

## Health is Wealth

### Palestinian Millennials Revolutionize Blood Donating With New App



**The app has saved many lives and changed the mindset of citizens who thought donating blood was a long, tedious process**

**Two young men and two women from local Gaza universities spent two months creating the app before launching it.**

Gaza - Even in the Gaza Strip, where a siege imposed by Israel and Egypt has made daily life there an almost impossible feat for over a decade, technology has become an essential part of day-to-day life.

More and more Gazans are using technological advances to serve their communities and facilitate better living standards, and mobile apps have become some of the latest innovative tools.

'I was hopeless about my condition - I almost gave up because I know that my blood type is rare' said Mohammed Abu Seedo

The need for blood donations for the most vulnerable has long been an issue, especially in Gaza where limited health resources can

create a large gap between people in need of blood and those willing to donate.

With this in mind, a group of four Palestinian men and women recently launched a new app called the Palestinian Blood Bank. With the tap of an icon on a smartphone, blood donors can now connect to those in dire need of blood.

Last month, 29-year-old Mohammed Abu Seedo got into a traffic accident. He was walking home when he was hit by a car and suffered a serious head injury and experienced heavy blood loss. He was transferred to al-Shifaa hospital, west of Gaza City, and initially the doctors could not find blood to match his AB positive blood type.

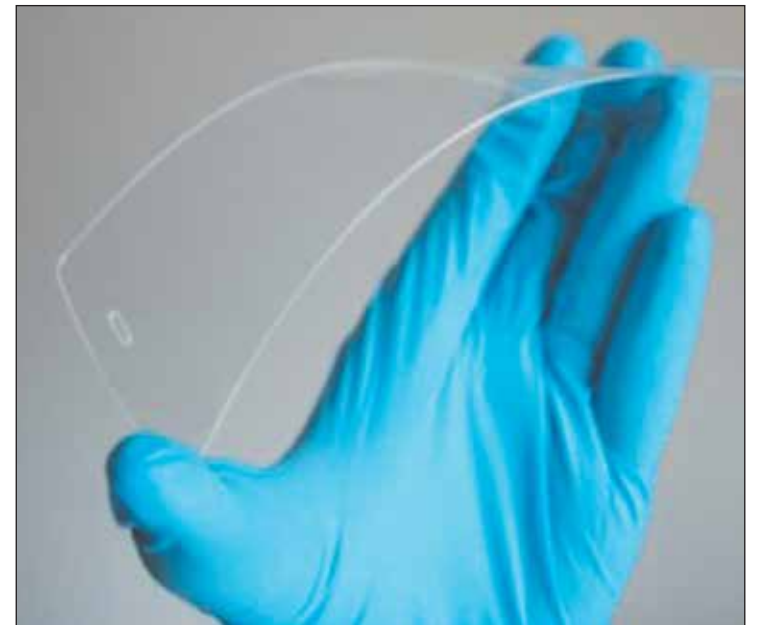
With the Palestinian Blood Bank app, hospitals are able to contact donors with the same blood type of people in need.

By using the Palestinian Blood Bank app, the hospital was able to contact a donor with the same blood type. All was resolved within a short time, when the donor came to the hospital to give his blood. Abu Seedo's surgery went well and he is now in a stable condition.

## Science & Technology

### Physicists Have Breakthrough on Brittle Smart Phone Screens

Dr Matthew Large, University of Sussex, flexes a screen made from acrylic plastic coated in silver nanowires and graphene to illustrate the kind of touch screens that can potentially be produced using the new approach.



Professor Alan Dalton and his team have developed a new way to make smart phone touch screens that are cheaper, less brittle, and more environmentally friendly. On top of that, the new approach also promises devices that use less energy, are more responsive, and do not tarnish in the air.

The problem has been that indium tin oxide, which is currently used to make smart phone screens, is brittle and expensive. The primary constituent, indium, is also a rare metal and is ecologically damaging to extract. Silver, which has been shown to be the best alternative to indium tin oxide, is also expensive. The breakthrough from physicists at the University of Sussex has been to combine silver nanowires with graphene -- a two dimensional carbon material. The new hybrid material matches the performance of the existing technologies at a fraction of the cost.

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Call: 770-608-3343  
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**Amana Academy**  
Fulton County Public Charter School

### Amana Academy Partners with ATL Urban Farms to Grow Food for Community



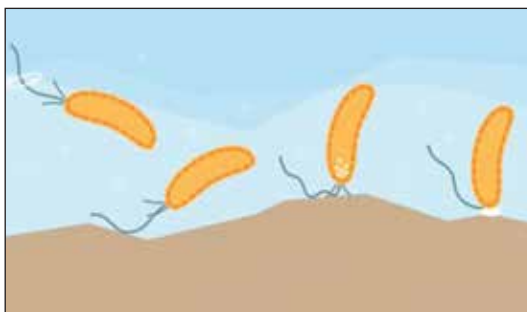
Alpharetta, GA - Amana Academy students are cultivating a thriving urban farm, thanks to a unique partnership between the school and ATL Urban Farms, a producer of seedlings for Tower Garden®, by the Juice Plus+ Company. Tower Garden® is an eco-friendly vertical aeroponic farming solution that uses approximately 90% less space and water compared to traditional growing methods. With aeroponic systems, plants grow in air or a mist environment rather than soil.

"Because our school is located in a former shopping complex, surrounded by asphalt, the Tower Garden® lets our kids see how you can grow food in an urban setting, where you might not have access to large areas of arable land," says the school's Sustainability Director, Niki Fox.

At Amana, teachers are finding ways to integrate math, science, literacy, even health and physical education lessons, into their work with students in the garden. But, academics aren't the only advantage that this new farm is bringing to the school - studies show that growing their own food and knowing where food comes from helps students make healthier choices all around. Students can be seen tasting lettuces and herbs as they are harvesting them, and to date the school has donated the produce to their local food bank, used it in meals prepared by the school cafeteria and is looking forward to selling some of it in a student-run marketplace.

"We are grateful for the partnership we've established with Bret Bowlin at ATL Urban Farms," says the school's Executive Director, Ehab Jaleel. "Schools thrive when they have the support of businesses and organizations in the community - it allows our students and teachers to benefit from experts who are using science and math in meaningful ways in the real world." This partnership was facilitated by Tech Alpharetta (formerly the Alpharetta Technology Commission), which partnered with ATL Urban Farms to bring Tower Gardens® to the Alpharetta Innovation Center last year. Amana Academy is a Fulton County public charter school serving 700+ students in grades K-8, and was recently awarded STEM School Certification by the Georgia Department of Education. Founded on the principles of stewardship and responsibility, the school is incorporated in the state of Georgia as a non-profit charter school and is located in Alpharetta, Georgia. Amana's unique set of educational approaches centers on the Harvard-based Expeditionary Learning model and is focused on fulfilling Amana's mission of preparing students for high academic achievement beyond what they think possible, so that they become active contributors to building a better world. Amana Academy has been recognized as finalist in the Certified STEM School Outreach category for the Technology Association of Georgia's 2017 STEM Education Awards.

### Bacteria Have a Sense of Touch



University of Basel Summary: Although bacteria have no sensory organs in the classical sense, they are still masters in perceiving their environment. A research group has now discovered that bacteria not only respond to chemical signals, but also possess a sense of touch. The researchers demonstrate how bacteria recognize surfaces and respond to this mechanical stimulus within seconds. This mechanism is also used by pathogens to colonize and attack their host cells.

### Neuroscientists Improve Human Memory by Electrically Stimulating Brain



Neuroscientists at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA have discovered precisely where and how to electrically stimulate the human brain to enhance people's recollection of distinct memories. People with epilepsy who received low-current electrical pulses showed a significant improvement in their ability to recognize specific faces and ignore similar ones.

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