than the currently available BPH treatment options and the straightforward procedure is intended to be performed in a doctor's office setting.



### Setting innovation in motion

When starting out, accessing key stakeholders, adequate funding, and market insights to develop an idea is vital.

#### Grant funding

EIT Health awarded ProVerum €50,000 through the HeadStart programme in 2016. This enabled the company to spin out from EIT Health partner Trinity College Dublin.

#### Market insight

ProVerum participated on LaunchLab in 2016, where EIT Health supported the team with market validation in France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

#### Exposure and introductions to key stakeholders and investors

- Pitched at the EIT Health Summit 2016 in Barcelona.
- Finalist in EIT Health's Catapult pitching competition in 2017. Catapult showcases Europe's most promising health start-ups to leading experts and investors.
- Invited by EIT Health, the team pitched at the Global Investor Forum 2017.
- Pitched at the EIT Health Journalists Thematic Networking Meeting in Paris 2017.
- Pitched at the EIT Health Ireland-UK Start-up Showcase 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170905005566/en/Teleflex-Incorporated-to-Acquire-NeoTract

#### Facilitating connections to world-class health experts

Won funding of €100K by EIT Health as part of an innovation project in 2019/2020. Joined international consortium of clinical, R&D, and business experts from Germany and Spain to optimise BPH treatment.

#### **User validation**

In 2019, ProVerum carried out a First in Man safety and feasibility study in Australia, which reported promising outcomes with respect to symptom relief, urinary flow rates, post procedure catheterisation rates and preservation of sexual function. During the 24-month period post implantation, there were no unanticipated device related complications and no reported device or procedural related serious adverse events in any subject.

"ProVerum is helping to improve the care pathway for patients and health systems alike. Their innovation will help deliver less-invasive treatment for BPH that promises to improve outcomes for patients and reduce complications related to surgery." - Valentina Isetta, Innovation Lead for EIT Health Ireland-UK.

## **Ready for investment**

- Awarded €2.5M in funding by the EIC's Accelerator project in 2020.
- €2.94M from the Irish government Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund in 2021.
- Closed a €30M Series A investment in December 2021.

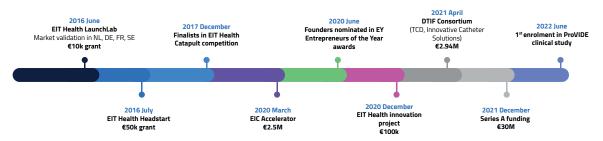
With medical device expert Paul Bateman now at the helm as CEO, supported by an experienced management team, the company has grown to 23 employees. Device patent applications have been filed in Europe, US, Japan, and China.

ProVerum is currently overseeing a 225 patient multi-centre clinical trial to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the ProVee expander in patients with lower urinary tract symptoms secondary to BPH.

"This is a very exciting time for ProVerum and EIT Health has been extremely supportive in getting us to this stage. We are looking forward to bringing our patient-friendly solution to market so we can offer BPH sufferers a safe and effective treatment for BPH that can be delivered in the doctor's office." - Dr. Conor Harkin, Co-Founder and CSO, ProVerum.

### Case study: ProVerum

Treating benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) with ProVee





### "This is a very exciting time for us and EIT Health has been extremely supportive in getting us to this stage."

Dr. Conor Harkin CO-Funder and CSO eithealth.eu/product-service/proverum-2-0

## Be part of Europe's largest health innovation network

With exposure and access to key health innovation stakeholders and knowledge, as well as European market insights and funding, ProVerum is on course to continue to achieve significant growth.

If you are an innovator at a high-potential start-up and would like to find out what EIT Health programmes are available to you, contact the team at EIT Health Ireland-UK today clc.ireland-uk@eithealth.eu