



PRESS RELEASE

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Software for real-time monitoring and detection for ASD signs, vending machine for STD testing kits take top honours at Medical Grand Challenge Finale 2022

Student teams from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand showcase novel innovations to solve unmet healthcare needs

Singapore, 20 August 2022 – Virtually-impaired person stimulator, artificial Intelligence-powered eye screening, mobile applications to help individuals with physical and speech difficulties to communicate, smart pill dispenser – these are just some of the novel innovations that students from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine) have come up with for the Medical Grand Challenge (MGC) 2022.

After an intense pitching session where teams put up impressive presentations to wow the judges, Team Kiddx took the top prize in the Nascent category with their video monitoring and analysis software for real-time monitoring and detection of early signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the home setting. In the Open category, Team STDetect swept the top award with a vending machine that facilitates access to Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) testing kits, along with a mobile application for users to register their test kits and receive their testing results anonymously.

Launched in 2016 by NUS Medicine and in its sixth run this year, the MGC is a student-led medical innovation programme where medical students at NUS are encouraged to form multi-disciplinary teams, comprising students from other faculties and schools to engineer innovative and out-of-the-box solutions to solve unmet healthcare needs. This year's MGC Finale saw 10 teams including overseas teams from Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia competing in the Nascent Category and eight teams in the Open Category.

Together with their counterparts from other schools within NUS, as well as Nanyang Technological University and universities in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, the teams showcased their passion and creativity at the MGC Finale this morning. The Finale is the final stage of a year-long challenge where the shortlisted teams present their projects to a panel of judges, many of whom are influential business leaders in commercial healthcare. The projects are assessed on their business strategy, creativity, design quality and healthcare impact.

The Guest-of-Honour for the Finale is Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Health.

This year, a total of 10 participating teams competed against one another in the Nascent Category where they took turns to propose solutions which they have prepared from scratch after identifying a clinical problem or unmet healthcare need at the start of this competition journey. In the Open category, eight teams worked on projects initiated by industry experts known as "Tech Mentors". The teams could also choose to focus their energies on improving

existing projects that were presented in previous competitions. This is the fourth year that overseas teams have participated in the MGC. During the past challenges, participants from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as South Korea and Galway, Ireland, have added to the diversity of the challenge with their own novel innovations to encourage multi-disciplinary collaboration. Throughout the year, the teams attend interdisciplinary boot camps and participated in consultation sessions with their tech mentors who provide guidance and advise them on how best to improve their creations and build on their commercial viability.

Professor Chong Yap Seng, Dean of NUS Medicine, is confident of the value that the Medical Grand Challenge brings to the students' learning experience. "The MGC hopes to be more than just another competitive venture or credential to beef up the students' portfolios. We hope that the multi-disciplinary nature of the MGC will prompt students to analyse problems and create innovative solutions, from a multi-faceted perspective. We need to expose our students to real-life problems, so that they will have the confidence to apply the hard and soft skills they've acquired in their schooling years to tackle trickier, and often complex challenges that the future will bring," said Prof Chong.

Other awards that were presented at the Finale included the People's Choice Award for Fisoguide, an AI-powered tele-physiotherapy based treatment application for people with Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD), Sustainability Award for BiliMonitor, a consumer-grade jaundice meter device for home use and the Social Responsibility Award for Artificial Intelligence-powered eye screening for detection of glaucoma.

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About National University of Singapore (NUS)

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education, research and entrepreneurship, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. We have 16 colleges, faculties and schools across three campuses in Singapore, with more than 40,000 students from 100 countries enriching our vibrant and diverse campus community. We have also established our NUS Overseas Colleges programme in more than 15 cities around the world.

Our multidisciplinary and real-world approach to education, research and entrepreneurship enables us to work closely with industry, governments and academia to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in our faculties, 30 university-level research institutes, research centres of excellence and corporate labs focus on themes that include energy; environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems; Asian studies; and Smart Nation capabilities such as artificial intelligence, data science, operations research and cybersecurity.

For more information on NUS, please visit www.nus.edu.sg.

About the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine)

The Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine) is Singapore's first and largest medical school. Our enduring mission centres on nurturing highly competent, values-driven and inspired healthcare professionals to transform the practice of medicine and improve health around the world.

Through a dynamic and future-oriented five-year curriculum that is inter-disciplinary and inter-professional in nature, our students undergo a holistic learning experience that exposes them to multiple facets of healthcare and prepares them to become visionary leaders and compassionate doctors and nurses of tomorrow. Since the School's founding in 1905, more than 12,000 graduates have passed through our doors.

In our pursuit of health for all, our strategic research programmes focus on innovative, cutting-edge biomedical research with collaborators around the world to deliver high impact solutions to benefit human lives.

The School is the oldest institution of higher learning in the National University of Singapore and a founding institutional member of the National University Health System. It is one of Asia's leading medical schools and ranks among the best in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 by subject and the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by subject 2022).

For more information about NUS Medicine, please visit <https://medicine.nus.edu.sg/>