

STACKCARE

AGETECH IP CASE STUDY

The company invented it, patented it, sold the patents — and then rebuilt on the same idea

INTRODUCTION

StackCare answers a question every adult child of an ageing parent asks at two in the morning: is Mom all right? Discreet infrared motion sensors go up on command strips in the bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and favourite room, a small gateway plugs into the Wi-Fi, and in under twenty minutes the home is instrumented. No cameras. No microphones. Nothing to wear. Nothing for the resident to do.

What happens next is the product. The sensors check for activity more than eighty thousand times a day in a typical home and relay it to the cloud, where machine learning builds a behavioural baseline for that specific person — not a population average — and then watches for departures from it. Sleep hours, night-time movement, bathroom frequency, refrigerator door openings that stand in for meals, exit-door activity that signals wandering, room temperature that signals a heating problem, and the extended stillness that signals a fall. Alerts reach a caregiver's phone in under two seconds. The Share-The-Care model hands the same feed to professional agencies and family members together, with escalation so nothing is missed.

The company operates as Stack Labs, Inc., trading as StackCare, from Haymarket, Virginia and Cupertino, California, with StackCare UK Limited serving Britain. It has raised roughly fifteen point eight million dollars, came through Plug and Play, and reaches homes through national partners including FirstLight Home Care and Senior Helpers as well as senior living communities from California to Vancouver to Tennessee to Toronto.

BACKGROUND

The company's roots trace back to Stack Lighting, founded in 2013, which developed responsive light bulbs with occupancy and spatial awareness features stack.care. A data scientist at Stack Lighting realized that the embedded motion detection could be applied to health monitoring. In 2017, Stack Lighting was divested, and a small group of founders — including the company's current leadership — decided to create a product to help them monitor their aging parents and grandparents. They began by building a professional version for retirement communities, working with facilities from California to Toronto over 18 months. The strong demand for an at-home version led to the launch of StackCare @home in December 2019 stack.care. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated development of a professional home care provider version, which has since been rolled out nationwide.

StackCare's mission is to preserve independence and dignity for older adults while giving caregivers peace of mind. The system runs in the background, 24/7, offering daily summaries and real-time alerts so families and care providers can respond quickly to potential issues [babyboomer.org](https://www.babyboomer.org). It is marketed as a cost-efficient,

privacy-respecting solution that supports “aging in place” and helps address the growing caregiver crisis babyboomer.

“PatentPC has been instrumental in building our IP moat. They did it on-time, on-budget, faster, less expensive, and better than our prior law firm!”

WESLEY CHENG, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, STACKCARE

LEADERSHIP



WESLEY CHENG

Chief Operating Officer, StackCare

Wesley Cheng brings more than thirty years of software development, product management and marketing to StackCare, including fifteen years in technical management at Hewlett-Packard and Cisco Systems. He co-founded KonaWare, a wireless applications company for mobile devices, in 2001; its assets were sold to ServicePower, where he served as vice president of product management, and to the GPS pioneer Trimble.

SOLUTION

PatentPC is ideal for StackCare because it understands how to turn continuous-monitoring technology into defensible, high-value intellectual property. StackCare’s core advantage—passive behavioral analytics that detect health changes before they escalate—requires claims that survive both §101 scrutiny and competitor workarounds. PatentPC excels at shaping these kinds of claims: transforming sensor data flows, machine-learning inferences, and alert-generation logic into patentable, commercially meaningful assets. Instead of filing narrow “feature patents,” PatentPC builds protection around the entire care-monitoring architecture, ensuring StackCare owns the system-level moat that competitors cannot easily replicate.

Equally important, PatentPC aligns patent strategy with the realities of healthcare adoption. StackCare sells into senior-care facilities, home-care agencies, and insurers—markets where regulatory clarity, reliability, and long-term differentiation matter. PatentPC’s prosecution style emphasizes clarity, robustness, and international scalability, giving StackCare a portfolio that supports reimbursement discussions, partnership negotiations, and enterprise-level sales. The result is a patent strategy that doesn’t just protect the technology—it strengthens StackCare’s position as the trusted, category-defining platform for proactive senior safety.

What first set PatentPC apart was the breadth of technology it could take on and the degree to which the filing workflow itself is automated. StackCare sits across passive infrared sensing and hardware integration, wireless mesh and gateway architecture, cloud data pipelines, unsupervised anomaly detection and

per-individual baseline modelling, fall inference from absence of motion, alert escalation logic, and a multi-tenant platform serving families, home care agencies and licensed communities at once. Most firms would put a hardware group, a software group and a life-sciences group on that and bill for all three learning the product. PatentPC helped Stackcare to:

- Claim the per-individual baseline — learning one resident's own typical pattern and adjusting it as they age is the technical heart of the product and the thing competitors cannot copy from a datasheet. It should be claimed as a concrete monitoring system that produces an alert, with the sensor inputs and the update mechanism recited, not as an abstract algorithm.
- Claim fall inference from the absence of signal — detecting an emergency from stillness in a specific room at a specific hour, with no wearable and no camera, is genuinely non-obvious and is the feature every buyer asks about first.
- Protect the multi-party notification layer — Share-The-Care handoff between agency and family, the end-of-day transfer of responsibility, and the escalation ladder that guarantees an alert is acknowledged are operational inventions with real commercial weight.
- File on the derived health signals — inferring a possible urinary tract infection from bathroom frequency, dehydration from the inverse, or missed meals from refrigerator door activity converts sensor data into clinical value, and that conversion is the claimable step.
- Secure the brand properly — the STACKCARE application is filed; Share-The-Care is used with a trademark symbol and should be on the register too, in the classes that match the professional and enterprise offerings.

RESULTS

80,000+	9	5
ACTIVITY CHECKS PER DAY, PER HOME	GRANTS IN THE ORIGINAL FAMILY	PENDING APPLICATIONS

StackCare saved in two directions at once. First, by working with experienced attorneys, it avoided paying outside counsel to learn sensor networks and behavioural analytics, and received applications with more technical depth on a far shorter cycle. Second, by making the change to a firm with sophisticated tech-stack, StackCare gets high quality services while receiving more responsive patent services.

“PatentPC has proven to us that it is indeed possible to receive a higher level of service at a lower cost. We're thrilled to have them on our side.”

WESLEY CHENG, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, STACKCARE

Patents are expensive, use PatentPC to control cost.

PatentPC pairs experienced patent attorneys with practice automation across sensor networks, machine learning and digital health — including freedom-to-operate opinions and eligibility-resilient claim drafting for software-implemented monitoring systems. Talk to us about a portfolio review.

PatentPC · 1 (669) 232-3440 · patentpc.com