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# Hack-a-thon spurs innovation for global cancer care

**BOSTON, Mass., February 29, 2016 –** Inspired by stories from the field and passionate about transforming cancer care around the world, more than 180 global health experts and innovators came together this past weekend (February 27-28th) at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) for the Global Cancer Innovation Hack-a-thon.

Over the course of two days, hack-a-thon participants formed cross-disciplinary teams of clinicians, engineers, entrepreneurs and designers to develop solutions to existing cancer challenges, particularly those afflicting patients in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs).

From low-cost screening devices to patient empowerment tools, participants created more than 20 innovations in 48 hours and presented their prototypes to a panel of judges. A total of $3,000 was awarded to winning teams in the following categories:

- **$1,000 First Place:** Team Fever Finder – a new device to identify and treat sepsis for pediatric chemotherapy patients
- **$500 Most Implementable Technology:** Team Wish List - a portal that connects global health providers with specific equipment and medical resources
- **$500 Most Innovative Solution:** Team Vein Guard - a device to measure and control IV fluid during chemotherapy treatment
- **$500 Best Business Model:** Team Shared Health – a patient-to-patient platform to expand access to cancer diagnostics in LMICs
- **$250 Uganda Prize:** Team GCPP - a device for early cancer screening and diagnosis in Uganda
- **$250 India Prize**: Team Alia- an oral accessory for patients with laryngeal cancer that assists with speech rehabilitation via smartphones

In addition to these prizes, hack-a-thon winners and participants will receive several post-event opportunities to continue working on their innovations:

- Each of the four monetary awardees will receive acceleration support from CAMTech through the CAMTech Innovation Platform, an online community offering strategic tools and resources for global health innovation.
- Teams Smart Clot, Creative Cancer and Fever Finder won a year of access to the Alpha Core facilities at The Center for Future Technologies in Cancer Care (CFTCC) at Boston University.
- CAMTech will also award $2,500 and acceleration support to the team from the hack-a-thon that makes the most progress on their innovation 60 days after the event.

The event was organized by [the Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies (CAMTech)](#) at [(MGH) Center for Global Health](#), [Global Oncology (GO)](#) and the [MGH Cancer Center](#).  Sponsorship support came from the Bacca Foundation, [Biogen](#), [Janssen Research & Development, LLC,](#) [Eli Lilly and Company](#), [Medtronic](#) and [TESARO,Inc](#).

"Nearly 70 percent of cancer deaths occur in in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America, often due to a lack of cancer specialists and accessible treatment options," said Elizabeth Bailey, director of CAMTech. "We saw this as an important call to action and were committed to providing a platform for people to source solutions that can bend the curve of the cancer epidemic globally."

The event included a special *Voices from the Field* panel discussion offering firsthand accounts from global oncology experts and a cancer survivor. In addition, more than 30 clinical, technical and business experts were available to mentor participants as they worked around the clock to pitch ideas, prototype solutions and develop business models for their innovations.

"The economic and emotional burden of cancer is devastating no matter where you live, but in LMICs, it can mean choosing between feeding your family and seeking care," said Thomas (Ti) Jones, M.D. and a Peace Corps volunteer in Mbarara, Uganda, who also served as a mentor and panelist. "This weekend, I saw so many enthusiastic innovators developing technologies so that cancer patients don't have to face that choice."

In addition to the events in Boston, participants in Uganda and India participated in the Hack-a-thon remotely, sharing ideas on social media and presenting their technologies via teleconference in India and to a separate group of judges in Uganda.

"This hack-a-thon experience was so unique because we had access to medical professionals and mentors from all over the world," said Nancy Hung, an MIT student and member of Team Wish List. "Their stories and experiences were so inspiring, and really helped structure how we developed our project."

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**[The Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies (CAMTech)](#)** has a mission to build entrepreneurial capacity and accelerate medical technology innovation to improve health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries. CAMTech's approach enables co-creation, where innovators across public health, engineering, and business engage with end-users to develop disruptive medical technologies to achieve widespread public health impact. CAMTech's initiatives, including its newly launched [CAMTech Innovation Platform](#) and [CAMTech Accelerator Program](#), help connect and support a global community of innovators working to improve health in developing and emerging markets.

**[Global Oncology (GO](#))** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to bring the best in cancer care to underserved patients around the world.  GO's innovative programs include the [Global Cancer Project](#)

Map, an online platform that displays cancer control efforts around the world, and the creation of low-literacy cancer education materials for patients. GO implements projects in collaboration with international partners in Malawi, India, Botswana, Rwanda, Belarus and Nepal to improve diagnosis, treatment and care in resource-limited settings.



The Global Cancer Innovation Hack-a-thon is made possible by the generous support of:



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