The year 2020 has proven to be unprecedented. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a tremendous toll on the health of populations globally, especially those with existing vulnerabilities and at the margins of the society. In addition, historical and structural racism and inequities have finally come to the forefront of our society. This is a historical moment for the public health community to stand up and tackle these tremendous challenges.

In this newsletter, you will learn about some of the innovative ventures our students have developed to respond to these extraordinary challenges. We are proud to support these ventures and are grateful to our generous donors, our advisory board, and partners within and outside of Yale.

Kaveh Khoshnood, PhD, MPH
Faculty Director
InnovateHealth Yale
This year has been filled with unbelievable challenges and also unbelievable opportunities.

Now more than ever, we need creative, intelligent, and passionate public health entrepreneurs. Through individual coaching, professional mentorship and funding opportunities, IHY is committed to supporting our community as we work on current and future public health challenges. I look forward to this upcoming academic year and working with more amazing innovators!

Fatema Basrai, MBA
Assistant Director
InnovateHealth Yale
2019-2020 InnovateHealth Yale Student Fellows

IHY Student Fellows supported IHY programming and communications throughout the year and were critical to the growth, outreach and success of the program. Thank you to both of the fellows & best of luck in your future endeavors

**Allison Rabkin Golden**
Allison is a JD/MBA student at Yale Law School and the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Her interest in global health began at an early age and developed through, among other experiences, her research at the Yale Global Health Leadership Institute (GHLI) and her work in China as a Fulbright Scholar.

**Uzma Amin**
Uzma recently graduated with her Master's in Public Health degree from Yale School of Public Health. She is passionate about community health and human-centered design and is currently working as an Associate at the Financial Health Network, where she is exploring the connection between physical health and financial health to create healthy and resilient communities.
UrPharm/Pills2Me 2020 Thorne Prize Recipient

UrPharm is an easy way to search, find, and pay for medications in Sub-Saharan Africa. The goal is to provide easy access to authentic life-saving medications in Sub-Saharan Africa. Pills2Me is the "GrubHub for pharmacies" , an on-demand prescription delivery service in North America. "UrPharm has recruited 26 licensed pharmacies in the two largest cities in Cameroon on its platform and plan to start expanding to other Sub-Saharan African countries. Pills2Me just recently expanded its services to include other vulnerable demographics and the young and healthy for a small fee. Winning the Thorne Prize has been the highlight of our year. The funds and mentorship we received have helped us to hire more team members and develop and grow our platforms for both companies."

Read more here.

KovaDx, 2020 Rita Wilson Prize Recipient

KovaDx uses 3D Quantitative Phase imaging analysis for the diagnosis of blood diseases. "This year, we won at Startup Yale, joined the Techstars summer fellowship and the Expert Dojo accelerator. We also joined the Citris Foundry at UC Berkeley and have been nominated to go to nationals from the National Science Foundation's Bay Area Innovation Corps. We are thrilled and ready to learn and grow."

Read more here.

On April 17th 2020, over 800 people tuned in to a virtual Startup Yale. InnovateHealth Yale sponsored the Thorne Prize and the Rita Wilson Prize. The judges narrowed down the pool to four finalists who competed for each prize.

Read more here.
Innovators' Updates

We asked past IHY innovators "What are you most proud of achieving this year?"

Khushi Baby, 2014 Thorne Prize Recipient
Khushi Baby’s mission is to motivate and monitor the health care of mothers and children to the last mile.

“We now have a 3-year contract with the Department of Medical, Health, and Family Welfare in the government of Rajasthan as their Nodal Technical Support Partner.”

Visionary Health, 2019 Thorne Prize Finalist
Visionary Health arms doctors with AI-powered tools that expand their capabilities and help them make more accurate and quicker decisions.

“This year, we validated our AI solution and raised over $500,000.”

Read more about their success.

BridgeYear, 2017 Thorne Prize Recipient
BridgeYear connects underserved youth to careers and educational pathways that provide economic stability and independence.

“We launched our first national corporate partnership in 2020. With more than 1.5 million residential construction workers having left the kitchen and bath industry after the 2008 recession, BridgeYear is helping the National Kitchen and Bath Association recover their workforce through our engaging career exploration model.”

Edsightful, 2019 Thorne Prize Recipient
EdSightful is a simple application that helps schools more effectively run their instructional coaching and teacher evaluation programs.

“I am now working with a diverse set of clients, including traditional public schools, charter schools, international private schools, and instructional coaching non-profits. I grew my revenue from $22k to $90k. I also established a partnership with a coaching organization, and we piloted the tool at 30 schools across 4 districts.”

RxAll, 2017 Seed Grant Recipient
RxAll is a deep hyper-spectral IoT platform for authenticating drugs.

“We provided authenticated medicine deliveries to 250K patients in the first 5 months of 2020”.

Read more here.

Read more here.

Read more here.
**Brio, 2019 Thorne Prize Finalist, 2018 Seed Grant Recipient**

Brio enables access to quality mental health care in low-resource contexts by partnering with local organizations to design community-owned models of care.

“In 2020 and despite COVID-19, Brio launched 2 new partnerships in Peru and India. We also were one of 9 awardees selected by Acumen and the Rockefeller Foundation for a social innovation grant. We also created and launched 19 tools for local community organizations to create and implement mental health support for their contexts.”

[Read more here.](#)

**iDocta, 2020 Thorne Prize Finalist**

iDocta is a telehealth solution based in Cameroon.

“We are proud of the impact of iDocta on Cameroonian society. The containment measures prescribed by the government have favored the use of our service by patients (especially teleconsultations and home visits). We have gained notoriety because we are currently finalizing a public-private partnership with a German organization in Cameroon (GIZ) to take care of our vulnerable populations.”

[Read more here.](#)

**Cocoa360, 2020 Thorne Prize Finalist, 2019 Seed Grant Recipient**

Cocoa360 is on a mission to achieve health equity in rural communities.

Our pioneering “Farm-For-Impact” model puts farmers in the driver’s seat of development. We work with communities to invest locally generated revenue in education and healthcare interventions.

“In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Cocoa360 launched a two-phased intervention dubbed (Cocoa360 COVID Preparedness & Outbreak Prevention Plan - CocoPOPP) which focuses heavily on public health prevention and control measures in rural centers, while actively connecting potential diseases cases with the nearest regional health facilities.”

[Read more here.](#)

**MyHealthEd, 2017 Aetna Prize Recipient**

Real Talk crowdsources authentic teen stories on topics like puberty, bullying, identity, and mental health and connects teens with additional resources.

“This year, we have identified 2 new areas of growth and brought on new staff members for various projects.”

[Read more here.](#)
Source Development Hub, LLC (WISSP), 2020 Wilson Prize Finalist, 2018 Seed Grant Recipient

WISSP is a service aimed to reduce evictions and homelessness for tenants, eviction-associated costs for landlords, and care burdens for social service providers, in New Haven, Connecticut. “We have partnered with the State of Connecticut to develop an affordable housing database.”

4Beez, 2019 Seed Grant Recipient

4Beez aims to create a sustainable and healthy Haiti. “In one year, 4 Beez went from an idea to a 501c3. We held two fundraisers and were able to raise $2,000. We will be helping farmers in Savanette, Haiti with a donation of $500. We are establishing a back office to lay the ground work for a strong company.”

Agora Good Life, Inc, 2019 Rita Wilson Seed Grant Recipient

Agora is a wellness app focused on increasing one’s energy level through a combination of arts and public health science. “We are are excited about the completion of our beta product to be launched at Yale during the summer of 2020!”

Learn more here.

AgriCORE LLC, 2019 Rita Wilson Seed Grant Recipient

AgriCORE is bridging the rift between environmental scientists and ranchers, farmers, and land managers when it comes to soil analysis through affordable soil-sampling and soil-testing methods. “This year, we are proud of having finally filed utility patents for both of our inventions. This puts us in a much better position to begin larger scale launching of our products for further validation in our market.”

Read more here.

SocialTrace, 2019 Rita Wilson Seed Grant Recipient

Social Trace is a contact tracing tool created during the COVID-19 pandemic. “The SocialTrace team was able to develop a prototype version of our contact tracing app, and this has helped us identify some of the strengths and weakness of this approach to contact tracing, which has in turn been helpful in our larger discussions about how to institute contact tracing for the university in the future.”

Read more here.

BambooAbility, 2019 Seed Grant Recipient

BambooAbility creates sustainable medical products. “We are most proud to have been a recipient of the IHY funding in 2019, which allowed us to visit Ghana last December (2019). Here we established a partnership with BDAC Ghana Limited, who has taken on BambooAbility as their corporate social responsibility (CSR) project. They are now assisting us in creating a feasible business plan. Additionally, we are proud to have created a connection with the FOCOS Hospital in Accra, Ghana, and the Orthopedic Training Center (OTC) in the greater Accra Region in Ghana.”

Learn more here.
Other Highlights

This year, IHY mentored over 70 entrepreneurs during 100 coaching sessions. We reviewed 20 high quality applications for the Wilson Seed Fund and awarded 8. We received over 50 high quality applications for the Thorne Prize and the Rita Wilson Prize during Startup Yale and awarded a grand prize for each.

We sponsored a social innovation prize at the Center for Biomedical Innovation and Technology's Healthcare Hackathon focused on social determinants of health.

We collaborated with Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale (CITY), Dwight Hall Center for Public Service and Social Justice, and the Office of Public Health Practice at Yale School of Public Health to host a Community Health Night focused on housing equity. There were over 60 attendees at this event representing several community organizations.

THANK YOU

- The Thorne Family
- Rita Wilson Seed Grant & Prize Fund Donors
- Fellow members of Yale's Entrepreneurship Collaborative
- All the amazing student entrepreneurs!

As we reflect on this year, IHY will continue to refine and curate programming for the Yale community. We look forward to helping more social entrepreneurs find their sparks and accelerate their impact.

Please join our mailing list for updates as they happen!