InnovateHealth Yale’s Year in Review

We are pleased to send you the 2021 InnovateHealth Yale annual report, covering the period July 2020-June 2021. Once again, our team has provided programming, mentoring, and venture support to Yale students committed to using the principles of innovation and entrepreneurship to change lives.

To date, InnovateHealth Yale has:

- Coached over 200 students
- Funded 40 start-ups doing work in 22 countries
- Awarded over $300K in startup funding
- Seen our supported startups receive over $10M dollars in follow-on funding

We look forward to celebrating success this year and beyond!

Best,

Kaveh Khoshnood, Faculty Director
Fatema Basrai, Director of Innovation
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 our fellows & best of luck in your future endeavors!

Shareen Asif trained as a dentist in India before joining the Yale School of Public Health as a graduate student in the Health Care Management program. She is passionate about using innovation in healthcare to advance equity and quality in healthcare delivery.

As the daughter of an army officer, Shareen spent most of her childhood moving between locations and cultures.

This has imbued in her an abiding appreciation for coming together to make things work - across diverse cultures and professions. Shareen has a knack for organizing, coordinating, and managing projects.

Thank you, Shareen for your support!
Startup Yale 2021 took place from April 29 through May 1, 2021. For the second year, all events took place virtually. Over three days, students pitched for roughly $125,000 in funding as they shared how they’re innovating in health, sustainability, tech, and more. Meet the winning teams.

InnovateHealth Yale sponsored the Thorne Prize and Rita Wilson Prize during Startup Yale.
The Thorne Prize for Social Innovation in Health or Education is a $25,000 cash prize awarded to the best student-led venture focused on social innovation in health or education for underserved communities in the United States or low-resource countries. The Thorne Prize was created in 2014 with generous support from the Thorne family.

2021 Thorne Prize Judges

Margaret Yates Thorne, Managing Partner, Sociable Weavers; Owner, Niknats - Margaret Yates Thorne is the Managing Partner of Sociable Weavers, providing seed investing to transformational startups in education and healthcare. Margie is also the owner of Niknats, a personalized needlepoint gift business. She has worked for the last thirty years with a wide range of non-profits, providing support in startup management, fundraising, and finance. Margie has chaired the boards of The Bronx Preparatory Charter School and Peer Health Exchange and served on many boards including Student Sponsor Partners and READ. Margie has a BA from Yale and also studied educational psychology at Columbia's Teacher's College. Prior to her work with non-profits, she worked for fifteen years at Citigroup. Margie is married to Nate Thorne, previously head of private equity at Merrill Lynch and Blackrock, and is the mother of two sons. The whole family are Yale graduates. They are actively engaged in restorative agriculture in the Hudson Valley.
Nikole Allen is a lecturer of health policy and management at the Yale School of Public Health and Senior Program Director at the Yale Institute for Global Health overseeing the Sustainable Health Initiative. Previously, Ms. Allen directed the health and hospital management and preclinical education projects under the Yale-Liberia Health Workforce Program. In this role, Ms. Allen oversaw the design, implementation, and evaluation of projects. Ms. Allen previously managed the Health and Social Care Strategic Leadership Program with the National Health Service in England, the Hospital Management and Leadership Program for public hospitals in China and oversaw implementation of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Leadership, Management and Governance Project's Senior Leadership Programs in Africa and Southeast Asia. Ms. Allen has worked with teams and individuals from numerous countries and backgrounds addressing complex problems using strategic problem-solving methods. Before joining Yale University, Ms. Allen worked with the Ethiopian Hospital Management Initiative at the Clinton Health Access Initiative. Her work focused on improving key performance indicator reporting among hospitals, including measuring patient and staff satisfaction, the uptake of patient satisfaction best practices and the implementation of the World Health Organization Surgical Safety Checklist.

Ms. Allen has a B.A. and Leadership Certificate from Western Oregon University and an M.P.H. from the University of Washington Department of Global Health.

Kaveh Khoshnood, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Yale School of Public Health and executive committee member at Yale Council on Middle East Studies. He is co-founder of Yale Violence and Health Study Group and a faculty member of the Program on Conflict, Resiliency and Health at the Yale MacMillan Center and serves as the Faculty Director for InnovateHealth Yale (IHY). Dr. Khoshnood is trained as an infectious disease epidemiologist and has more than three decades of domestic and international experience in HIV prevention research among people who use drugs and other at risk populations. Dr. Khoshnood’s research interests include: 1) epidemiology and prevention of HIV/AIDS, 2) research ethics and 3) humanitarian health. His projects are primarily in China, Lebanon and Bhutan. Dr. Khoshnood teaches courses on public health ethics and global health and is developing a new course on humanitarian health.
Dr. Asanga is a pharmacist and an entrepreneur with 10+ years of healthcare and entrepreneurship experience. He is the founder and CEO of Pills2Me (an on-demand prescription delivery service) which was launched at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is also the co-founder and CEO of UrPharm (an easy way to search, find, and pay for medications in sub-Saharan Africa). He is an innovator and very passionate about using technology to solve healthcare problems especially in vulnerable communities.

Sam Hayek is a mechanical engineer, banker, organizational consultant and coach. He pursued a career in finance, having earned an MBA from The Wharton School. As a banker, Mr. Hayek led professional teams focused on financing and advising corporate and government clients throughout the United States, Canada, Western Europe, and South America. In addition to leading a structured finance consultancy team, he oversaw numerous business improvement and data/information management projects. In 2010, Sam Hayek pursued a career transition into organizational coaching and consulting. His practice focused on leadership and collaboration across-cultures, as well as business improvement and organizational agility in light of technological shifts and accelerating product life cycles. He also earned a certification in career and personal coaching from NYU. Mr. Hayek enjoys science and technology, medicine, languages, sports, as well as history, music and politics.
2021 Thorne Prize Finalists

2021 Thorne Prize Recipient - Sprxng

Winner of both the grand prize and the audience choice awards, Sprxng is a reusable menstrual disc that provides menstrual pain relief along with focusing on easy insertion and mess-free removal. They are on a mission to combat the stigma around menstruation and to improve the global menstrual experience.

Sprxng was founded by Phyllis Mugadza (YC ‘21) with the assistance of Yale School of Medicine faculty member, Dr. Valerie Flores. Phyllis is a mechanical engineer who is also obtaining a master’s degree in Public Health. Sprxng is dedicated to including all identities while combatting menstrual stigma and pain around the world. The company seeks to specifically serve those who menstruate in low-resource settings as well as in post-crisis and humanitarian settings.

Learn more here.

2021 Thorne Prize Finalist – Elevation Med Prep

Elevation Med Prep’s mission is to make medical school admissions consulting accessible to everyone – regardless of their ability to pay. We want to create a world where physicians are representative of those they serve.

Read more here.
2021 Thorne Prize Finalist – ReCore

ReCore was created to address the growing need for cancer diagnosis around the world. We are creating reusable biopsy devices that reduce cost and increase global access to procedures that are the gateway to timely cancer treatment.

Read more here.

2021 Thorne Prize Finalist – Thinking Huts

Thinking Huts is on a mission to close the global opportunity gap by building 3D printed schools. We believe in a future where education and opportunity are paramount.

Read more here.
The Rita Wilson Prize Fund in support of Innovation and Entrepreneurship is a $10,000 cash prize awarded to the best student-led venture focused on creating a technological solution to address a health disparity in the United States. The Wilson Prize was created in 2019 with a generous gift to the Yale School of Public Health.

2021 Wilson Prize Judges

Kaveh Khoshnood, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Yale School of Public Health and executive committee member at Yale Council on Middle East Studies. He is co-founder of Yale Violence and Health Study Group and a faculty member of the Program on Conflict, Resiliency and Health at the Yale MacMillan Center and serves as the Faculty Director for InnovateHealth Yale (IHY). Dr. Khoshnood is trained as an infectious disease epidemiologist and has more than three decades of domestic and international experience in HIV prevention research among people who use drugs and other at risk populations. Dr. Khoshnood’s research interests include: 1) epidemiology and prevention of HIV/AIDS, 2) research ethics and 3) humanitarian health. His projects are primarily in China, Lebanon and Bhutan. Dr. Khoshnood teaches courses on public health ethics and global health and is developing a new course on humanitarian health.
Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, Ph.D., is Professor of Public Health, Director of the Office of Public Health Practice, and Director of the Global Health Concentration at the Yale School of Public Health. He is the PI of the Yale-Griffin CDC Prevention Research Center (PRC). His global public health nutrition and food security research program has contributed to improvements in breastfeeding and other maternal, infant and young child nutrition outcomes, iron deficiency anemia among infants, household food security, and early child development. His health disparities research involves assessing the impact of community health workers at improving behavioral and metabolic outcomes in vulnerable communities. He has published over 280 research articles, 3 books/monographs, and numerous journal supplements, book chapters, and technical reports. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine (elected in 2019) and served in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Food and Nutrition Board from 2012-18. He has been a senior advisor to maternal-child community nutrition programs as well as household food security measurement projects funded by the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the U.S. Agency for International Development, The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), The World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Governments in Latin America & Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Europe. He obtained his BS in Chemical Engineering from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City and his MS in Food Science and his PhD in Nutrition from the University of California at Davis. His postdoctoral training at UC Davis focused on the link between nutrition and early childhood development.

Tim Adamson is the CTO and co-founder of KovaDx, and also a Yale PhD student in the computer science department. He loves robotics, AI, and using cutting-edge technologies to serve underprivileged communities.
Dr. Rosenthal is currently Chief Medical Officer of Tesseract Health and Liminal Sciences, 4Catalyzer companies in Guilford, CT. He is a Primary Care Physician, an Adjunct Professor in the Section of General Internal Medicine at Yale School of Medicine.

From 2012-2020, he served as the Medical Director of the Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team for VA Connecticut, a medical home model of care with specialized access for Veterans experiencing homelessness located in the Errera Community Care Center. He has special areas of expertise in the development, testing, implementation, and scaling of innovative technology products and healthcare services for vulnerable populations. The VACT HPACT clinic was awarded VA/VISN 1 Quality Improvement Award for Best Population Health Program, the Best Clinical Innovation by Yale Department of Psychiatry, and was part of the CRRC team awarded large grant from Congress for large expansion to new clinical site in 2018. In August 2015, USICH officially recognized Connecticut as first state to functionally end chronic homelessness in Veterans, in January 2016, recognized as second state to functionally end homelessness in all Veterans. VA Connecticut Homeless PACT was frequently recognized as the #1 Top Performing H-PACT in Management of High-Utilizing Patients. For more information about the National Homeless PACT Program here featured on AHRQ website.

He helped conceive, develop, and deploy the Buprenorphine Home Induction Mobile App on the iOS and Android platforms with grant funding from the VA Innovation Center and private startup accelerators, and helped incorporate mandatory Buprenorphine X-waiver training for all Yale Medical students in the Capstone Course. In 2020, he was the lead medical advisor for the City of New Haven COVID isolation respite shelter, helping to develop the strategic and operational respite document, and was awarded a Proclamation by New Haven mayor Justin Elicker for his commitment to the public health and well being of our community, and awarded a C.H.A.I. (COVID-19 Hero Award for Innovation) by the COVID in 20 show, hosted by National Program Director for VHA Emergency Medicine.

His prior work experience spans roles in technology, education, and the arts -- including helping to start a venture-backed health informatics startup Keas after medical school. Dr. Rosenthal has written on medicine, health information technology, and medical ethics in The New England Journal of Medicine, Healthcare: The Journal of Delivery Science and Innovation, Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association (JAMIA), The Journal of Participatory Medicine, The Journal of Medical Internet Research, and in books addressing medical ethics in film. His documentary film entitled Witnessing Death: A grandson’s reflections on Alzheimer’s has been shown widely across the country and has been used in Certified Nursing Aide trainings. He has served previously as Tutor and Head Premedical Advisor at Pforzheimer House (Harvard), on various CT state Homelessness initiatives and workgroups including the Governor’s Taskforce for Rocky Hill Redesign, the CT Heroes and Reaching Home Workgroup, and on clinical advisory boards for health startups.
He also currently serves as the Course Director of the Capstone Course (formerly ICM) and the Co-
course Director for the Introduction to the Profession (iPro) course for all Yale Medical Students. He
helps teach courses in Professionalism and Ethical Responsibility, Patient Centered Interviewing, Physical

Dr. Rosenthal graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College, received his M.D. from Feinberg
School of Medicine, Northwestern University, and completed his internship and primary care residency at
the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in the Management and Leadership Track.

2021 Wilson Prize Finalists

2021 Rita Wilson Prize Recipient – Mindful Kala

Winner of both the grand prize and the audience choice awards, Mindful Kala aims to elevate social and mental well-being through utilizing Indian Classical Dance to explore mind-body movements, mindfulness, and cultivate intercultural relationships.

Mindful Kala was founded by Shruti Parthasarathy (YC ’24) in partnership with Dr. David Victorson, Medhi Hari, Rima Patel, and Zeenat Vastrad. Several Yale professors assisted in the development of the app, including Professor Tayla Zemach-Bersin, Professor Laurie Santos, and Dr. Elizabeth Goldfarb. A research study, approved by Yale’s IRB, showed significant decreases in anxiety, depressive symptoms, and cultural anti-bias behaviors, while also showing an increase in mindfulness and embodiment in 46 adolescents utilizing the 8-week Mindful Kala course piloted at Middleton High School.

Read more here

2021 Wilson Finalist – EnlighteN

EnlighteN is a medical device startup working to detect opioid overdose induced respiratory events.
2021 Wilson Finalist – Origin Healthcare

Origin Healthcare bring the hospital to you. Origin Healthcare helps patients avoid the isolation, complications, and high costs of a traditional hospitalization. Their expert medical team provides personalized, hospital level care to patients at home.

[Read more here.]

2021 Wilson Finalist – Sunset Sanctuary

Sunset Sanctuary helps older adults live with dignity, security, and comfort in their own home and community as they age. Their first product, Pocket Blueprint, identifies home risk factors to help prevent fall-related injuries, thereby fostering independence and aging in place.
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.

“We are most proud of scaling a 21-day wellbeing audio program that we cowrote with our partners in India to 5,000 individuals, including Covid-19 patients during the spike this spring. The program has been proven numerous times to increase emotional awareness and regulation, as well as decrease stress. This fall, local government will make the program available to 50,000 educators.”

Read more here: 1, 2, 3.

Edsightful, 2019 Thorne Prize Recipient

EdSightful is a simple application that helps schools more effectively run their instructional coaching and teacher evaluation programs.

“I’m most proud of supporting schools during the pandemic and helping them think creatively about solutions.”

Read more here.
Khushi Health, 2014 Thorne Prize Recipient

Khushi Health recently won $660,000 in funding for its innovative data-driven response to COVID-19 in India. Khushi Health's mobile health platform empowers 60,000 community health workers, who have screened more than 14 million beneficiaries in Rajasthan, India's largest state. This has generated hyper-detailed maps of communicable and non-communicable diseases for health officials to make data-driven interventions.

Read more here.

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 have completed the pilot stage of our project and getting ready to bring it to scale!”

Read more here.

SocialTrace, 2019 Rita Wilson Seed Grant Recipient

Social Trace is a contact tracing tool created during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I enjoyed exploring the potential for technology to augment traditional contact tracing methods. This seed award helped me get involved for the first time in app development which was a great learning experience. It also helped me form connections with many additional faculty on campus which led to additional academic and research opportunities in the same research area.”
CtrlTrial Inc., 2020 Rita Wilson Seed Grant Recipient

CtrlTrial is a healthcare analytics company providing software solutions for cohort identification in patient management and clinical research.

“We completed one pilot project with Yale cancer center on patient matching to one GI Oncology clinical trial, and the results demonstrated great potential and impact of our product. Also, we received enthusiastic feedback from the Yale cancer center with strong willingness to continue and expand the collaborations.”

Read more here.

Pills2Me/UrPharm, 2020 Thorne Prize Recipient

Pills2Me is a program that delivers medication to seniors and immunocompromised individuals. Urpharm aims to facilitate access to authentic drugs by providing a platform by which patients can easily locate these drugs, compare prices between pharmacies and purchase the drugs with just a few clicks.

“At Pills2Me, We’ve delivered over 17,000 prescriptions to seniors and immunocompromised for free. We started a $2M seed round to grow the team, scale marketing and geographic expansion. At Urpharm, We are organizing an official launch in Cameroon in October. It will include a media tour across various national TV and radio stations. We also have some well-known influencers lined up to work on the campaign and create more awareness.”

Read more here.
Cocoa360, 2019 Seed Grant Recipient

Cocoa360 is pioneering a new model of development that leverages existing community resources to improve access to education and healthcare for rural cocoa farming communities.

“We are expanding out tuition-free all girls school, championing a rural CoVID19 outreach intervention and recording zero COVID-19 cases till date!”

Read more here.

Spring Health, 2016 Thorne Prize Recipient

Spring Health is an AI-enabled online mental health clinic for employee mental wellness. The company recently announced that it has secured a $190 million Series C round of funding at a $2 billion valuation.

“We are most proud of quadrupling in bookings and selling to huge jumbo companies like PepsiCo.”

Read more here.
Elevation Med Prep, 2020 Rita Wilson Seed Grant Recipient

Elevation Med Prep’s mission is to make medical school admissions consulting accessible to everyone.

“We are most proud of being a Startup Yale Finalist for the Thorne prize.”

Read more here.

Origin Healthcare, 2020 Rita Wilson Seed Grant Recipient

Origin Healthcare helps patients avoid the isolation, complications, and high costs of a traditional hospitalization.

“We are most proud of providing hospital at home services to our first patient and seeing her get better under our care.”
KovaDx, 2020 Rita Wilson Prize Recipient

KovaDx is making the diagnosis and monitoring of sickle cell disease patients faster, easier to perform, and more affordable.

“We are excited to have received an NSF STTR Phase I Grant.”

Read more here.

Widely Integrated Social Services Platform (WISSP), 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 completed a statewide housing database and study on affordable housing for the Connecticut Department of Housing and the Connecticut Department of Social Services. We received additional support from Yasmmyn Salinas (YSPH) and Jack Tsai (School of Medicine and UTHealth San Antonio).”

Raise Green, 2018 Aetna Prize Recipient

Raise Green is a financial technology company to crowdfund a green and just future.

“We are coming out of the pandemic with a stronger team and a clear path to increased revenue. We have grown from a team 4 to a team of 15 strong by the end of summer 2021, and raised more than $1.7m on our platform in the past 12 months. Scaling at this rate, in the depths of a once in a 100 years pandemic, is all the more amazing. We are thrilled with how far we’ve come, and can’t wait for another year of growth and impact!”

Are you interested in talking to any of these entrepreneurs?

Send Fatema an e-mail!
Other Highlights

This year, IHY mentored over 80 entrepreneurs through office hours and mentorship events. We awarded over $40,000 in grants through the Rita Wilson seed grant initiative as well as the Thorne Prize and the Wilson Prize during Startup Yale.

- **$40K** awarded in grants
- **100** office hours
- **80** entrepreneurs and teams
- **5** online innovation conversations
Thank you

- The Thorne Family
- Rita Wilson Seed Grant & Prize Fund Donors
- Tsai CITY and all our fellow members of Yale’s Entrepreneurship Collaborative
- All of the amazing student entrepreneurs!