

First-ever Medical Device Hackathon for Geriatric Care

16 July 2019 | News | By Manbeena Chawla

Fourteen teams vie for top honors



The first of its kind Medical Device Hackathon “ReImagineHealth 2019” supported by MedTech and Geriatric Healthcare Technology Business Incubator, Centre for Product Design and Manufacturing, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), K-Tech, Government of Karnataka, various companies, hospitals, policy bodies, entrepreneurs, legal and regulatory organizations and NGOs in Bangalore.

Fourteen teams consisting of 64 participants took part in the hackathon with each team having at least one person from the field of finance, engineering and medical along with mentors who have experience in these fields. Team Novae, who presented their product the ‘Sonic Walker’- a walker that helps detect obstacles and alert the user; Team Decubators who presented better and cheaper ways to prevent pressure ulcers in non-ambulatory patients and Team iDams who presented Eye(i) Drops Dispensing Aid and Monitoring Systems emerged as winners of the hackathon.

“The focus of this hackathon is on geriatric healthcare and new innovations that would help improve the quality of life for senior citizens. Through this hackathon we intend to place selected participant in the technology business incubator which we have in association with the Government of Karnataka. Winners will therefore be able to take their products and services to the next level. The main objective is to stimulate and cultivate systemic innovation in the development of products for the Elderly Care and MedTech (Diagnostics, Monitoring and Rehabilitation)” said Prof. Amaresh Chakrabati – Chair, IISc Press Senior Professor and Chairman.

ReImagineHealth 2019 aims at providing technologically advanced and socially sustainable to the needs of the senior citizens so that they can continue to be independent, agile and enjoy their life to the fullest.

“Through ReImagineHealth 2019, we have been able to radically change the field of geriatric healthcare with the use of new innovative technology to increase life expectancy amongst senior citizens with illnesses and ailments such as Dementia, Alzheimer’s, general debility and loss of memory. The goal is to attempt to give senior citizens a normal life. We have two hackathon series that we run with our partners, one is ReImagineHealth and the other is ReImagineWaste i.e. reutilizing waste in a different way and improve quality of life” he added.

“The Technology Business Incubator at Centre for Product Design and Manufacturing is the Government of Karnataka’s

initiative to encourage and support innovative technologies that drive affordable product solutions for geriatric care. The kind of response that ReImagineHealth Hackathon 2019 witnessed was overwhelming, especially from youngsters, in fact, one of the members of a winning team was a student of Class -9. This only shows the immense talent that is available to be tapped and nurtured.” said Dr. S Balasubramanya, Sr. Consultant (Biotech), KITS, Karnataka Dept. of IT, BT & S&T.

ReImagineHealth is structured so as to address focal areas such as visual, aural, oral and dental, bowel and urinary issues along with their impact on mobility that hinder a senior citizen from having an active social life.