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Kangaroo+ wins grand prize of \$782 USD/\$2,500,800 UGX and six months of acceleration support during 5th Annual CAMTech UGANDA Medtech Hack-a-thon

Competing against 250 innovators, CAMTech UGANDA awarded Kangaroo+, an alternative to traditional kangaroo care improving neonatal and maternal health

Mbarara, Uganda, 27 August 2017 – Innovating to improve neonatal and maternal health during the [5th Annual CAMTech UGANDA Medtech Hack-a-thon](#), Team Kangaroo+ received \$782 USD/\$2,500,800 UGX and six months of acceleration support as the grand prize winners. Their affordable medical technology, Kangaroo+, modifies traditional kangaroo care by combining a thermometer and skin-to-skin contact.

[CAMTech UGANDA](#) awarded the 2017 hack-a-thon winners over \$2,000 USD (\$6,702,400 UGX) in prize money. Judges gathered at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) to also name Team Safe and Dry as First Runner-Up, Team MBT as Second Runner-Up and Team 54 as Third Runner-Up. Team Safe and Dry received \$625 USD (\$2,000,000 UGX) for innovating a fistula collection tool, Team MBT received \$469 USD (\$1,500,800 UGX) for a device treating menstrual cramps and Team 54 received \$219 USD (\$700,800 UGX) for a low-cost infant warmer.

In addition to receiving prize money, CAMTech UGANDA offered the winning teams access to webinars and peer-to-peer learning engagements. Each winning team will also compete in a 90-day post-hack opportunity for membership in the [CAMTech Accelerator Program \(CAP\)](#). An initiative on the [CAMTech Innovation Platform](#), the CAP provides milestone-based funding, a CAP Coach, participation in the CAP Cohort, expert match-making and six-months of acceleration support.

More than 250 clinicians, engineers, entrepreneurs, students and designers convened at MUST for 48 hours to develop innovative medical technologies to improve neonatal and maternal health in low-resource settings. Participants identified clinical challenges related to newborn and maternal health, formed multi-disciplinary teams, prototyped solutions and developed business models before presenting their ideas to an expert panel of judges.

“We heard from all aspects of the community,” said Dr. Kristian Olson, Director of CAMTech. “We’ve heard problems that were really rooted in culture and in economics, and yes in technical difficulties for certain things, but also in scaling and in communication.”

Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, Uganda’s Minister of Science, Technology and Innovations, and Dr. Frank Tumwebaze, Uganda’s Minister for Information Communication Technology, addressed innovators during the hack-a-thon to represent the Government of Uganda’s commitment to innovating affordable medical technologies.

“The Ministry and the government are interested in supporting you, and we are here for you,” Dr. Tumwesigye said. “In the coming years, we shall see the prototypes from the hack-a-thon being funded in the country.”

Prior to the hack-a-thon on 26-27 August, CAMTech UGANDA hosted a Clinical Summit on 25 August, featuring panel discussions focused on pediatric and neonatal health, nursing, midwifery, obstetrics and gynecology.

“It’s the time where we get to know and hear in better detail what problems are there affecting the frontline health workers who are battling to save lives on a day-to-day basis,” said Dr. Data Santorino, CAMTech UGANDA Country Manager.

Additionally, CAMTech UGANDA organized visits to Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, Ishaka Adventist Hospital, Holy Innocents Children’s Hospital and Itojo Hospital, where participants learned directly from healthcare workers about the challenges they face in delivering neonatal and maternal healthcare services. With support from [Massachusetts General Hospital Global Health](#), [CAMTech UGANDA](#) organized the annual hack-a-thon to develop disruptive innovations that have the potential to achieve widespread public health impact.

[The Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies \(CAMTech\)](#) is a global network of academic, corporate and implementation partners whose mission is to build entrepreneurial capacity and accelerate medical technology development through an open innovation platform. CAMTech innovators who come from public health, clinical medicine, engineering and business work with end-users in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs). [CAMTech UGANDA](#) is administratively housed at MUST and supports local innovators to transform ideas into solutions that can revolutionize health outcomes for people living in Uganda and across the globe.

“It can be the start of a journey,” Olson said. “CAMTech Boston together with CAMTech UGANDA under the leadership of Dr. Data started five years ago with this idea that if we talk to people who are focusing on challenges that are in their own communities, they’ll come up with better solutions.”

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About CAMTech UGANDA

CAMTech UGANDA is part of the Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies (CAMTech) and is administratively housed at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST). CAMTech UGANDA has built an innovation ecosystem at MUST that includes monthly

Innovation Cafés to discuss challenges in health and an Innovation Office that helps innovators transform their ideas into concepts. CAMTech UGANDA's Co-Creation Lab, a rapid prototyping facility, enables innovators to develop functional prototypes that have since attracted funding from various donor agencies and investment groups.

About CAMTech

The Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies (CAMTech) is a global network of academic, corporate and implementation partners based at the Massachusetts General Hospital. CAMTech's mission is 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 in low- and middle-income countries to develop disruptive medical technologies. Since 2012, CAMTech has brought together over 2,500 innovators from more than 500 clinical, academic and commercial organizations to participate in medtech hack-a-thons, award programs and entrepreneurial-building initiatives.

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