



NHG, A*STAR's ETPL & SPRING COLLABORATE TO DEVELOP AND COMMERCIALISE CLINICAL INNOVATIONS

Inaugural Open Innovation Challenge in Healthcare attracts 42 submissions

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For immediate release

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) **Centre for Medical Technologies and Innovations (CMTI)**, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) commercialisation arm **ETPL**, and **SPRING Singapore**, formed a tripartite collaboration to develop and commercialise clinical innovations. The partnership leveraged on the clinical, technical and industry expertise of the three organisations to organise the inaugural **Open Innovation Challenge in Healthcare**, which was supported by Biotech Connections Singapore (BCS).

Research institutes and local enterprises were invited to develop innovative solutions to real-life clinical problems faced by local healthcare professionals, with the aim of improving care delivery and patient outcomes. The six-month long competition attracted 42 submissions. Of these, 10 projects were selected to develop their projects further. (See Annex for the list of teams)

Teams worked closely with NHG clinicians to design practical solutions to improve patient care. Business workshops, organised by ETPL, were offered to teams keen to gain knowledge in various aspects of technology commercialisation, such as design thinking and product development, as well as business pitching and fund-raising. Early-stage teams also received corporate mentorship from corporations such as L'oreal, Merck MSD, Becton Dickinson, Philips Healthcare and Singapore-based Racer Technology, who provided valuable real-world business guidance, and practical market insights.

“Good population health – comprising physical, social and mental well-being – is a shared responsibility that must be owned by all sectors, not just public healthcare. NHG believes in forging collaborations with partners such as A*STAR, SPRING, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine¹ and Nanyang Technological University. Together, we can leverage on industry, academic excellence and engineering expertise to develop innovative solutions to deliver better care for our population, and to empower people to better manage their health and encourage them to adopt healthier lifestyles,” said Professor Lim Tock Han, Deputy Group CEO (Education & Research), NHG.

“The Open Innovation Challenge in Healthcare is a strategic initiative which catalyses technology innovations that improve the quality of healthcare. It is through collaborative public-private partnerships that we will be able to fast track novel ideas into innovative commercialisable products, and make these a reality for patients sooner,” said Mr Philip Lim, CEO, ETPL.

¹ NHG is the primary clinical training partner for LKC Medicine.

“The Open Innovation Challenge in Healthcare is a good platform to bring clinicians, researchers and local companies together to co-innovate. Through such a partnership, we hope to catalyse the development of commercial solutions that can address real-world problems faced by clinicians in the delivery of patient care. SPRING is happy to partner NHG and A*STAR in driving healthcare innovations and accelerating the development of scalable solutions for the global healthcare industry,” said Mr Ted Tan, Deputy Chief Executive, SPRING Singapore.

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About National Healthcare Group

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) is a leader in public healthcare in Singapore, recognised at home and abroad for the quality of its medical expertise and facilities. Care is provided through an integrated network of six primary care polyclinics, acute care and tertiary hospitals, national specialty centres and business divisions. Together they bring a rich legacy of medical expertise to our philosophy of integrated patient-centred care. NHG’s vision is “Adding Years of Healthy Life”. This vision goes beyond merely healing the sick to the more difficult and infinitely more rewarding task of preventing illness and preserving health and quality of life. With some 18,000 staff, NHG aims to provide care that is patient-centric, accessible, seamless, comprehensive, appropriate and cost-effective. As the Regional Health System (RHS) for Central Singapore, it is vital for NHG to partner and collaborate with stakeholders, community advisors, and voluntary welfare organisations. Together with our patients, their families and caregivers, we aim to deliver integrated healthcare services and programmes that help in Adding Years of Healthy Life to all concerned. More information is available at www.nhg.com.sg.

About ETPL

ETPL is the commercialisation arm of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Singapore’s lead agency for fostering world-class scientific research and talent. As a one-stop resource, ETPL supports A*STAR in transforming the economy through driving innovation and commercialising its research outcomes. ETPL enhances the research output of A*STAR scientists by translating their inventions and intellectual capital into marketable products, processes and services. Through shaping and facilitating licensing deals and spin-offs, ETPL actively engages industry leaders and players to commercialise A*STAR’s technologies and apply them to building ecosystems that benefit business, industry and economy. For more information, please visit <https://www.etpl.sg/>

About SPRING Singapore

SPRING Singapore is an agency under the Ministry of Trade and Industry responsible for helping Singapore enterprises grow and building trust in Singapore products and services. As the enterprise development agency, SPRING works with partners to help enterprises in financing, capability and management development, technology and innovation, and access to markets. As the national standards and accreditation body, SPRING develops and promotes an internationally-recognised standards and quality assurance infrastructure. SPRING also oversees the safety of general consumer goods in Singapore. SPRING will merge with IE Singapore to form Enterprise Singapore in Q2 2018. Enterprise Singapore will enable the growth of Singapore companies through an integrated support network to build business capabilities and access overseas markets. Please visit www.spring.gov.sg and www.facebook.com/spring for more information and news about SPRING Singapore.

ANNEX

Enterprise Teams

S/N	Name of Enterprises	Aim of Proposal
1	Cogniant Pte Ltd	To develop a mobile solution to monitor people with mental distress and predict treatment outcomes
2	Nucleus Dynamics Pte Ltd	To further develop its tele-wound monitoring platform for healthcare providers to provide better guidance to patients or caregivers caring for wounds at home
3	Caligner Pte Ltd	To develop an at-home medication adherence device compatible with medication pre-packaged by pharmacy to address medication non-adherence
4	Taggle Pte Ltd	To develop a mobile application with a range of functionalities to help stroke patients and their family better manage the illness at home
5	NDR Medical Technology Pte Ltd	To develop a software image-guided device to assist clinicians in performing lumbar puncture, where a needle is inserted through the intervertebral space into the subdural space
6	Bioinstrumentation Design Licensing Pte Ltd	To develop a mattress to reduce the risk of developing bed sores

Research Teams

S/N	Name of Research Institutes	Aim of Proposal
1	Bioinformatics Institute (BII) & Institute of Medical Biology (IMB)	To develop a bedding support to eliminate risk of bed sores
2	Institute of Infocomm Research (I ² R) & Institute of High Performance Computing (IHPC)	To develop automated tools to boost efficiency in radiology
3	Metabolic Engineering Research Lab (MERL)	To develop a device to improve safety of nasogastric tube placement
4	Institute of Microelectronics (IME)	To develop a cost-effective sensor device to measure respiration rate

GLOSSARY

Open Innovation Challenge in Healthcare	医疗保健开放创新挑战
Professor Lim Tock Han Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer Education & Research National Healthcare Group	林卓汉副教授 副集团首席执行总裁 (医学教育和研究) 国立健保集团
Agency for Science Technology and Research	新加坡科技研究局
Philip Lim Chief Executive Officer ETPL	林峰先生 总裁 科技拓展私人有限公司
Ted Tan Deputy Chief Executive SPRING Singapore	陈德钧 副局长 标新局