

Mixer and Ecosystem Building Workshop on

Neuro, Brain and Mental Health: Building Deep Tech Solutions

- Organized by BFI-BIOME Networks and Social Innovations @ Venture Center -

Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify the areas where innovation is needed and the current status of the startup ecosystem. ● Identify avenues for investors to increase private investment in the area ● Brainstorming platform for all stakeholders in the field ● Startups participating in the Startup Mixer will be eligible to compete for prizes. Startups get to pitch to serious investors.
Organized by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Innovations @ Venture Center ● BFI-BIOME Networks
Supported by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Venture Center, Pune ● Blockchain for Impact
For whom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technology developers and innovators ● Early-stage inventive enterprises and science-based startups ● Investors
When	Wednesday, 14 May 2025
Where	Lecture Theatre, Venture Center, 900 NCL Innovation Park, Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune
Organization Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Misal Bedi
Contact	<p>Technical queries: Dr Mugdha Lele mugdha@venturecenter.co.in 7410045652</p> <p>Registration queries: Ms Niruta Killedar niruta.killedar@venturecenter.co.in 8956226080</p>
Registration	<p>Registration Fee: None Confirmation Fee: 500/- <i>100% waiver of registration fee for Venture Center's BFI-BIOME Fellows and Kickstarters, NCL-TEC members</i></p> <p>Registration Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Step 1: Interested participants need to fill in registration form at the registration link. ● Step 2: Organizers reserve the right to select participants to maximize learning/discussion/networking outcomes of the workshop and manage group size for better interaction. Organizers will invite selected participants to complete their registration process via payment of a confirmation fee. ● Step 3: Separate confirmation email will be sent to participants post screening of registration details. <p>For registration: https://tinyurl.com/BFIBIOMEVCWS04 Event website and details: https://www.venturecenter.co.in/socialinnovations/events/</p>

Introduction

The BFI-BIOME supported Mixers and Ecosystem Development Workshops are aimed at bringing together people who are passionate about solving important problems in healthcare by developing or using cutting edge technologies. These events hope to energize innovators, stimulate thinking and catalyze new collaborative projects in the backdrop of informative and insightful talks and curated networking activities.

In this particular event, we shall focus on how science and technology can address the severe unmet need for preventing and treating poor mental, brain and cognitive health as well as the Neurological disorders or problems.

We shall explore the state of art, opportunities, challenges/ limitations and the players. We shall explore applications in:

- Detection, diagnosis and screening of conditions, predictive analytics through brain imaging, biomarker analysis etc.
- Wearables and devices for physiological monitoring, diagnostics, and therapy
- Novel treatments - pharmaceutical/electrical or other novel modalities for conditions (such as VR for neuro rehabilitation etc)

How is this event different?

- The focus aims to catalyze action! The event shall be on forging collaborations/ partnerships (between tech developers, and between developers and funders). Key goals:
 - Help technology developers forge partnerships
 - Help startup founders find cofounders and colleagues
 - Help create useful collisions of technologists, clinicians and funders
 - Help mobilize funding and resources in this sector
- The focus shall be on identifying opportunities and providing a sense of the state-of-art while also pointing to real-world challenges.

Workshop Includes

- Tea and snacks; Lunch at the Innovation Café, Venture Center
- Membership of Venture Center's mailing list that announces funding calls, events and other opportunities for innovators/ entrepreneurs
- E-Certificate of Participation
- Online collection of Slides

Information

- Venture Center is located in NCL Innovation Park, Dr Homi Bhabha Road, Pashan, Pune. Location pin: <https://g.co/kgs/bgnzAbG>
- Participants have to arrange their own travel, accommodation and transport

Workshop Schedule

Time	Session	Speakers
0915 – 0930	Registration	Venue: 900 NIP, Foyer area
0930 – 1100 (90 min)	Session 1: Inaugural session and Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome. Introduction to the Organizers and the Workshop ● Panel 1: The clinical needs and problem definitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keynote ○ Panel Discussion 	Venue: 900 NIP, Foyer area Mugdha Lele Moderator: Premnath V Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jaydev Panchawagh, Sahyadri Hospital (Keynote) ● Lt Col Manish Bhartiya, AFMC ● Surg Cdr Neha Sharma, AFMC
1100 – 1130	Networking Tea/Coffee	Venue: 900 NIP, Foyer area
1130 – 1300 (90 min)	Session 2: Panel Discussion Panel 2: The solutions, new ideas and innovator journeys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keynote ○ Panel Discussion 	Moderator: Satya Dash Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ashwin Naik, Manah Wellness (Keynote) ● Laina Emmanuel, BrainSightAI ● Vikas V, NIMHANS ● Lt Col Parikshit Sanyal, AFMC
1300 – 1400	Lunch Break and Group Photograph Tour of Venture Center*	Venue: Innovation Café, NIP
1400 – 1530 (90 min)	Session 3: Startup and Innovator Pitches (10 lightening pitches) With Comments and Inputs from Technical & Industry Experts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bala Pesala - Ravi Sarangapani - Sarika Phatak - Niranjan Khambete Each startup/innovator (5 min – Pitch; 4 min - Q&A) Category A: Diagnostics and devices 1) Sensivision 2) Avinya 3) Urvogelbio 4) Peace in Paces 5) Epi relief 6) Innovator from LVPEI Category B: Rehabilitation and recovery 1) Sparshmind 2) Sublebotic 3) Lifespark 4) Neuresko	Host: Misal Bedi & Niruta Killedar In front of a panel of Investors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Komal Gupta, Pi Ventures ● Karuna Jain, Enzia Ventures ● Sanjay Kanvinde, Lavni Ventures ● Ashwin Raghuraman, Bharat Innovation Fund ● Kinjal Shah, Blume Ventures ● Mandar Dixit, Social Alpha ● Shruti Devasthali, Venture Center
1530 – 1600	Networking Tea/Coffee	Venue: 900 NIP, Foyer area

1600 – 1730 (90 min)	<p>Session 04: Panel Discussion</p> <p>Panel 2: Investor panel</p> <p>Followed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Summing up of the learnings from the day● Announcements and closure	<p>Moderator: Soma Chattopadhyay</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Karuna Jain, Enzia Ventures● Akhilesh Agarwal, Blume Ventures● Ashwin Raguraman, Bharat Innovation Fund● Sanjay Kanvinde, Lavni Ventures● Mandar Dixit, Social Alpha● Gireendra Kasmalkar, Pentathlon Ventures and Ideas to Impact
1730 – 1800	Networking Tea/Coffee Tour of Venture Center*	Venue: 900 NIP, Foyer area

*Sign up desk for the Venture Center Tour and Help Desks for Venture Center facilities and services will be available at the Registration Counter outside the Lecture Theatre (Workshop Venue)

Speakers, Moderators & Invited Participants (in alphabetical order of last names)



Akhilesh Aggarwal

Akhilesh is Associate Vice-President at Blume Ventures. He is an early-stage investor, who is passionate about supporting ambitious deeptech founders focused on impact. He has spent over half a decade evaluating and investing in companies in various DeepTech themes, including SpaceTech, LifeSciences, BioTech, Material Sciences, Quantum Computing, Semiconductors, Robotics, and others.

Before joining Blume, Akhilesh worked at pi Ventures as part of the investment team. He was also an investment banker at Goldman Sachs, executing M&A deals across India, Australia, and the USA. He also volunteers at Headstart Network Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping entrepreneurship at the grassroots stage. Akhilesh is trained as an electrical and electronics engineer and has a postgraduate degree in finance.



Manish Bhartiya

Lt Col Manish is Associate Professor of Medicine and & Neurology at the Command Hospital, Pune. Post his medical training at AFMC, he completed his DM in Neurology from AIIMS New Delhi. He was involved in establishing the Neurology Center and the Acute Stroke Unit at the Army Hospital Guwahati Assam. He has several publications in indexed national and international journals, written chapters in 2 books : 02 and is the Executive Editor of the Handbook of Medical Emergencies (vol 02), of the Dept of Internal Medicine at AFMC. During his tenure at AFMC he was recipient of several awards, including the General Officer Commanding-in Chiefs Commendation in 2022.



Soma Chattopadhyay

Soma heads the Incubation and mentoring vertical of Venture Center and is a recipient of the Chevening Gurukul Fellowship from Oxford University, UK. At Venture Center, she is responsible for managing the incubation activities: identifying potential innovators, entrepreneurs, and early-stage start-ups, conducting in-depth technical and business mentoring, and raising various funds for the incubator. Soma serves as the nominee director on the board of Dee Dee Labs Pvt. Ltd a company that works in the medical & assistive device domain. She won the “Star Gazing Award for Incubation Managers 2016” award by the Indian STEP and Business Incubator Association (ISBA) & DST. Soma joined Venture Center with >9 years of experience as a Team Leader in the R&D division of an MNC named Cookson Electronics where she built novel materials for electronics. She has a Master's degree in Physical Chemistry and is a certified internal auditor for ISO 9001:2008, trained for implementing ISO 17025 standards, and certified Six-Sigma Green Belt.



Satya Dash

Satya is President, Bigtec Private Limited and an advisor to Block Chain for Impact – BIOME Networks. He was the Founding CEO, BITS BioCyTiH Foundation, BITS-Pilani (Goa Campus) and was the Ex-Director Impact Lab at PATH India with the mandate to propel innovations in public health emerging from India to the next level. Formerly as Head Strategy Partnerships & Entrepreneurship Development at BIRAC & as the 'Co-Ordinator' of Make in India Cell in BIRAC- his portfolio included overall strategy formulation & implementation for BIRAC of national programs such as Biotech Ignition Grant-BIG, SPARSH (social innovation immersion program), BioNEST (incubator program), University Innovation Cluster (UIC), SoCH, SEED Equity & AcE equity funding. He led the establishment of BIRAC Regional Innovation Centre (BRIC) at IKP Hyderabad & BIRAC Regional Entrepreneurship Centre (BREC) at C-CAMP.

He holds triple masters from University of Leicester (UK), Cambridge (UK) and Sambalpur (India) and a PhD from University of East Anglia, UK. His interests are in S&T policy design, implementation and outcomes, business of science, early-stage funding, entrepreneurship, and catalyzing for positive serendipity across innovation communities.



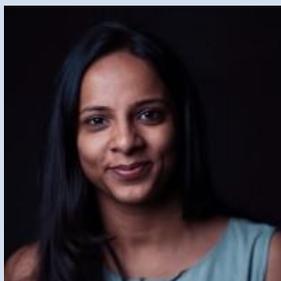
Shruti Devasthali

Shruti is Head of Funding and Investments at Venture Center. She is a Chartered Accountant and a certified Financial Risk Manager. She is currently heading funding and investment team at venture Center and responsible for grant portfolio of 60+ startups and seed investment portfolio of 70+ startups. She is responsible for monitoring technical progress and fund disbursement for grant portfolio, mentoring investee companies on corporate governance, advising them at the time of next fundraise and monitoring their progress and compliances in the capacity of Board Observer. She is also responsible for contract management for technology transfers under the Lab2Mkt program. She is the Project Manager for DST's NIDHI EIR program implemented by Venture Center through 40+ Technology Business Incubators spread across 15 states. During her previous work engagements Shruti has worked with CRISIL Limited and Dun and Bradstreet Information Services India Private Limited in the areas of credit rating and financial analysis.



Mandar Dixit

Mandar serves as the Director of the Healthcare and Wellness Strategic Investment Unit at Social Alpha. In this capacity, he is instrumental in establishing and executing impact assessment metrics and strategies for optimizing the portfolios of social healthcare startups. Acting as both an internal entrepreneur and mentor, he collaborates with research and development laboratories within the ecosystem to promote interdisciplinary research and innovation. With over 18 years of experience, he has successfully led and managed research initiatives in the fields of biotechnology, bioengineering, healthcare, and medical device technologies.



Laina Emmanuel

Laina is the founder of BrainSightAI, a product company focused on AI and 3D visualization-based solutions for diagnosis and prognosis of neuro-psychiatric disorders. She started her career in software development at Netapp and Offshore Development Centre of Cisco at Infosys as a systems programmer. She moved to the international development space working on a wide variety of public health and education issues as an independent consultant, including health and education policy. She did her MBA from the Indian School of Business and majored in healthcare. She started BrainSightAI with her co-founder, Rimjim Agrawal, a psychiatry PhD-holder from NIMHANS.



Karuna Jain

Karuna is Co-Founder and Partner at Enzia Ventures and has extensive experience and expertise in early-stage impact and private equity investing in healthcare and renewables. Prior to Enzia, she worked in senior positions at Acumen, Aditya Birla Group and Grasim Industries. At Acumen, she drove their investments in healthcare at a global level, managed a portfolio of 25 companies, and helped create an ecosystem for tech startups in healthcare, agriculture and environment. At Aditya Birla Group and Grasim, Karuna handled multiple roles in finance and corporate governance, including working on large M&A transactions and restructuring business. Karuna has been a member on the boards of several of Acumen's portfolio companies including LifeSpring Hospitals, Frontier Markets, Edubridge Learning Systems, and Sewa Grih Rin. Other companies she worked with include Healthcubed, Ayurvaid, and Husk Power Systems.

Karuna's experience has helped her gain deep rooted insights into Indian markets, consumer behaviours and cross-sectoral investing. She combines these insights with her eye for detail and proficiency in working with founders to help Enzia's portfolio companies build strategy and value. Karuna is a trained Chartered Accountant and holds an MBA from ISB, Hyderabad.



Sanjay Kanvinde

Sanjay is the co-founder & general partner at Lavni Ventures, a deep-tech-driven impact investment firm. Sanjay also serves as a board advisor, mentor, or trustee at several startups, charities, and social organizations. Before his current role, Sanjay had a full career in the Oil & Gas Industry with SLB (formerly known as Schlumberger). Over different international assignments, he has worked in the functional areas of Research & Development, Knowledge Management, Corporate IT Management, Business Development, and Operations. Sanjay has an MSEE degree from the University of Texas, Austin, and a BE degree from the College of Engineering, Pune.



Gireendra Kasmalkar

Gireendra is the Founder and Managing Partner at Pentathlon Ventures and Founder Director of the Ideas to Impacts. By training he is a mechanical engineer from IIT-Bombay and Univ. of South Carolina, USA.

Pentathlon Ventures focuses on funding and supporting early stage B2B-Tech start-ups and helps them go global. All the partners themselves have a track record of building successful B2B Tech ventures. So, it is a fund for entrepreneurs by entrepreneurs! After successfully deploying Fund 1, Pentathlon is on its Fund 2 journey, doubling down on the same thesis to lead in the early stage B2B Tech investment space.

Ideas to Impacts Hub, a leading incubator / accelerator of Tech start-ups in Pune, is also home to the VC Fund of Pentathlon Ventures. Ideas to Impacts is taking the Tech and Startup ecosystem to the non-metros of India with their "smart town" model.

Earlier he was with Tata Consultancy Services and has been an entrepreneur for most of his 30+ years in the industry. Additionally, he is a Director and President of Executive Council at the Inter-Institutional Inclusive Innovation Centre, an independent non-profit company committed to student innovation in India. As a member of the Social Innovation Lab of the Pune International Center, he mentors social entrepreneurs. He has also been associated with MCCIA, TiE and CSI.



Niranjana Khambete

Niranjana is currently Manager for Clinical Engineering in Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital and Research Centre, Pune, where he is in-charge of Medical Devices Safety and Quality Assurance Laboratory and also supports specialized clinical services such as Intraoperative Neuromonitoring. He is a trained Instrumentation Engineer from College of Engineering (Pune) with a MTech. in Biomedical Engineering from IIT-Bombay and a PhD from The University of Sheffield, UK.

Earlier, for almost 22 years, he was Scientist & Engineer in the Instrumentation division of ICMR's Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, one of the leading Biomedical Technology R&D center in India of the country. He worked as a team leader to successfully complete the indigenous technology development and commercialization of Concentric Needle Electrodes and the indigenous technology development for Portable Medical Electrical Safety Analyser. He was also a member of Experts' Advisory Committee of WHO, Geneva, on Development of Technical Specifications Database for Medical Devices.

He continues his research on movement artifact free apnea monitors for early detection of sleep disorder breathing and bio-impedance spectroscopic measurement systems for early detection of cervical cancer in women. Amongst several accolades, the American College of Clinical Engineering gave him Antonio Hernandez International Clinical Engineering Award, for his leadership and commitment to the growth of Clinical Engineering Profession in India.



Bala Pesala

Bala is Founder and CEO of AYUR.AI, a deep tech company started with the goal of realizing evidence-based Ayurveda. He is also an adjunct professor at SRM university, Chennai. He is a B. Tech from IIT Madras and a PhD in Electrical Engineering from University of California at Berkeley with a minor degree in Business from Haas school, UC Berkeley. Earlier, Bala was a Senior Principal scientist at CSIR-CEERI, Chennai and a Professor at Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) where he has led various initiatives in digital health and AI and collaborated extensively with multi-national companies such as Samsung. As an adjunct professor at IIT Jodhpur, he has contributed significantly to the establishment of India's first "Ayurtech" Centre of excellence. He received several awards including CSIR Young Scientist Award (2016), Demetri Angelakos memorial achievement award (UC Berkeley 2009), Rafael Rodriguez Golden Age Fellowship (UC Berkeley) and Silver medal for the highest GPA in Aerospace engineering (IIT Madras 2003) to name a few. He has authored/co-authored more than 150 publications in leading peer reviewed journals and conferences and has more than 12 granted patents in India, U.S and Europe. AyurAI has also received several accolades for their pioneering work in Ayurveda including 1st Prize in AYUSH start-up grant challenge. His current goal is to create global deep tech companies in integrative medicine and diagnostics space.



Sarika Phatak

Sarika is Vice President-Product Portfolio Strategy and Operations, Velsera. She is a veteran in healthcare technologies with extensive experience in R&D, product design, product management and business development for a number of healthcare product and service offerings. She has global experience in defining solutions for diagnostic and therapeutic products and connected care at large. Her areas of interest include innovation in medical devices, connected care and population health management, using advanced technologies and design led strategies. Sarika has wide experience in Fortune 500 companies such as Philips, Harman and Bell Helicopter Textron. Sarika worked in haptic technology and surgery simulation for her master's thesis. She has been working with teams in building innovative healthcare products and solutions throughout her career. She has worked in the areas of connected healthcare, patient engagement, minimal invasive diagnostic medical devices, care coordination, image guided



Ashwin Naik

Ashwin Naik is an entrepreneur and author on a mission to catalyze wellbeing and impact. As an entrepreneur he has started multiple healthcare organisations – Manah Wellness (Platform for Preventive Mental health), Let's Talk (Helpline for Mental Health Support during COVID19), Vaatsalya (India's first rural hospitals network), Seraniti (India's first integrated mental health organization, acquired by Curefit) and We Scale Impact (Global Health Consulting). He is the author of two books – The Healthcare Gamechangers, which profiles innovations around the world which have the potential to change the way healthcare is delivered, and #ChangeStartsYoung, a book about young changemakers who are starting as early as 11 years young.



Jaydev Panchawagh

Jaydev is a senior Neurosurgeon with his specialization in very complex brain & spine surgery for more than 20 years now. Currently he is Consultant Neurosurgeon and Director at the Center for surgeries and research for Neurovascular Conflict Syndromes at Sahyadri Group of Hospitals. Earlier he was Head of the Department, Department of Neurosurgery, Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital, Pune. He is trained a super specialist neurosurgeon at several institutes of repute including BJ Government Medical College Pune, KEM Hospital Mumbai, NIMHANS Bengaluru and institutes of repute abroad at Frankfurt, Munich, Stuttgart in Germany. He is internationally recognised as an expert for Microvascular Decompression Surgery, Brain & Spine tumours and Endoscopic Spine Surgery. With extensive teaching and research experience throughout his career, Jaydev has done a huge number of Microvascular Decompression surgeries, last month reaching 1850 Surgeries in his personal capacity. He is also a founding member of the Indo-German Neurosurgery Foundation.



Ashwin Raguraman

Ashwin Raguraman is the Co-founder and Partner at Bharat Innovation Fund, an early-stage venture capital firm investing in deeptech startups originating from India. Prior to this, he co-founded the India Innovation Fund, focusing on early-stage technology investments. Ashwin has been deeply involved in India's startup ecosystem, previously leading the Innovation Initiative at NASSCOM to enhance innovation in the Indian IT industry. He holds board positions in several companies, including Zumutor Biologics, Portl, Human Edge, Pariksha, and Entropik Tech.



Parikshit Sanyal

Lt Col Parikshit is currently Assistant Professor of Pathology at AFMC Pune and Deputy Officer-in-Charge at Armed Forces Center for Computational Medicine. He is MD (Path) and currently also pursuing his PhD at AIIMS New Delhi in Transplant Immunology & Immunogenetics. He is also self-trained in machine learning/ deep learning, Data science via courses from Johns Hopkins, USA, and trained in Disease informatics from ICMR. He has been an invited speaker at several events including Indian Cancer Society, APCON, Indian Science Congress and has been a chairperson at Asian Society of Digital Pathology at Seoul, South Korea. He is extensively involved in clinical trials on immunotherapy of tuberculosis with AIIMS New Delhi. He has been in consulting roles in a European Union - DBT collaboration project on In-silico tuberculosis vaccine development. He has been a recipient of ICMR Intermediate Grant in 2023, and is a peer reviewer with Nature publishing group, himself having several research publications to his credit.



Ravi Sarangapani

Ravi is a Consultant in Medical Devices Product Development. He has previously held senior positions for Adler (Sushrut) Pvt Ltd in Product Development, Sales, Marketing & Regulatory affairs. He is an accomplished professional with over 25 years in the medical device industry encompassing leadership roles in new product development, quality management, regulatory affairs, marketing, Sales and Business Development. He has a proven track record of managing the new product development process from conceptualization and market analysis through development, risk management, pre-clinical evaluation, verification & validation, test marketing to commercialization.

Ravi has an outstanding communication talent with proven ability to build and lead highly efficient teams, train technical professionals and to convey complex concepts in understandable terms. He is especially skilled at problem analysis and resolution, strategic planning and budget controls. He also has a strong background of interactions with Key Opinion Leaders, customers and trade channels throughout Asia, Middle East, Africa and some areas of Europe.



Kinjal Shah

Kinjal Shah is part of the investment team at Blume Ventures, where she focuses on early-stage (Seed to Series A) investments across DeepTech, HealthTech, and Climate. Prior to joining Blume, she spent 4.5 years at GE Aerospace, working on product development and certification for private and commercial jet engines. As part of GE's Edison Engineering Development Program, she also led initiatives in IP strategy, technology innovation, and customized service agreements for airlines.

An alumnus of IIT Kharagpur with a dual degree in Aerospace Engineering, Kinjal brings a strong technical lens to venture investing. Her exposure to healthcare and life sciences—both personally and through family-led initiatives—has shaped her deep interest in the sector. She is especially passionate about mental health and is committed to supporting founders building at the intersection of science, technology, and society.



Neha Sharma

Surg Cdr Neha is currently, Associate Professor in Psychiatry at the Armed Forces Medical College. She completed her under-graduate and post-graduate medical training at AFMC, followed by a DNB and MRC in Psychiatry. Her areas of interest include Psychology, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Community Psychiatry. She has several research publications to her credit in National and International journal and has received several awards including the AFMC Gold Medal in 2017.



Vikas Vazhayil

Vikas is a Professor of Neurosurgery at National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) and has been with the institute for last 14+ years. He also has a Ad-hoc Consultant Neurosurgery position at ICMR's Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram. He is trained as a General Surgeon with a DNB and MCh in Neurosurgery, followed by a Post-doctoral Fellowship in Cerebrovascular Surgery from Sree Chitra Institute. He also completed his PhD in Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Surgical Robotics from IIIT Bengaluru.

His research lab at NIMHANS focuses on developing platforms for surgical robotics with a focus on neurosurgery. The lab also looks at robotic applications for disability caused due to neuromuscular diseases. Vikas is overall skilled in artificial intelligence, medical research, medical imaging, surgery and oncology.



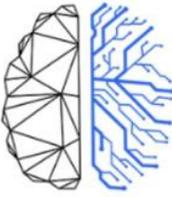
Premnath Venugopalan

Premnath is Head, NCL Innovations at CSIR-NCL and Founder Director, Venture Center. He is a technology developer, innovation and incubation manager, startup mentor and a co-founder of 2 medtech startups. One of his inventions -- a breakthrough material for hip and knee joint replacements — has been implanted in more than a million patients worldwide. Another technology for porous maxillo-facial implants has been implanted in thousands of patients in India and abroad. He has provided leadership for teams that have won National awards for technology development, intellectual property management and business incubation. He is trained as a chemical engineer from IIT-Bombay and a PhD from MIT in the US. He has received the IIT-Bombay Distinguished Alumnus award in 2022 and has been a Chevening Technology Enterprise Scholar in Cambridge, UK.

Startups Presenting in Session 3 (Alphabetical Order of Name)

Category A: Diagnostics and devices

	<p>Avinya NeuroTech (www.avinyaneurotech.com)</p> <p>Avinya is an AI-powered multimodal continuous neuromonitoring solution for critical care, emergency and ambulatory setups. They are developing the future of clinical neuro diagnostics by harnessing the power of AI to make neurological care more accessible, accurate, and affordable. Their mission is to revolutionize and democratize neurological diagnostics and monitoring by delivering medical-grade, cost-effective solutions that empower neurologists and emergency caregivers to make timely, evidence-based decisions for better patient outcomes on a global scale.</p> <p>Presenter: Sowmya Darapaneni, Co-Founder</p>
	<p>EpiRelief Healthcare (https://epirelief.co/)</p> <p>EpiRelief Healthcare Pvt Ltd is a global-first company using cutting-edge technology to develop a smartwatch that predicts seizures. The focus of their technology is on providing support, and building a network of dedicated doctors. Since Epilepsy involves unpredictable seizures leading to significant challenges in daily life, this startup proposes the development of a wearable device designed to predict epileptic seizures in advance. By continuously monitoring critical bodily parameters and using advanced Cloud based AI algorithms, this device aims to provide early warnings of potential seizures, thereby improving the quality of life for epilepsy patients. This project builds on proven research methodologies and leverages cutting-edge technology to create a reliable and life-changing solution.</p> <p>Presenter: K V Shivanand Reddy, Founder</p>
	<p>LV Prasad Eye Institute (www.lvpei.org)</p> <p>LVPEI is a not-for-profit organization offering primary to advanced tertiary level eye care in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Karnataka. Shrikant, as Clinician turned researcher has developed a device called PupilN for objective assessment of pupillary light reflexes in patients with compromised neuro critical care. Pupil responses are a fundamental marker for the health of the autonomic nervous system and any imbalance in the sympathetic to parasympathetic input due to disease, trauma or iatrogeny will result in pupil responses abnormalities. The device is a handheld design that shines brief flashes of light onto the patient's eye and the resultant responses are captured using an optical system built into this design. The video frames are analyzed to generate several analytics for pupil responses using a smartphone, the output of which is used by neuro critical care physicians for managing their patients.</p> <p>Presenter: Shrikant Bharadwaj (Innovator)</p>
	<p>Peace in Paces (https://www.peaceinpaces.com/)</p> <p>This startup is transforming Heart Rate Variability (HRV) biofeedback from clinical settings into a convenient wearable patch for stress management anywhere. Born from personal experience with burnout and clinical depression, we are transforming mental health care through our innovative skin-worn patch. Having faced the dark tunnel of mental health struggles ourselves, we were haunted by one question: 'how did we miss the signs?' This question drives our vision - to ensure no one else has to ask it. Through innovative biosignal monitoring and real-time intervention, we are making mental wellbeing</p>

	<p>quantifiable and accessible, creating a future where mental health check-ins become as essential as physical ones.</p> <p>Presenter: Akanksha Rohit, Founder and CEO</p>
	<p>Sensivision Health Technologies (https://sensivisionhealth.com/)</p> <p>Sensivision Health Technologies is a medical device start up based out of Bengaluru, building life-saving medical devices for addressing critical Neonatal health challenges. Their solutions empower Doctors, are simple and yet impactful. Solutions that meet global standards of safety and yet are affordable to those in need. Sensivision is a ISO 13485 certified company.</p> <p>Presenter: Jayadeep Unni, Founder and CEO</p>
	<p>Urvogelbio (https://www.linkedin.com/company/urvogelbio-private-ltd/?originalSubdomain=in)</p> <p>Urvogelbio is a life science company developing exosome-based applications in the biomarker and therapeutic space for CNS and oncology therapeutic areas. The team is developing a portfolio of diagnostic tests for Alzheimer (AD), Multiple sclerosis (MS), stroke diagnostics, using neuronal exosome profiling and cell-free DNA. Novel exosomal biotherapeutics are being developed by using mesenchymal stem cells, cord blood and amniotic fluids.</p> <p>Presenter: M V Sasidhar, Founder</p>
<p>Category B: Rehabilitation and recovery</p>	
	<p>Lifespark Technologies (https://www.lifesparktech.com/)</p> <p>Lifespark Technologies is a healthtech startup focused on neurorehabilitation and aging care. They develop AI-powered wearable solutions that combine therapeutic movement with gamified feedback to improve mobility, independence, and quality of life for individuals with neurological and age-related impairments.</p> <p>Presenter: Amey Desai</p>
 <p>NEURESKO</p>	<p>Neuresko Technologies (https://neuresko.site/)</p> <p>Neuresko Technologies is a healthtech startup developing a low-cost, non-invasive wearable smartwatch device for managing hand tremors in patients with Essential Tremor and Parkinson’s Disease. Their solution combines real-time tremor detection with personalized Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) therapy, delivered through a discreet wearable form factor. Designed to be affordable, effective, and easy to use, our device offers a safe alternative to medication and surgery, aiming to improve quality of life for millions of patients.</p> <p>Presenter: Arnabjyoti Medhi, Founder</p>

	<p>SparshMind Innovations (https://sparshmindinnovations.com/)</p> <p>SparshMind is building Accessible Digital Therapeutics for Neuro and Psychiatric Disorders. The team is committed to illuminating the potential of neuro-tech, offering enhanced recovery options and renewed hope for patients worldwide. SparshMind technologies are trying to bridge the gap between current limitations and future possibilities in neurological care via cutting-edge VR technology, personalized therapy, global clinical expertise and accessible rehabilitation</p> <p>Presenter: Harikrishnan M</p>
	<p>Subtlebotic (www.subtlebotic.in)</p> <p>Subtlebotic is an innovative startup focused on developing Limb Assist, the world’s first synthetic wearable AI-powered neurotech personal care robotic device, with a mission to empower individuals with motor impairments, such as those affected by strokes, spinal cord injuries, and neurological conditions, by enabling them to regain natural movement and independence. Their device Limb Assist translates brain signals into real-time robotic actions, providing intuitive and non-invasive support for daily activities. With a focus on lightweight design, advanced AI, and neurotechnology, Subtlebotic aims to revolutionize personal care and neuro-rehabilitation globally</p> <p>Presenter: Sivasanthosh, Founder</p>

Organizing Team (in alphabetical order of last names)

Misaal Bedi

Misaal is Senior Associate in the Incubation and Mentoring vertical of Venture Center. She has a BS-MS in Biology from IISER, Pune. She works in technical due diligence of life science startups for various programs and runs accelerator programs for fundraising and globalisation of deep tech startups at Venture Center.


Meghana Bhandari

Meghana is responsible for planning & co-coordinating activities of BIRAC Regional Bioinnovation Center (BRBC) at Venture Center. She is actively involved in curating the content for all BRBC activities. She is an in-house startup mentor for healthcare & biotech startups. She has completed her M.Tech in Biomedical engineering from IIT Ropar. During her Masters she did her project work on intranasal drug delivery system for treating Alzheimer's Disease. Previously she has worked as a medical writer for a biopharma company.


Niruta Killedar

Niruta is Assistant Manager - Pre-incubation and Learning is primarily responsible for assisting in the implementation of all the pre-incubation initiatives at Venture Center. She also assists in driving the Social Innovations portfolio at Venture Center and coordinates events and related mentoring activities. She is a Microbiologist by training and has more than 7 years of experience in interdisciplinary areas of science. She has been passionately working in border areas for the last 15 years as a volunteer through the NGO Aseem Foundation, which adds value to the Social Innovations portfolio at Venture Center.


Mugdha Lele

Mugdha is Head of Pre-incubation and Learning at Venture Center, Pune. She has done Ph.D from School of Health Sciences, University of Pune and has teaching and research experience in a State Government medical university. At Venture Center, she is responsible for driving the Pre-incubation and Capacity building activities and providing technical mentoring for startups at Venture Center. She has been a Fellow of the Chevening Rolls Royce Science, Innovation, Policy and Leadership Programme (CRISP) at the Said Business School, University of Oxford, UK in 2016. In 2018 she has also been part of the Aritra Accelerator Program for Leadership in the Social Sector at IIM Bangalore with Phicus Solutions and Dr. Reddy's Foundation. She serves as the nominee director on the boards of Synthera Biomedical Pvt Ltd (a dental biomaterials startup), Pragmatech Healthcare Solutions Pvt Ltd (a medical diagnostics startup) and Spot Healthcare Solutions Pvt Ltd (a medtech startup).

Organized by



Venture Center is committed to Social innovation and entrepreneurship. We actively nucleate and nurture enterprises that focus on solving socially important problems and build sustainable entities (for profit or not-for-profit) to deliver the solutions to society. Focus areas at Venture Center include affordable health and nutrition, empowering farmers, clean energy, sustainable resource utilization, environment and circular economy, water, sanitation, hygiene and any other social sectors that can leverage Venture Center's innovation ecosystem.

More: <http://www.venturecenter.co.in/socialinnovations>



BFI-BIOME's mission cuts across traditional boundaries by encompassing both upstream and deep science, driving innovation that leads to transformative health solutions. BFI-BIOME aims to bring leading researchers, technologists, and innovators together in the form of a network to discuss, identify, collaborate and innovate in the biomedical sector to solve pressing health challenges.

More: <https://www.venturecenter.co.in/bfi-biome/>

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'Blockchain for Impact' carries forward the baton of the Crypto Relief Fund, a phenomenon that came to the fore at the peak of the second COVID wave in 2021. The relief fund mobilized resources from the global blockchain community and managed to make a positive dent in the healthcare system of India.

More: <https://www.blockchainforimpact.in/>



Venture Center is a national award winning deep tech and science-based business incubator approved by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt of India. It aims to nucleate and nurture knowledge based enterprises. It does this by creating and maintaining a rich and supportive ecosystem for inventive enterprises that includes a large mentor network, funding options including 4 seed funds, scientific/ analytical/ prototyping facilities, specialized advisory capabilities, numerous events etc. It empowers scientists, engineers, clinicians and other knowledge workers to take their ideas from lab to market. It is structured as an independent, non-profit company and charitable organization that is hosted by CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. The Venture Center was founded in 2007. Venture Center has been recognized with the National Award for Technology Business Incubators (2015), AABI (Asian) Incubator of the Year Award (2018), National Entrepreneurship Award under Ecosystem Builder Category (2019), Biospectrum No 1 Bioincubator of India (2022) and National Award for Incubators for Nurturing IP (2021 & 2022).

More: <http://www.venturecenter.co.in/>

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Health Technology Group Bharat (HTGB Bharat) stands at the forefront of healthcare innovation, dedicated to transforming the health tech landscape across Bharat by empowering startups, fostering collaborations, and facilitating access to cutting-edge technology and markets. Since its inception, HTGBharat has become a beacon of progress, uniting healthcare professionals, technologists, and entrepreneurs in a vibrant ecosystem aimed at enhancing healthcare outcomes through technological advancements.

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