

MakerNURSE

FOR RELEASE:

07:00 AM ET

Saturday, September 20, 2014

CONTACT:

Anna Young, 614-271-2090

akyoung@MIT.EDU

MakerNurse Create Unveiled at MakerFaire

New Tools Aim to Spur Nurse Making and Creativity to Improve Patient Care

New York, NY—Today at the [2014 World Maker Faire](#) in New York, [MakerNurse](#) unveiled [MakerNurse Create](#), a new online platform to support nurse-led making in hospitals, clinics and the home. MakerNurse is led by the [Little Devices Lab at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) (MIT) with support from the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#).

MakerNurse Create is a new resource that continues the mission of MakerNurse to nurture the creative potential of health makers and bring nurse-making to the forefront of health care. Step-by-step instructions on how to make medical devices from glow in the dark IV sorters, easy-to-open pill bottles to Arduino enabled ideas for connected health will both honor and inspire the inventiveness of health makers working on the frontlines to improve care at the bedside and introduce new methods and materials they can incorporate into their own making. *MakerNurse Create's* online community invites contributors to share their own medical making projects and learn how their contributions can impact care.

“We want to encourage health making and empower nurses, patients, caregivers and everyday makers to bring their ideas into realization,” said Gomez-Marquez. “Most importantly, we want to build a community where these innovations and solutions are shared and spread throughout the health care system to improve health for all.”

MakerNurse Create will be spotlighted in a MakerFaire presentation [Making Health with MakerNurse Create](#) on Saturday, September 20th at 1:00pm ET on the Make: Live Stage. Panelists include Jose Gomez-Marquez, Director of the Little Devices Lab at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lori Melichar, Senior Program Officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Meredith Bassler, RN. MakerNurse was launched at the 2013 World Maker Faire in New York. MakerNurse is collecting stories from nurses who self-identify as “maker nurses” to better understand what drives them to solve problems at the patient’s bedside and improve the health care experience.

“Nurses have been making at the bedside for as long as hospitals have existed,” said Melichar. “We continue to search for examples of making in hospitals and other health care and home care settings across the country and to encourage nurses who may be hiding their “workarounds” to see themselves differently—to self-identify as innovators and bring added energy and momentum to improving quality of care.”

MakerNurse Create is the first of many tools and resources MakerNurse expects to develop to build a health maker community and encourage a democratization of health making that will help more people get and stay healthy.

Earlier this month, MakerNurse launched a new blog on makernurse.org where nurses can share their story of making and learn from one another. Read the latest blog post [Podiatry Hacks for Diabetic Patients](#) from San Francisco nurse Meredith Bassler.

For more information about MakerNurse visit: www.makernurse.org

About Little Devices Lab

The Little Devices Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology explores the design, invention, and policy spaces for DIY health technologies around the world. The lab is a pioneer in the fields of user-generated medical technology and construction set design theory. The award winning group's research portfolio includes medical device construction sets, crowdsourced diagnostics, paper microfluidics, reconfigurable rapid tests, and surgical accessories for extreme environments. In 2013 the Lab spun out [LDTC+Labs](#), a startup focused on medical device development using its MEDIK design platform. For more information visit www.littledevices.org.

###